

59, 101  
April 10<sup>th</sup> 65  
Cherry Springs, East Tennessee  
Dear Mother  
I received your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. & was glad to hear from you  
and rejoice in the prospect of your return to the States.  
I will write you again as soon as I can.  
To certain things as well.

My darling,  
It has been very disagreeable weather for several  
days - cold and rainy, so much so that I find it difficult  
to write with any pleasure, it is too cold to sit in the tent  
with comfort and too wet to be out around the log fire out  
of doors and we have not put up any chimneys, not  
expecting to stay any long at this place, In a few days we will  
move up perhaps to Greeneville, or Lenoir, In fact we have  
done nothing for the last week but received dispatches from Grant  
and Sherman and cheer up it and discuss it. We have  
the whole of Lee's army surrendered or captured two or three times  
per day regularly with occasional hints that Joe Johnson's  
has gone up too &c, the next day it will all be anticipated  
but enough is true at least to cheer the hearts of the soldiers  
and never since we have been in the field have we all  
felt so confident of a speedy termination of the war, in fact  
I can see no reason in the world for Lee holding out, the  
great bubble has been pricked and found to contain only  
wind, It is now a poor vapoury thing, flying before our  
victorious hosts with no surety of any place they can hide

themselves in and say "here at least am I safe" Little Phil  
Sheridan has cut them off from going southward and if  
they go towards Lynchburg, they will not be there long  
and they find themselves unopposed on all sides and finally  
must go up. The further prolonging of the struggle and the  
further effusion of blood is now little else than cold blooded  
murder on their part. But the confident belief here among  
the highest military authorities is that Lee will soon surrender  
the whole thing and give it up. Be that as it may, if he  
should succeed in reaching Lynchburg, he will be so far  
stripped of his power in men and munitions of war that the  
little old 4<sup>th</sup> corps think they could whip him, easily enough.  
Our way looks pretty clear now and the boys are eagerly  
counting the days and hours almost - that shall elapse before  
they are mustered out. I am greatly in hopes that the whole  
army may be mustered out at the same time, it would  
be so grand to see our whole army coming home crowned  
with victorious wreaths, and mingle again with their  
loved ones or long forsaken and forgotten! wouldn't it, love?  
I received a letter from you two days ago. The first one  
I've had since passing Leebannoga, so Hays' and Rood's  
are just going ahead in the baby business just as though  
there were no war in the country? Perhaps they are  
preparing for the next war, raising recruits to avoid the draft.

Just let them go ahead, who cares? we wouldn't give our  
little money for all this, would we? I am glad you have  
concluded to keep Louie, I think it better you should do  
so, and save yourself and Mother as much as possible, you  
might have time to read a good deal I should think.  
By the way, do you get anything to read that is interesting or  
profitable? Send to Cincinnati and get whatever you want  
in that line, you have the names of the book firms there,  
if not, you can get them in the Commercial, or even  
what you want to be sent by express and pay on delivery.  
I have been reading a novel this week the only one  
I have read for a year and a half, The Maid of Orleans  
very exciting, you know I don't read romances much, but  
I had nothing else to read, and it helped to pass away  
the time, we may sometimes profit by reading these  
of the better class, if read in the proper way, we often get  
beautiful ideas and a copious use of language, if we  
read for that purpose and not to be led away by the  
enchantment of the tale,

So Barnett did call? I was going to send some word  
by him, but he started off and didn't say good  
bye, what is a fine fellow if he would sit by your side  
I must close this my dear it is so damp and cold.  
Will do better next time, It looks like having off,  
your own loving + faithful husband M. B.