



Mr. Minnehaha  
Sunday Oct. 9, 1864  
My dear People  
Here we are once  
more in the land of civiliza-  
-tion, -- after an absence of three  
weeks, -- bound from Cape Girard-  
-ean to St. Louis, I think I wrote  
you last from Brownsville Ark.  
Well we left there on the 17<sup>th</sup> ult.  
and took up the line of march  
in a northerly direction, following  
the course of Price's force but  
about a week behind him, and  
after eighteen consecutive days  
of hard marching, and some  
days short rations, arrived at  
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4<sup>th</sup> pretty well tired and having  
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rest, and making about as  
big time as ever made con-  
sidering the force and country.  
However the men stood it  
much better than any one  
would suppose it possible  
the greatest trouble being their  
shoes wearing out and getting  
foot sore - nights they suffered  
from cold, having only a rubber  
blanket; and the nights were  
so cold I slept under two  
woolen ones under a fly and  
then was cold. Some of the  
time, most of the time the  
weather was fine and the  
roads good, but nearly one  
week it rained all the time  
and the mud was awful.  
One day I went on ahead to  
get the beef ready by the time  
our regt, who were in the rear  
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on to rain so the train  
got stalled in the mud  
and the regt. did not get in  
so I had to keep guard over  
my beef all night, and got  
perfectly soaked, and did not  
get dry for three days, but felt  
no ill effects from it, so I think  
I am getting pretty tough. I've gained  
a good deal since I left altho I  
had to work pretty hard and been  
up a good deal nights - when  
we left Memphis we expected  
to be back in ten or twelve days  
so did not go prepared for  
such a trip, and such a dirty  
ragged lot of humans you  
never saw, I am fairly ash-  
amed of myself, and compared  
with some of the others present  
quite a neat appearance, we could  
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up there, - I expect it will  
be a long time ever we see Memphis  
again, as there is a big job before  
us in Mo. Price is in here with  
a big army, and has possession  
of most all the Rail Road  
and is trying to get the Capitol  
& I should not wonder if he  
succeeded, his army is continually  
growing larger, and he is pressing  
every body as he goes, but if he  
does get possession he cannot  
hold it, for with Genl Smith  
and Old Joe Mowin after  
him with twenty thousand and  
several other little armies  
they can clean out all the  
force Price can get, but he  
can do immense damage by  
scattering his forces & bushwhacking  
We left the Cape yesterday morn  
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