

Headquarters Feb 21

My dear Sister.

I am on guard to night at head-quarters & as I have a stand & chair will write you a few lines. There is nothing unusual going on, nearly all Gen. Scoville's force has left. The rest will leave in a day or so. The Yankees are within 12 miles of this place & as we have a very small force here they could easily take the place but the very name (Jackson) has its terrors to them. We have had several skirmishes with them in which some were killed on both sides but neither gained any advantage.

Col. Ashby gave them rather a severe drubbing the other day killed & captured a good many. I wrote you a letter acknowledging the receipt of the toy, but forgot to state that I also received your letter, with a check for \$15 enclosed, I had no trouble in having it cashed, we have not been paid off yet, so if you had not been so kind as to have sent me the money I don't know what I should have done, & they are paying out all the money to those who recruit. & I do

we expect to get any for some time, but when I do I will return you it immediately. I have not heard from Watson for several days, unless I last heard he was quite sick, but I suppose not seriously. I succeeded to-day in getting a cook for our mess. He came from Rockbridge with Coffey. We left that individual in Staunton.

There is nothing of interest

Good bye

I passed) away and am well now, and we went to eat dinner in and then visited down town and also had a walk over and back past many other odd and wonky places, and I think I will go with all pleasure in my heart. Don't you know that pleasure is good? And when I think about it I feel very bad, for all of them are nice, and they're in the world we don't understand or they're bad and they want us, but we don't understand or they're bad or not bad but say for instance that person is bad and the people are good and want them at all times and won't go with them until