

Head Quarters, Department of the Missouri,

St. Louis, *October 9th* 1864.

Friend, Ed. Sunday Morning.

Having nothing to do to drown time I came to the conclusion that I would interest myself by communicating to you a few items of the day which may perhaps serve to drown time agreeably if not to interest you. I am not at present in the best of health, but am still in my old position here in Head Quarters, and am obliged to drive the Drill about 15 hours per day. But I could and would willingly comply with such usages if Uncle Sam would only pay me as well as others, or the rest of the boys. Old Price is at present causing quite an excitement in this section of the Country. he is at present between here and Jefferson City with a

rebel force variously estimated from 20 to 30,000 and rumor says that he is bound for Jefferson City; the Capitol of this State. we have a force of about 30,000 watching his movements. and I think that pretty soon he will find himself fairly bagged. Genl. Mower came in from down the River last evening with a force of about 12,000 and among them is the 14th Wis and the 8th

The Draft is another very important feature of the day it is progressing finely here. its "fetching" some of these healthy stay-at-homes into the Ranks with one of these Sam's invincibles gracefully resting upon his shoulder. "They look so nice dressed in blue." with a big knapsack upon their back. "Oh it is poor." I have not heard anything from the Company since they left here. But the transition of these fancy city-chaps to the swamps of Tennessee will be so great to be imagined even. for I must say that some of them are nice looking fellows and apparently well fed and are well clothed.

Oh it will be so nice to live on Bacon & Hard
crackers and sleep on the ground in mud and
rain - on blankets which they will be obliged to
watch close or they will crawl away from them.
Such scenes are revolting in the extreme, even to an
old soldier. I have partially made up my mind to
remain in St Louis after my time is out. for it seems
more like home than any place I know of to me.
and I am assured and from good authority - that
I can retain my position here at a salary of about
10 or 1200 per year - as I think of us more that might
interest you I will close begging you to pardon me
for not being more prompt in answering and
hoping to hear from you again. my best wishes and
regards to all of your folks, yourself included, and when
you answer please tell me whether Lucius Dick has got

home yet.

Edgar M. Dick,
Brookstown
Mo.

Your Friend
L. M. Johnson

Head Quarters Dept of the W.
St Louis Mo.

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