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of People that can stand it but
the Nigger, and they are not
good for any thing else. Many
^{infidels} a Prophet has Proposed that this
war will close within a year and
be fighting too. I say such persons
are fools. I don't believe that
this War can be closed by
fighting, in One to years. I think
when it is settled it will be
done in the Halls of Congress.
We can see and have seen to
our sorrow that the Nigger is
better than the Soldier. For caps
Nigger is Dressed well when
some of our Company are not fit
to be seen on account of want of
clothing, and another thing. I wanted
a Hat the other Day and I
could not get it because
the Cap wanted it for his
Nigger

Camp in Mountain Grove Mo
(In the Field) March 13th 63
Shall I say Friend, Abba!

I dare not.
But however I am going to write and
run the risk of getting an answer. I
am not in the best of health nowadays
but one cannot expect to always be in good
health. and neither can a person live the
Life of a Soldier and not have some
Sickness. He lives the nearest to the way
of the Swine than any other Brute I can
think of. Look at him Pitching his Tent
just as likely to be in the mud or on a
Stony Hill. (Which Mo is bountiful in) and
when he is Sick he has no better Fare. If
he is Sick. (no matter what Disease) The
Doctor Doses him with Quinine, and
there is many a Do in the Service That
never hardly saw Medicine before this War
broke out! But I for one never go to a Dr

to find out whether I am Sick or not²
 and another thing Look at him (The Soldier)
 He has got to Stand his Picket rain or shine
 and besides his camp guard too. Do his
 own Cooking Mending and washing and
 every day or two take a Sweet old cursing
 from some of our cursed Officers, there
 is not half of them that knows how to
 make a Muster and Pay Roll, I know
 that our 2nd Lieut. cannot do it. I do not know
 but you will think I am complaining and
 by so doing have made it worse than it is.
 but not so It is the Truth that I have said
 I thought when I enlisted I was doing so
 for some good, but it has proved to the contrary
 (not on account of my Deserting.) but I have
 other Reasons. In the first place take the
 Army of the Frontier, and wherever it has
 been it can be tracked by the Ruination
 of the Country. by burning fences. Houses and
 Robbing houses, Stealing Horses and
 mules and such like

and killing Peoples Hogs Sheep and cattle
 and many a time taking all a Family's
 Dependence. (Wheat and Corn) and by so doing
 make Rebels of good Union men. I can tell
 you why Hogs and Sheep are killed, because
 many a time we are on Half Rations
 and Soldiers wont Starve). Now I ask
 if you can blame the South for fighting
 I do not, put the North in the same
 Condition that the South was in
 would they not do something? of course they
 would, and more yet Look at Abes
 Proclamation. Thats enough to make
 a good Union man a Rebel, I ask
 who wants to see the Blacks a
 spreading all over the U.S. I say
 we would have a pretty looking Race of
 People in the U.S. in a few years, and
 another thing Who would Cultivate
 the Southern ~~States~~ ^{Soil}? the Whites would
 or could not, and the Indian would
 nor neither could any Foreigners stand
 the Heat, and there is no race

I do not know but you will think this Letter a Lie but it is not, it is the solemn Truth for it does me no good to Lie about such Things, and besides we have Four Months Pay due us from the last of Feb. and we know nothing when we shall be paid. But never mind a Person in the Service has got to be as near like a Dog as he can and not be one. I thought I had seen hard times before I enlisted but I never did now its Roll call, Hard crackers and a Saddle on his back, maybe because he is not up at Roll call. Hard crackers is no name for them, for I have seen them Laid on a Stone and Struck with an Ax and still not broke

Meat though tolerable good,
and Coffee and Sugar plenty,
nowadays and frequently Tea,
Coffee is our main stay.

But one good thing we draw
half flour. Titus is equal to
any woman baking Biscuits
and Butter I believe would
make us sick, we have
not seen any in so long a time
I guess I have told you about
all that I can think of at Present
so I'll close by saying if I
ever told the truth as near as
I could) it is here I have told it.

From your Friend

A Well wisher

Write soon I M Johnson
to Miss A I Fowler

Address

I M Johnson
Co. A, 2nd Wis Cav
1st Brigade 3rd Division
Army of the Frontier
Via Rolla
Mo