

From E.F. Slaughter to Eliza Colgan

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Decr. 11 1864.

Hickmans Mill Jackson County Mo.

Mrs. Colgan,

We are through the mercy of a kind providence able to provide all things needful for the body but the affairs of our land are still unsettled and make us uneasy and unhappy[.] we have no post here now[.] we are doing as well as we can without one. there are guerillas in the country and they will come about us now the soldiers are gone. while we had a post here they did not trouble us. but our Colorado troops are ordered to Colorado again[.]

I believe we have all sowed some wheat and it looks well. We have had large armies here of both sides and our corn[,] hay[,] cattle and vegetables disappeared quicker than we could raise them[.] I only lost about 60 bushels of corn and some potatoes. Mr[.] Whitsett lost all of his[,] John secrest[,] Sam Gregg & [Si?] Collins the most of theirs and a great many that you are acquainted with. I never saw big armies before, and I tell you I dont want to see them often.

Captain Tate had a company of home guards here at the post to which I belonged. We were captured by the rebels[.] they were Prices men Shelby's division. we were taken to their camp and next morning paroled. we all started home but without

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our blankets, directly after we started the battle commenced, and then the roar of musketry and artillery was without intermission for 4 or 5 long hours. many a poor fellow fell, some never to rise no more, some to languish awhile and die, and others to get well. the rebel wounded were taken to Kansas city as well as our men, which shows that our armies are merciful as well as brave. but the widow and the Orphan can not look with pleasure on such scenes[.] it brings no comfort to them. War is an evil in every respect especially a civil war but let these things pass.

We would be glad to see you again and talk over good old times when we had peace and plenty. let us hope for better times yet, and trust in providence to shape our destiny, and be content with our lot. I wrote to Rochester some time ago but did not get to mail the letter. I shall have to write him again. I want you to write to us soon. Good bye till I hear from you[.]

E.F. Slaughter

Eliza Colgan