

Head Quarters, Department of the Missouri,

St. Louis, Oct 21st 1864.

Friday Evening

Distant Cousin

Eds

Yours of date Oct, 15, 1864
was duly received and perused with pleasure.
but having been rather pressed with business
I have neglected answering until now - and
for fear of becoming more neglectful I'll
take time and answer - I was truly pleased
to hear from you; and to learn that you
was enjoying the inestimable blessing good
health - I am at present in tolerable good health
but not entirely well - nothing the matter
but my favorite old complaint Dyspepsia -
am still in my old position here in St Louis.
I saw and read a letter from the Battalion

It was written at Vicksburg - and stated that
all were well and the Regiment were then on a
"Stealing Expedition" in the neighborhood of
Paton Ridge - La. I have partially made up my
mind to remain here after my term of service ^{expires}.
I am assured that I can get a salary of about
\$1200 per year - which is better than I can do
at home - but, Ed. I must admit that I am
obliged to work as the fellow said for "Gods sake" -
Yet I flatter myself that I can do as much as
the worst of men with the quill - I am
scratching this off at the rate of about 2,30 per
minute. So Uncle Sammel - is fetching some
of those Healthy Stay-at-homes - to their with Bully
for him. Yet I regret to learn that CD is again
compelled to go soldiering again. but on this point.
Old Abe's chance for reelection - is just best here
Pap Price is taking all of the Mclellan men

he can get hold of - I am "abi" to the backbone -
no use of talking the administration must not
change, "old abi" has got the wheel rolling and
lets stand to him until he rolls her through -

We are sure to get through safe as long as we
can have such ^a man as Grant to do our fighting
and "Phil Sheridan" among the rest - I imagine
"Longstreet" found his Street shortened about
the time he ran into Little Phil - I have heard
from home the Laton was left there but I cannot
find him - I don't believe he is in town -
Gully for Frank and Ben - ^{By the way} I don't approve
of such marriages - But Ed, when do you and —
step off or rather take the field? Price is getting
along up towards Leavenworth the Kansas - he
has a force of about 30,000 - and we have
about the same - "Rosey" took the field about
a week ago, I don't reckon Price will

have a "right in cut chance" of fight-ere
he gets out of the State - especially when he
gets there "Bleeding Kansas" "Joy's" artu' hms.
my time being rather limited for
Letter writing I will close with my
kind regards to you all and in
hopes of hearing from you soon.

Yours in haste
W. Johnson

Ed. M. Dick
Guthrie town
Ore. census.

PS I have been just 28 minutes writing this
L.