



Head Quarters, Department of the Missouri,

OFFICE OF PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL,

St. Louis, Mo. April 18th 1864.

Distant Friend & Relative
Wm. A.

After quite a lengthy period of silence I again find myself addressed addressing you through medium of pen and ink. Hoping that my few lines may not be considered an intrusion, and Hoping to that you will have the goodness to answer my few broken remarks, and overlook all past misunderstandings. But a part of my predictions of last Spring in regard to our Lieut. has come true he had to "resign" or be "dishonorably Dismissed" as I have learned. I am still in my old position here in the office of the Provost Marshal, General, and nowadays am having a tolerable easy time, am in good health and enjoying myself as well as I can expect to as long as I remain a Soldier. But I have not much longer to remain in Uncle Sam's Employ as a Soldier. Just Six months from the 16th of this month.

I shall. I think be free again. I came near going along with the Company when they went home. But I resisted the temptation, and there is no telling but what I may repent yet. I have said that I would not, and I hardly dare to trust myself again for I have made such poor work trying to serve my first 3 years, and then I think it my duty to return and stay with the family, for its most to much to have the whole family in the Service at once. at any rate I am going to return and try my luck at home once more. But I presume Protherton is or must be nearly destitute of men. But lots of women. I think it must be very lonely there. But I suppose as long as the Company is at home that you people in Protherton are having a pleasant time. at any rate I hope that the Boys may enjoy themselves while at home for their chance to see their friends and see home again. But I have heard that Oscar and Louis dreadful proud while we were at home. But not so. It was all on account of the Dance at Foster's. I suppose it was because we did not invite every one to the Dance. But

I care not what people think as long as I have a clear conscience. But I would be pleased if I could only be there for about 2 or 3 weeks, just about these times. We are having very disagreeable weather here nowadays. It seems as though we were never going to have Spring. Abba tell me who is teaching all of the schools and all about Protherton, in general, who is married and who is likely to be, and how the widows get along. the word back on me. I suppose that its because the story was that I was going to be married. but "I can't see the man" its entirely out of my line of business. well I guess that I have worried you long enough with my nonsense so I will close unwilling as ever

Your Truly Yours Cousin

L. Johnson

Office Provost Marshal General
Saint Louis, Mo.

Maj. Abba L. Foster
Protherton

Calumet County
Wisconsin

And my kind regards to inquiring friends and remember
yourself L.