

Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept. 12th/62

Wm. Single, Esq.
Dear friend,

The 86th Regt. Ind. Vols,
is in the Kentucky hills about three and a half miles
from this city, and a more – forsaken place I
think is not on earth, - “than them same hills, (as
Orpheus C. Kerr would say)

Not a drop of water but
what is drawn from the Ohio river, Every day since
the Regt. got there it has been in line of battle and
slept on its arms every night; a fight has been
and its still eminent at any moment, the enemy
in plain sight all the time: And mark this,
if the Rebels can take this city they will do it, for it
is worth more to them at this time than the whole
Confederacy. Sunday the city was thought to be
safe, but on Monday the enemy turned back,
are entrenching themselves at Florence six miles
out. Every able bodied man in the city is
doing military duty and will till the danger is
passed or the city taken. But put this down
as a curiosity to be cooked at in after time_ If

the Rebels attack the fortifications and attempt to take this "Queen City of the West," then will there be such a scene of blood as earth never before witnessed. Men are here for the express purpose of fighting and the "dark and bloody ground", will be made a thousand fold more bloody.xxx.

The spirit of "76" is being infused into every heart. The Rebel Raid to invade the North, "is the beginning of the end." [Iron] war will now be let loose on these friends in human shape. Sixty days will not go by, till Gods plan of conducting this war will be inaugurated.

Liberty will be proclaimed throughout all the land to all the inhabitation thereof. The true men of the North will pour down upon the border, thick as did the "Northern Hord, when they sacked the "Seven hilled Rome."

Millions of men are ready to defend the old flag. Proclaim the principles of the declaration of Independence for the motto of the Northern host; take the God of all the earth for its leader, this arrayed, as the

army of truth, to fight for home, country, Civilization and religion - "raise the banner high and cross the border - leave no traitors behind - thus marching the twelve hundred thousand, now in the field, would cause deeper horror in the Rebel ranks and confusion more dire, than did the entrance of Satan into hell, when fleeing from the hosts of light, when he was driven from the realms of day.

This is the time for hope to brighten. God is urging us up to the great principles of truth and justice. He will not allow us to succeed until we are schooled up to a point of humanity that will benefit mankind.

This war is to destroy Slavery - God and every human sympathy, have so willed it. We have to come up to that; so let us be willing in the day of His power. Let us do it now, let us do it cheerfully, for do it we must or be destroyed: But we will not be destroyed, God will save us as a nation, in spite of the evil counsels of bad men.

Look at the spirit of the times - "Cincinnati" is

in danger, is the cry; "Come to her aid freemen of the North"; and in forty-eight hours 50,000 "Squirrel Hunters" are in the "Queen City", with their own guns; and in about eighty hours from the time the call is made, Eighty thousand regular troops line the hills in front of the City, ready to die if need be in defense of free soil. God is moving the hearts of the people. xxx

I have been sick for five days and am perfectly prostrate, but hope to be better soon. But in fact, it is enough to make any white man, who is loyal, sick, to go to Kentucky and see her men. To use the burning language of Kerby, "hell is altogether to good for most of them"

And now to use the classic dogma of the venerable "grub" this most excellent Cogilatun comes to a discontinuation – Hoping to hear from you soon; I am as ever your friend.

J. Harper