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· Camp Silpin Gloucester Point Non April 9th 863 My Dearesh Low, Having a leisure hour & will employ to in writing you a brief letter. Joday a have been in the service ten months, and fortunately have been able to address you regularly with few exceptions; a privilege & scarcely yrected when I started. But why should count the months hat have elapsed, rather Than look forward in Anticipation of the close of my term? I have several reasons: one is that twenty bix months are yet befor me ver the close, another is that the close of the and instead of Three years; Shall release me if I live. and Therefore I consider ten months more than half o term! Strange reasoning you may think, but allow me to say that I believe the war will close in Six months at most; Our cause was never so bright as now, The Rebels are being defeated in every quarter, The Loyal States are Taking a bold Stand in Javon of the administration, in Jack we cannot look anywhere without being convinced that a spiely fate awaits the sham confederacy of Davis I'm do you not see much in the signs of the times" that should fill every loyal heart with gratitude. I Thank Heaven That victory much e'er long crown our glinous cause - that Patrich blood will

Camp Gilpin Gloucester Point Va April 9th/1863

My Dearest Lou,

Having a leisure hour I will employ it in writing you a brief letter. Today I have been in the Service ten months, and fortunately have been able to address you regularly, with few exceptions. - A privelege I scarecely expected when I started. But why should [inserted text] I [end inserted text] count the months that have elapsed rather than look forward in anticipation of the close of my term? I have several reasons; one is that [underline] twenty-six [end underline] months are yet before me e'er the cloud. Another [inserted text] is [end inserted text] that the close of the war instead of three years, shall release me if I live. And therefore I consider ten months more than half term. Strange reasoning you may think, but allow me to say that [underline] I believe [end underline] the war will close in six months at most. Our cause was never so bright as now, The Rebels are being defeated in every quarter, the Loyal States are taking a bold stand in favor of the administration; in fact we cannot look anywhere without being convinced that a speedy fate awaits the sham [underline] confederacy of Davis [end underline].

Lou do you not see much in the "[underline] signs of the times [end underline]" that should fill every loyal heart with gratitude. I think Heaven that victory must e'er long crown our glorious cause - that Patriot blood will

cease to flow on a soil, too polited for its reception. and the gallant defenders of the old flag, return to Their foy no home, to die under its peaceful folds, I happy thought may we both yet realize its entire consumation. I mush not dwell longer on this pleasing subject, or & may weary up You may not, in Jack & could not expect you, to appreciate the various mords in which I find myself. If you werd shuk up in a convent or some such place, you would understand about how & feel in my bonelier hours. However & know you will pardon me if I become tedius: I thought I should be able a send you a paper lach week but the two lash & was mable to procure. They were very interesting as I saw the loopies sent to our bol. I shall indearon to getone night week for & presume our Regiment will. occupy a prominent place in its columns. By the way Gearing that I may fail in sending you a leopy, I will give you a brief account, of an expedition of ours up the bounty on Tuesday lash. Our Regiment with 3 Companies of the 169 T Penneyloania Regh, and 5 hundred Carol lift lamp at 6, O'Clock a. M. for Glonces ter bourh House a town 17 miles up the bounty. Our object was to march on the town, drive the energy out, and capture what stores found there, also to singe everything in the way up and back. We reached the place about noon but aid not find the Rebe, as they doubters learned that we werd coming and Stedadded. I wish & could describe the Scene that followed: The men werd let out of Ranks

cease to flow on a [underline] Soil [end underline] too poluted for its reception. - and the gallant defenders of the old [underline] flag [end underline] return to their joyous homes to die nder its peaceful folds.

A happy thought! may we both yet realize its entire consumation. I must not dwell longer on this pleasing subject, or I may weary you.

You may not, in fact I could not expect you, to appreciate the various [underline] moods [end underline] in which I find myself.

If you were shut up in a [underline] convent [end underline] or some such place, you would understand about how I feel in my lonelier hours. However I know you will pardon me if I become [underline] tedius [end underline]. I thought I should be able to send you a paper each week but the two last I was unable to procure. They were very interesting as I saw the copies sent to our Col. I shall endeavor to get one next week for i presume [underline] our Regiment [end underline] will occupy a prominent place it its columns. By the way, fearing that I may fail in sending you a copy, I will give you a brief account of an expedition of ours up the County on Tuesday last. Our Regiment with 3 Companies of the 169th Pennsylvania Regt. and 5 hundred Cavalry left Camp at 6 O'clock a.m. for Gloucester Court House, a town 17 miles up the county. Our object was to march on the town, drive the enemy out, and capture what stores formed there, also to seize everything in the way up and back. We reached the place about noon but did not find the Rebs. as they doubtless learned that we were coming and [underline] Skedaddled [end underline]. I wish I could describe the scene that followed: the men were let out of Ranks

and the way they demolished doors, midows, I everything The walke was armising. I should like to describe the appearance of said town, in two hours after we reached it but have not time, I will add that it was nearly as large as Denton, but contained only two on Three Jamilies, These was a Court House, gail, Hotel 40, we remained only about 2 hours, the baraly havings Scouted the country beyond, and not finding any Rebs, burned some Barns 40, containing grain, the reached bamp and duck of the same day, making a march of nearly 40 miles. and & tell you it was Just the worst marching you ever saw. The mud much of way was 6 inches deep, and frequently we wire conclude to march in water above the Tops of my Boots. I came into thamp wet as a Rah and my feet so sore That & scarcely get around since, But we had a good time neverthele We captured 16 horses, 20 mules, 95 Cattle, 70 Sheep and all the seese, Juskeys & Chickens in The whole Country, Furniture in abundance, while I write I accupy a Rush bottom arm Chair which camo some & miles beyond the lines, it was a grand affair & 2 suppose the Rebel papers will give no fits over it. Just Think of it, Marched 40 miles capture everything in the whole country and were in leant by dark, well this is nothing like getting our Regiment a name if it is only for making raids. These is nothing new in bank out oppens are going hime on leave daily 4 left for home

and the way they demolished doors, windows & everything of value was amusing. I should like to describe the appearance of said town, in two hours after we reached it but have not time. I will add that it was nearly as large as Denton, but contained only two or three families. there was a Court House, Jail, Hotel &d; we remained only about 2 hours, the Cavalry having scouted the country beyond, and not finding any Rebs, burned some Barns &c, containing grain. We reached Camp at dusk of the same day, making a march of nearly [underline] 40 miles [end underline]. And I tell you it was just the worst marching you ever saw. the mud most of way was 6 inches deep, and frequently we were compelled to march in water above the tops of my Boots. I came into Camp wet as a Rat, and my feet so sore that i scarcely got around since. But we had a good time nevertheless. we captured 16 horses, 20 mules, 95 cattle, 70 sheep and all the Geese, Turkeys & Chickens in the whol Country. Furniture in abundance, while I write I occupy a [underline] Rush bottom Arm Chiar [end underline] which came some 8 miles beyond the lines. It was a grand affair & I suppose the Rebel papers will give no fits over it. Just think of it, marched 40 miles captured everything in the whole country and were in Camp by dark. well there is nothing like getting our Regiment a [underline] name [end underline] if it is only for making raids.

There is nothing new in Camp only officers are going home on leave daily 4 left for home

morning and one other starts to will induce me to try expech real while. of they do rathis this unteresting close in very soon. a could write me each. week, the time appears so very long down The mail is The Soldier's only Lolaco could not get our letters life in are enjoying the maningo themes

this morning and one other starts to morrow.

I expect they will induce me to try for a leave before a great while. If they do I will give you notice before starting. My fire is out, and it being rather cool i will close this unintersting letter. I hope to hear from you very soon.

I wish you could write me each week. the time appears so very long down here. the mail is the Soldier's only solace. If we could not get our letters, life would be almost a blank.

Hoping you are enjoying the marriage festivities of your friend [underline] Em [end underline], I close. As ever Only thine L J Seward [underline] Tom [end underline]