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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.
Feb 22nd
Camp Observation
Dear Mother
We were awakend up this morning by the Band playing hail Columbia, it being Washingtons [George Washington] birth day, Last night we saw a great Light up on the hills of Virginia, And and at 9 oclock a cavelryman came galloping into camp And in a little time 4 companies left camp, the doctors going along with them so things looked a little like fighting, And at roll call we were told to sleep on our Arms, so when I laid my Blanket down I put my Rifle by my side with my cartrage Box
And I knew if We were wanted the long roll would be beat so there was no use to stay awake,,
And in a short time I was asleep About midnight I heard some one cry fire I thought we were attacked And grasped My Rifl, but just then some one said it was a tent so laid down and went to sleep again, in the morning we found the Enemy thought of crossing but when They found us ready for them They gave it up, And I gues there will be no crossing untill We get orders from Washington.. General Stone [Charles P. Stone] ordered us to cross some time ago, but General Burns [William W. Burns] sent to Washington And found stone [Charles P. Stone] had given the order to get us captured by a heavy force on the other side, as He is a Traitor And is now in Prison at New York
if we had crossed with 4000 Men They would have rushed 10000 on us, And there would have been hard work for a while, As we have got good arms, And the most of our men are big heavy Men and nearly all [underline]firemen[underline], General Burns [William W. Burns] has put our Regiment on the right of the Brigade, And the others dont like it, but He told the other Regiments that our Regiment looked as if it the hardest and toughest Men in it And He wanted us on the right as it is the post of danger in Battle and the Men are Proud of it,, I think if They would let the army all loose that we could put the war through in 60 day And not loose More than 10.000 Men in all there would only have to be about 3 large Battles of 100.000 Men on each side,, there has not been a big battle yet, though we had 25.000 at
Fort Donaldson [Fort Donelson] where we took 15,000 Men. the papers said we had 50,000. Men but we only had 25,000. I think we will be home by the 4th of July next,, And the thing finished, we will have Savannah [Savannah], Norfolk and Nashville in the course of a week,,
give My respects to all my friends.
Sarah [Sarah C. Fulton] wanted me to Make a Picture for her but I am not on Picket now and there is nothing to sketch here, all we see is the hills of Virginia,,
Yours affectionately
E.A. Fulton [Edward A. Fulton]
P S
I wrote to Washington [Washington] Steptoe the other day he is at Washinton [Washington] And well and hearty,, [double bar][underline]John [John C. Steptoe] has come to camp again[underline][double bar]