

Diary of A.H. Lewis

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1861 Dec. 13th

A Journal of Trip from the time I left home on the Dec 13th 1861 as a volunteer in the army of Mo. State Guards, under the command [*text stricken through*] of Major General Sterling Price[.]

Dec. 15th

I left home about 1oclock Having parted with my family (which was a trial hard to be borne) and proceeded to Grand Pass Church, the place at which the several companies formed in the county were to meet. I reached that place about sunset & a considerable number of the volunteers had already reached the place and they continued to arrive in numbers until Wednesday morning [,]

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Dec[.] 13th 1861

when the camp [MS. water damaged] for a forward march [MS. water damaged] to the main [MS. faded] and near [*text stricken through*] [MS. faded] [.] Our friends visited each day while in camp. On Tuesday we organized our company electing our officers, George R[.] Kirtley Captain[,] [MS. faded] 1st Lieut.[,] [MS. faded] Craig, 2nd and [MS. faded] Major 3rd[.]

Dec. 18th

We left camp this morning very early and proceeded in the direction of Warrensburg, making a forward march of over 25 miles when we halted for supper in the edge of a grove. Here we cooked and eat our supper and rested about [MS. faded] hours, when the company [MS. faded] got ready to march[.] was given my first

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Dec[.] 18th 1861

bad [MS. water damaged] very sore from marching[.] in a little while the whole camp was in [MS. faded] [.] we proceeded on our way and reached Black Water about 3.o'clock in the morning, where we built up [MS. faded] and laid down to sleep weary and foot sore[.] During the night march [MS. faded] had his foot run over by a wagon, (in attempting to get on while moving along), and badly hurt[.]

Dec. 19th

Our Commander determined to remain in camp this day [MS. faded] off into [MS. faded], and received our camp equipage when about [MS. faded] our pickets [MS. faded] and reported the approach

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Dec[.] 19th 1861

of a body of Federal Cavalry. Preparation for dinner immediately ceased[,] preparations for battle immediately made[.] Here it was manifest a great oversight had been committed by our officers. A great many of those who had guns were without ammunition[.] As fast as it was possible to do so those lacking were furnished[.] I suppose not more than 350 men were armed. Before we were formed in line along the edge of the timber the approach of the enemy was distinctly heard. Those of our men who

were mounted were in the mean time sent forward to engage the enemy at a bridge. At this bridge our men (about twenty in num[-]

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Dec[.] 19th 1861

ber[] received the first fire of the enemy and returning the same we had one horse killed here. On the approach of the main body[,] and after the firing of two rounds by the enemy[,] our men fell back upon our main body according to previous instructions. The enemy pursued them till a portion of their number came within long range of the left wing of our line[,] which opened fire upon them killing 12 and wounding 28 [*text stricken through*], though the exact number I could not learn. Here we lost one man by the name of Williams from Saline County, who rashly rode out very near the enemy. The guide flags of the enemy were mistaken by ma[-]</p>

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Dec. 19th 1861

ny of our men for the Confederate flag and the impres[sion] was prevalent among the men that they were friends instead of enemies. A white flag was sent out to inquire who they were and we soon learned their true character. After one round from a portion of our line the enemy drew off over a quarter of a mile to await the arrival of artillery which was approaching. During this interval, our officers learning that an overwhelming force was surrounding us (which afterwards proved to be false) opened stipulations with Col. Davis the Commander of the Federal force in regard to a surrender, which was agreed upon, we to lay

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Dec. 19th 1861

down our arms and become prisoners of war to be treated as gentlemen. We were accordingly marched out and laid down our arms. Here let me note to the honor of our men that it was with great reluctance they received this command from the commanding officer[,] But who I have no doubt acted not from any other motive than that which the necessity of the case seemed to demand. Our soldiers, the most of whom were raw recruits[,] behaved with the greatest coolness and bravery. Having committed my all to God I felt as composed as I ever did in my life. The enemies strength was about 500 cavalry who attacked us and from 5000 to 6000 infantry with 12 pieces of

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Dec[.] 19th 1861

in less than ten miles.

About dusk we took up the line of march for the enemies camp as prisoners of war feeling humiliated under our fate, But with no blush of shame mantling our cheeks for failure to discharge all that was required of us. We reached camp about 11oClock at night having been made to wade a creek just before stopping[,] where many got their feet wet, though a bridge was right at hand. We were drawn up in a square body, a large guard surrounding us. Very cold we lay down supperless to spend a cheerless night. A good many of the men lost their clothing and bedding having been thrown away to

put the guns in the wagons. Our feet very sore to night[.]

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Dec[.] 20th 1861

This morning it was very cold when we got up[.] it was hard to get wood or water to cook breakfast. We succeeded in cooking a little, but not sufficient to satisfy hunger. Early we were on the march towards Sedalia [.] Halted about sundown in a grove. Pened in again by Federal bayonets. We soon had a good fire made of oak rails and prepared supplies which we eat with a relish.

I should have mentioned that a good many of our men made their escape when we were attacked who were not armed. Our whole number when we started was about six hundred and fifty[.]

Dec[.] 21st

To day we started late in the morning. It was quite cold. We passed through Georgetown. Here there was a

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Dec[.] 21st 1861

disposition shown on the part of some persons to jeer and taunt the prisoners. [*text stricken through*] A spirit of enthusiasm was manifested by our men by singing and hurrah for Jef Davis, which to the shame of those who held us as prisoners was suppressed by threatened bayonets[.] About 1 ½ miles from Sedalia we were [halted?] on an old Federal camp ground with plenty of indications of vermin and disease manifest around[.] It commenced snowing rapidly and wood very inferior and scarce[.] We made out to cook some. Many of the men were without tents and had to lay down in the snow to sleep.

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Dec[.] 22nd 1861

This morning every thing is covered with snow. Many of the men were covered entirely over who lay outside of the tents. Sixteen men were crowded in our tent. I was quite sick during the night with acid stomach and Diarrhea. Much better this morning. We remained in camp till about two o'clock when we proceeded to Sedalia to take the cars for St[.] Louis. Scarcely anything to ~~keep~~ make a fire it was truly cheerless in camp. Yet the boys generally kept up fine spirits, using bacon to make a fire and supplying themselves with different articles from our commissary stores which still remained in our possession. Arrived at Sedalia awhile before sunset and went aboard the cars[.]

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Dec[.] 22nd 1861

Here a good many of us found we had committed a mistake by leaving our baggage in the wagons instead of carrying it, as no opportunity was given us to get it before we went into the cars[.] Consequently we suffered much with cold. The cars were built like closed freight cars, with rough-plank seats running from one side to the other--with no backs to them[,] shutter windows with iron bars, to prevent escape, no arrangement for fire. About fifty prisoners and four guards occupied each car.

Crowded in the seats we had no chance to lay down. So we were doomed to sit up and [*text stricken through*]

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Dec[.] 23rd 1861

got little sleep last night[.] We traveled a very short distance and stopped. Do not know how far. A good many men were troubled with Diarrhea and the cars being closed they had no opportunity to attend to the wants of nature only inside of the cars in tin cups which often made our situation very disagreeable. We traveled very slowly to day stopping often on the way, at different points. At Jefferson City we were permitted to get out to ease ourselves, such as wished to do so. Here also we were served to a parcel of hard crackers[.] Everything looks cold and cheerless without to day, the ground covered with by snow and the Mo. River along the bank of which

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Dec[.] 23rd 1861

we traveled for some distance full of floating ice[.] We reached St[.] Louis after dark, and we remained in the cars all night[.] Breakfastless[.] Dinnerless & Supperless, the assertion of the Mo[.] Republican to the contrary, that we were served with biscuit and hot coffee on arriving in the cars. But this is only a lie in fellowship with all else that emanates from its foul pages.

Dec. 24th

About 10 oclock this morning we commence emerging from our moving prison, where we have been pened for about 42 hours[.] We formed in line of four abreast with a line of guards on each side and proceeded to McDowell

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Dec[.] 24th 1861

College which has been appropriated to our use[.] About 12 oclock we commence eating, which is the first meal since the morning of the 22nd. No surprise if we have very good appetites and make beef and Bakers bread with coffee disappear before us[.] But oh shame the beef is all raw, and the coffee has not a sufficiency of that berry in it to even entitle it to the name, So the bread must be the principal [MS. illegible]. Carpenters are in here busily engaged in fitting up bunks, privies, water conveniences, etc. Rev. Dr[.] Caples of Brunswick preached for us this evening an instructive sermon[.]

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Dec. 25th 1861

This is Christmas day: But how differently circumstanced from any other Christmas I ever before spent, A prisoner of war and guarded by soldiers on every hand. Our kind captors not yet having handed over to us our bedding and baggage which we left in the wagons at Sedalia [.] I last night bedded with one of my more fortunate comrades who brought his bed clothes along with him (Mr[.]Robert Henton) By the bye a first rate man. (I sent a letter to the office for my wife today[.]) The work preparation is going on around us in the way of fixing up bunks &c. Here I shall have to condens my journal to a great extent up to my present time of writing

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Dec[.] 25th 1861

as I neglected the noting of events, [*text stricken through*] Which is the 9th of January 1862; As I shall not be able to remember many incidents worthy of notice. One of our Company[,]
Neal [McElwee?] was accidentally shot by one of the guards in our room on the 26th of Dec., the ball passing through both thighs inflicting a mortal wound of which he died on the next day the 27th Dec. On this day also our baggage was hauled up from the Depot and thrown out on the side of the street in View from the windows of our prison where it lay until the next day when many were doomed by the cold to feel the extreme want of it with it in sight or so much as was left of it[.]

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Dec[.] 28th 1861

This morning arrangements were made to deliver to us our baggage[,]
it first having to pass an examination from the officer in command[.] And such a pile, Clothing[,]
Bacon, Bed clothing[,]
cooking utensils, Trunks, victual boxes, some broken open and pillaged, others as they were left, carpet sack, some empty[,]
some full, meal & flour sacks, Saddlebags, robbed and unrobbed, Tobacco soap, sugar, salt, coffee[,]
and many other things too tedious to mention all thrown together in one promiscuous heap but the work of separation and examination was carried on until the whole heap had been examined, During which time there was anxious gazing from the windows

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Dec[.] 28th 1861

by the expectant crowd within who were eager to find out whether they were to be among the fortunate ones who should attain that which they so much needed or whether they were destined to be among those who should be the losers. For it was plainly to be seen that a great deal of the baggage was gone I was lucky enough to discover my bundle of bedding in the heap of inspected goods and made sure of it by taking it in possession, but many had lost all clothing and bedding, some only their clothing while others a part or all of their bedding. Empty trunk, valise carpet sack, and saddle bag gave positive evidence that somebody's dishonest hands had not been idle.

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Dec[.] 28th 1861

To day also an officer visit the different rooms and got the names of the officers of each company and the number [*text stricken through*] of the companies.

Dec[.] 29th

There is a gradual increase of sickness among the prisoners. Measles are becoming prevalent. John R. Brown of Saline is quite sick with Pneumonia[.] Rev. Dr. Caples preached in our room to day, Text Thou has led captivity captive and gave gifts unto man[.] This evening our officers were separated from us by an order from Head Quarters. They protested against it, But as it was required by special command from head quarters they had to obey[.] Plenty of reports in circulation in regard to release[,]
exchange &c.

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Monday Dec[.] 30th 1861

Nothing of moment that I can recollect transpired to day, a full [MS. illegible] of speculation reports as to the length of our imprisonment, sickness still on the increase.

Dec. 31st

The last day of the year[.] Our John R[.] Brown who has continued to get worse has to day been removed to the officers quarters. Alva Major a member of our company died this evening with a congestive chill[.]

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[*text stricken through*] John R[.] Brown died last night[.] This is New Years Day[.] But there is nothing surrounding us bearing evidence of the fact[.] closely guarded and kept inside of a crowded building[.] we are cut off from the outside world only as we look through windows upon our armored guards without[.]

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Jan[.] 2nd 1862

The corpse of Mr[.] Major is still laying in the hall of our building, his friends wanting to procure a metallic coffin for his remains. Mr[.] Majors remains have been removed from the building for interment in a vault from whence they may be removed to his home at some future time[.] also Mr[.] Brown's, the Authorities objecting to their present removal.

Jan[.] 3rd

This morning they commenced fixing up the attic of this building as a hospital for our sick. Last night Jackson a black boy belonging to Bro[.] L.B. Lewis of Saline, But who was placed partly under my charge was taken [MS. illegible] (found so in bed) and remained so through the night[.]

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Jan[.] 3rd 1862

I was up with him through the night, consequently I feel quite [MS. illegible] this morning. Jackson has continued to grow worse through the day[.] My head and back have been hurting considerably to day.

Jan[.] 4th

Jackson is still worse. I feel no better this morning. This evening we [*text stricken through*] were all taken out into the street for the avowed purpose of getting our names[.] [*text stricken through*] ages, residences and occupations[.] But as it afterwards [*text stricken through*] proved to be for the purpose of searching our persons and effects, as only our names were taken as we came back into the house. While we were out, soldiers were detached to each room to search for arms and other contraband articles. As we were marched back into the house our names were taken and each assigned to a soldier who searched our persons. On getting into our room we found car[-]

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Jan[.] 4th 1862

pet sacks broken open, such as were locked[.] and our clothing scattered about and on many of the prisoners acts of petty thieving had been practiced[.] such things as shirts, socks, and tobacco[.]

Jan[.] 5th

We had two sermons to day in our room[.] Bro. R.E. Kirtley preached from the text In her shall

be found the blood of Saints &c Rev.

Rev. Mr[.] Parks a Methodist minister from Brunswick and Chaplain of Gen[.] Clarks Division preached from Luke 20c 36v.

Jackson died on yesterday while we were in the street and his corpse had been moved before we got back[.]

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Jan[.] 6th 1862

There is quite a number of sick in the hospital and different rooms of the buildings[.] The measles is spreading rapidly among the prisoners[.] And as there are no particular events to narrate I condense the whole week in this paragraph up to this date Jan[.] 11th 1862[.]

I have written to my family this week. Have heard nothing from them since I left home, the sick list has considerably increased[.] there is near 200 cases *[text stricken through]* at this time principally measles. One of our company has been very sick with Pneumonia during this week, Has been removed to the house of a friend this evening[.] 10 of our company has measles. My bed [MS. faded]

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Jan[.] 11th 1862

is sick tonight with severe cold. Many have been the rumors with regard to [MS. illegible] this week. At one time we are about to be sent to Alton [.] At another we would be soon exchanged. But we are still here, though from the best information I can gather negotiations for exchange are proceeding[.] Our fare has been quite rough and rations small. At first it was loaf bread plentifully, Beef badly cooked[,] and coffee that could not be drank. It was then changed to loaf bread[,] coffee[,] and bacon for breakfast, [MS. illegible] [,] cracker, bacon & soup for dinner. And now it is one fifth of a loaf of bread[,] *[text stricken through]* a pint of coffee[,] and a [MS. illegible]

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Jan[.] 11th 1862

[MS. illegible] Pickled Pork or beef to the man for breakfast and the same for dinner[,] only soup in the place of coffee[,] and for several days past a hog would hardly eat. The coffee has considerably improved[.] To night we learn that a grand forward movement of the Federal arm from the Potomac to the Mississippi is at hand[.] Oh God sustain the cause of our friends[,] The cause of Liberty[,] and make them strong to drive back the [MS. illegible] foe[.] Thou art our hope, Our strength and will Thou be our success[.] And may Peace and Independence soon spread her balmy wings over our land[.]

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Jan[.] 12 1862

Sunday and we have had preaching in our room twice to day[.] And once in one of the other Rooms. Bro[.] R.E. Kirtley preached first[,] Text The Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, And thy God thy Glory[,] Isaiah 19c 60v[.] Dr[.] Caples followed him[.] His Text was found in John 20c 20th-21st verses[.] Good attention was paid to both sermons.

My bed mate is still quite unwell. A lot of clothing was sent in by our friends to be distributed among those needing said things to day. There was also a distribution of Federal blankets to some who had none to night[.]

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Jan[.] 13th 1862

Mr[.] Henton has been quite sick to day. *[text stricken through]* Dr[.] [A.P. Brown?] received a letter from his wife to day stating all was quiet and well which was *[text stricken through]* gratifying to us.

Jan[.] 14th

Feeling weary I retired early last night, and enjoyed a good nights sleep[.] Mr[.] Henton seems better this morning. The same is the case *[text stricken through]* with all of our friends who are sick.

Jan[.] 15th

Four Oclock in the morning. I *[text stricken through]* am setting up by the sick to night[.] A rumor of seeming credibility was in circulation last night respecting our exchange and release. I hope it may be so. The citizen prisoners have been undergoing examination for several days past

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Jan[.] 15th 1862

before the authorizes here[.] What they propose doing with them I can not learn with certainty.

Jan[.] 16th

I suffered a great deal with sore throat *[text stricken through]* last night and feel quite unwell this morning[.] Mr[.] Henton seems better this morning. It is quite cold, I can not hear much of the great expedition that started out for Columbus a few days *[past?]*[.] Several of the prisoners die every day. Everlasting shame will cover those who thus hold & treat us[.] And it will be *[text stricken through]* hard for them to show *[MS. illegible]* The guilt of murder does not hang to their skirts[.] Some who are imprisoned are taking the oath and going home[.]

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Jan[.] 17th 1862

I am still quite unwell, In bed most of the day. Mr[.] Henton set up a little to day. We were permitted to go into the street a short time this evening with a guard around us.

Up to to day 18 have died in the prison and 190 are sick[,]
Besides some who have died at the City Hospital and some that are now sick at that place. Clothing and other articles are being sent in daily by citizens of the town to prisoners[.]

Jan[.] 18th

I feel much better this morning[.] Several letters have been received by our friends from Saline Co[.] from their families at home, bringing the cheering intelligence of good health and quiet in their midst. More clothing have been received from friends in the city for dis[-]

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Jan[.] 18th 1862

tribution among those needing such things[.] To night a nice basket of eatables was brought into our room, which was distributed among the seceshers and heartily enjoyed by them on account of the source from which it came[.]

Jan[.] 19th

Another week has [MS. illegible] away and we are yet incarcerated as prisoners within these walls, the many rumors of our speedy release to the contrary. And to my view I see no nearer approach to that time than when we came. Yet I am not despondent, But feel a degree of resignation to the fate that bears my spirits up. We had preaching again to day in our room by The Rev[.] Mr[.] Parks [.] Text 6thc 11th verse of the Book of Daniel[.]

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Jan[.] 20th 1862

My cold is worse to day and makes me feel very unwell[.] It is a very damp and cloudy day and colds are on the increase among the men[.] A great many are becoming discouraged and talk of taking the oath in order to get out of prison[.]

Jan[.] 21st

I am still very unwell[.] My cough worrying me very much. The papers give an account of a battle in Kentucky in which it stated the Confederates have been routed[,]
Gen[.] Zollicoffer killed[,]
and all his artillery[,]
camp equipage [*text stricken through*] captured[.] But we have learned to receive their statements with great allowance[.] our list of sick still increases and numbers [MS. illegible] by taking the oath[.]

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Jan[.] 22nd 1862

My cough is not so bad this morning, still weak but I think I am better. The good friends of the city sent quite a lot of clothing into the prison to day for distribution. I received a letter from my wife this evening which was truly gratifying especially as it brought the welcome news that all were well[.] Oh Heavenly Father still smile on the dear ones at home[.] preserve them in health and quiet and peace[.]

Jan[.] 23

My cough was very bad last night. I feel quite weak this morning. This evening we were all let into the street for air. The effect was very bracing to my system. I wrote to my family this morning.

Jan[.] 24th

I feel much better this morning. My cough did not trouble me much last night.

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Jan[.] 24th 1862

The air is more clear and bracing this morning than it has been for several weeks. The sick generally seem to be improving. Mr[.] Henton who went to the Hospital two days ago seems to be improving. This evening [MS. illegible] Prayer Meeting[,]
Hymn Books and tracts were sent in to be distributed among the prisoners By Dr[.] Caples from friends in the City[.]

Jan[.] 25

One of our company [*text stricken through*] Charles Palmer was sent to the General Hospital today very low with Pneumonia. Also Bro[.] Quincy Thompson. Received a letter from Wade to day. Thankful to My Heavenly Father to hear all was well at Home[.] My trust is all in him.

Jan[.] 26th

Sunday morning[.] I enjoyed a pleasant season reading the scriptures this morning[.] Preaching by the

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Jan[.] 26th 1862

Rev. Mr[.] Parks in our room to day[.] Text Mat. 22c 4thv What think ye of Christ[.] A good discourse[.]

He preached in the evening in the Hospital Room[.]

Jan[.] 27th

A rainy morning very cloudy all day[.]

Jan[.] 28

Still another rainy day[.] Several of our company taking the Mumps. The sick generally improving.

Benjamin Wright[,.] a neighbor[,.] went to the Hospital this evening.

Jan[.] 29

Snowing fast this morning[.] No news of much interest to be gathered. I wrote home to my daughter on Monday last which I forgot to note at the time[.]

Jan[.] 30th

A cold morning[.] Made a visit to officers quarters to day[.]

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Jan[.] 30th 1862

How much more quiet all remains there than in our rooms. I enjoyed the visit very much. Several ladies made their appearance on the opposite side of the street who gave evident signs of sympathy with us. Mr[.] Quincy Thompson of Saline Co[.]died at the Hospital last night[.] It is also stated that Charles Palmer died there two or three days since[.]

Jan[.] 31

No incident worthy of note has transpired with us today[.]

Feb[.] 1st

A clear and cold day. Wrote to my wife this morning. This evening wrote to Alfred.

Feb[.] 2nd

A very clear[,.] cold, bracing morning[.] Our sick generally improving.

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Feb[.] 2 1862

We had preaching in the room by Dr[.] Caples. Text Gal. 5ch. 7th-8th verses. Rev[.] Mr[.] Parks preached in the room below us[.]

Feb[.] 3rd

Snowed again this morning a little[.]

Feb[.] 4th

A very pleasant day[.] we were permitted to go into the street to take exercise for an hour or more[.]

15 left the prison this evening who had taken the oath of allegiance.

Feb[.] 5th

The corporal who is acting as Post Master to the prison[,] having a few days past lost his Memorandum Book with some money which he had taken out to get changed for the prisoners[,] amounting in a loss to him of five dollars[,] a collection was taken up in our room to reimburse

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Feb[.] 5th 1862

to him his loss[,] which was handed to him By Orderly Applegate this evening. A meeting was held this evening in our room[,] R.E. Kirtley in the chair[,] When a vote of thanks was extended to the Post Master, Corporal Parrot for the obliging manner in which he has attend to the wants of the prisoners, which vote was read to him by Orderly Applegate.

Feb[.] 6th

Rained very hard last night[,] carrying away all the snow[.] Quite pleasant to day[.] Still rumor states that soon we are to be removed to Alton.

Feb[.] 7

Very cold & snowing. A dispatch received to day from Ky has caused great joy among the Fed. First Statement was

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Feb[.] 7th 1862

Fort Henry had surrendered and Gen[.] Beauregard and 15000 soldiers had been taken prisoners[.] But soon the number was reduced to 84 and no Beauregard with them[.] We wait for the next dispatch which may still reduce the importance of the action. The Federal banners have been floating to the breeze and shouts have been going up from the soldiers[.]

Feb[.] 8th

The account of the Fort Henry capture reduces the number of prisoners taken to 54 and the indications are that they suffered very severely in their gunboats[.] I have been very unwell all day[,] suffered severely with my head last night[.] Received a letter from Sister Rebecca

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Feb[.] 8th 1862

this evening which brought me the welcome news that all was well at home[.] Oh Heavenly Father Thou art kind and hast ever been to me[.]

Feb[.] 9th

It is Sunday. Quite a commotion among the prisoners this morning produced by the anticipated move to Alton to day. Our officers have received orders to have their baggage ready packed by 10oClock.

About 11oclock orders were delivered to our room to pack baggage ready to start to Alton[.] In an hour we were all in the street and between lines of soldiers on either side were marching toward the Levee

~~for~~*[text stricken through]* to take [the] boat[.] crowds of citizens thronged the doors and windows and sidewalks as we passed through the streets[.] From many faces were indications

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Feb[.] 9th 1862

of sympathy and friendship manifest[.] As we passed one building two Ladies (Heaven Bless them) called for the blessing of God upon us and bid us be of good cheer[.] Another Lady who had a Son-in-Law in the Line, Saluted him and then ran hastily along the sidewalk to give a second salutation on reaching the Levee. The Steamer City of Alton was laying at her mooring awaiting us. We were soon all aboard and the huge steamer was loosed from the moorings and started out into the stream amid wild shouts from our men[.] The thought that we were leaving our State to be carried to the enemies land was anything but agreeable. The boat made good time[.] Arriving at Alton in 2 ½ hours. Being so unwell I did not go out on the guards on the trip but remained in the room near the stove[.]

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Feb[.] 9th 1862

At Alton another crowd had gathered at the wharf awaiting our arrival[.] to enjoy (as I suppose) The Great Show, A body of Secesh Prisoners. Among them many of the Female sex were present[.] But how different the feeling manifested by them from that we had so lately seen on the part of the St[.] Louis Ladies. Here it was joy at the misfortunes which had overtaken us, A *[text stricken through]* spirit seldom seen manifested by woman at the miseries of their fellow men. Her character is generally sympathy and not joy at the fate of misfortune[.] We were taken from the boat and marched *[text stricken through]* along with the gazing multitude on either side exulting over our fate[.] The wide gate at the entrance of the enclosure surrounding the Penitentiary grounds were open[.] And into its forbidding

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Feb[.] 9th 1862

territory were we incarcerated[.] And *[text stricken through]* Oh Historian will thou not blush for that Nation (Professedly Christian and Enlightened)[.] when in the Faithful discharge of thy duty, Thou shall have to record against them the disgraceful fact that the soldiers of their enemy[.] held as prisoners of War[.] with peaceful citizens caught up from the sacred confines of Home for opinions sake, could find no place of confinement in their territory[.] but within Felon's walls and the Felons cell[.] With nothing to eat since morning save some crackers and raw bacon that was distributed and of which many got *[text stricken through]* none, we were locked up all night with no opportunity to attend to the wants of nature but within the crowded building[.] until near 9oclock next morning by which time the stench in one part of the building was almost unbearable[.]

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Feb[.] 9th 1862

This day was Sunday but oh how little of all that was transpiring around us admonished us of its

sacredness, only when the throng could turn from [*text stricken through*] things seen into the Inner Man and rest upon the Promises and hopes of the Gospel[,] could anything Holy and Sacred be enjoyed[.] with pain and Shame I note the fact that many of my fellow prisoners having access on the Boat to that tool of the Devil (Whisky) were by his fiery potations[?] converted from Men into Imbeciles, Thereby disgracing themselves [*text stricken through*] before the face of their enemies. Oh what a sadness of heart I experienced as I laid me down in my dark, cold and gloomy bunk[,] suffering severely with thirst with no means to quench it[,] and my body faint and weak[,]

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Feb[.] 9th 1862

late from sickness, to try to go to sleep. Oh Blessed Heavenly Father it was sweet at such a time to know that Thou didst reign Sovereign of all the Works of thy hand, And that thine eye is ever upon them that [MS. illegible] thee[.] And that Thou hast promised to be with them in all their trials[,] conflicts[,] and sufferings here[.] And to make all thing to work together for good to them that love Thee[.] And Oh may I patiently bear all that Thou in thy Wisdom dost see to [*text stricken through*] be Good for thy Children[.]

Feb[.] 10th

Slept little, but lay in bed till late as there was no chance to get out of the building. More of despondency and gloom was depicted on the countenances of the Prisoners this morning than I have ever seen at any time since we were captured. We were permitted to go out of the build[-]

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Feb[.] 10th 1862

ing about 9oclock. The sun was shining brightly, and drawn up in lines of four abreast and [*text stricken through*] the grave order issued that any of us who wished to ease ourselves might go to the Privy and do so[,] when there was a considerable scampering in that direction[.] The ablution of our hands and faces in cold water, the exercise in the glorious Sunshine (so little of which we had enjoyed for seven weeks)[,] and our breakfast (taken very late) greatly revived the spirits of the Prisoners[,] And we all got to be as cheerful as ever[.] The Federals who guard us occupy the workshops and other buildings within the same enclosure[,] But which are much more roomy and comfortable than our quarters, in the felons lock up. The upper rooms of a building joining the penitentiary are used as a Hospital. Cloudy this evening[.]

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Feb[.] 11th

[*text stricken through*]

Rained last night which has made it very muddy to day[.] [*text stricken through*]

We were again locked up last night [*text stricken through*] necessitating many to relieve themselves within the building[.] A detail of men from every company was made to day to fix different things about the yard and clean of some of the rubbish laying about[,] Being kept standing on the wet ground while on detail and waiting to know what we had to do, Something It was hard for them to

decide in their own mind as they had the same things undone that they had just had executed. Our eating is better here than in McDowell's College [.] Here we have seats and our bread and meat is placed upon plates and we sit down and eat. [*text stricken through*]

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Feb[.] 11th 1862

[*text stricken through*]

The officers say we shall have as much as we can eat, something we had not at the former prison[.] Our cooking promises to be better done also, To night seven prisoners who concealed themselves about the College buildings when we left were brought in, They having been found[,] twenty seven fresh Prisoners were also brought in[.]

Feb[.] 12th

Door closed again last night and the same disgusting filth and stench to contend with this morning, Though the commanding officer has said from day to day it should not be closed at night[.] A good breakfast this morning[,] coffee well sweetened and molasses to follow[.] a pretty day[.] A large detail of Prisoners have been busily employed cleaning

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Feb[.] 12th 1862

off the yard laying rock walks and digging a pit for a privy[.] Here I think they require something of us which is a disgrace to them[,] That is to clear off that portion of the yard occupied by their soldiers. Our own portion it is but reasonable we should keep cleanly[.] A good dinner and a plenty of it[,] Light bread[,] Beef, potatoes, beans. This evening Capt. Kirtleys company with Barrs and soldiers who had been picked up in detached squads were removed to a large upper room[,] well ventilated, which was hailed by us all with great delight. How great the change from the dark and dismal abode in which we had so lately been. I sympathize truly with my fellow prisoners who are left behind in the jail[.]

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Feb[.] 13th 1862

Cloudy this morning and very damp and chilly. In our new quarters we are much more pleasantly situated and I rested very well last night[.] The Feds keep a portion of the prisoners at work fixing up[.] To day they are digging a [*text stricken through*] pit over which a privy is to be built. It commenced snowing about noon, which stoped working operations. Having no stove in our room it was quite cool [*text stricken through*] this evening.

Feb[.] 14th

St[.] Valentine's Day and many enjoy the customary festivities of the day, When the birds find their mates, But Oh how [*text stricken through*] many of us are far separated from ours [*text stricken through*] to day and the prospect for an early meeting of them not very flattering. The ground white with snow and quite cold. No [*text stricken through*] coal on hand[,] Every body shivering and

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Feb[.] 14th 1862

stamping to keep up warmth[.] Yesterday an order from Head Quarters was read[.] affording an opportunity to all who wish to take an oath of allegiance to the Federal Government to file their names [*text stricken through*] by the 20 inst. A great many are doing so in order to get out of confinement[.] But how they can do so consistent with conscience I see not[.]

A species of Petty Tyranny duly manifests itself among those who hold men in their power. An order requiring the prisoners to take off their hats when an officer comes into their quarters[.] with the threat to lock those up in a felons cell who fail to do so[.] Also requiring the same of them in the eating room and such like[.] are specimens of it[.] which is submitted to with great

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Feb[.] 14th 1862

murmuring[.] But the Tyrants heel is upon us now, Yet we hope a more fortunate time is in reserve for us. Oh God grant that the day of our deliverance and liberty may be near at hand. Dispatches in the evening papers state Gen[.] Price Falling Back from Springfield.

Feb[.] 15th

A beautiful day[.] overheard morning papers contain reports of a battle at Fort Donelson on Cumberland River Ky [.] seem sanguine of Federal sweep[.] But say a desperate struggle will ensue. In digging the pit for a privy today the coffin of a dead convict was exhumed. Body in a state of decomposition. The prisoners in our room raised money among themselves to day and bought a stove and fixed it up[.] which make our room much more pleasant[.] as Uncle Sam

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Feb[.] 15th 1862

was too poor to furnish us one[.] Oh how economical when dealing with his prisoners[.]

Feb[.] 16th

Sunday[.] Two months to day since I parted with the dear ones at home[.] Oh how much I have passed through since. Bro[.] Willis[.] a Baptist preacher from Boone Preached in our room to day[.] Text, the announcement of the Angels to the Shepherds of Bethlehem, Followed in exhortation by Bro[.] Browne [.] another Baptist minister from the northern part of the state. Bro[.] Willis is a plain old fashioned preacher[.] [*text stricken through*] There was prayer meeting in our room at early candle lighting[.] truly a pleasant season to my soul[.]

Feb[.] 17th

Cloudy this morning[.] Evening papers contain dispatches stating that Ft[.] Donelson has surrendered [,] 15000 prisoners taken[.] And Gen'l Buckner [,]Johnson, and Pillow

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Feb[.] 17th 1862

with them. 130 privates and some Confederate officers were brought to this place this evening[.] Captured at Ft[.] Henry and other places[.]

Feb[.] 18th

Morning paper contain the same news about Ft[.] Donelson that was published yesterday[.] Still many doubt its being true[.] Mr[.] Edwards rec. a letter from home stating all well. The federal guard who came up with the prisoners yesterday were quartered last night in our officers room, they having to make place for them by moving into one of the privates rooms[.]

Feb[.] 19th

Very cold this morning and a light snow fall[.] To day papers greatly reduce the number of prison taken at Donelson and no Generals[.] Admit a great sacrifice of life among their soldiers[.]

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Feb[.] 20th 1862

Quite cold this morning[.] Received a letter from my wife last night, all well. Truly gratifying news[.] conducted prayer meeting last night. A pleasant season[.] A Oasis in the Desert.

Wrote to my wife this morning[.] Have been at work to day digging the foundation of a privy[.] Honorable soldiers work[.]

A great many who made application for the oath have been examined to day[.]

Feb[.] 21st

Feel quite sore to day from work yesterday. Forgot to note the reception of three letters yesterday from my niece, sisterinlaw and Dr[.] Rucher. Another letter from my wife to day[,] all well[.] Brigadier Gen[.] E. [Price?], Col[.] Dordy, and one or two other Prisoners were brought into to day[.]

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Feb[.] 22nd 1862

A dark gloomy day[,] clouds and fog covering everything[.] Washington's Birthday[.] Great preparations I suppose for celebrations on the outside world but we see but little to testify of the fact around us. To day also Jefferson C[.] Davis is Inagurated President of the Southern Confederacy and its Government permanently organized[.] Oh may God's hand be stretched out for its protection and preserve it from the disasters of the Federal Compact by making her people God fearing and God serving[.]

Feb[.] 23rd

Sunday[.] Bro[.] Wilkes preached for us again to day. Mr[.] Swarts[?] of Miami came in to see us to day. Sent letters by him to friends at Home[.] At early candle lighting A prayer meeting was held in [*text stricken through*] our room. The hearts of Brethren [MS. illegible] as by The Spirit

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Feb[.] 23rd 1862

of God, and truly did they realize that it was [*text stricken through*] pleasant to wait on the Lord. It was resolved to keep it up nightly. Oh may the Lord be with us.

[Feb.] 24th

To day the Commissioners got through with the examination of those who had petitioned for the Oath. There is a probability that those who do not take the oath will be permitted to go home on parole till exchanged. Our prayer meeting to night was truly a time of refreshing from Gods presence[.] Oh that our God may even more abundantly help with the presence of His Spirit and Grace[.] And while he shall

make this prison a Bethel to his Israel[,] May many souls be born unto him through the regenerating influences of His Holy Spirit[.]

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Feb[.] 25th 1862

A beautiful morning[.] Have exercised a good deal with ball which makes me feel quite tired[,] but which I think will be conducive of health. Several of my neighbors have taken the oath and gone home to day[.] A large number are taking it[.]

Prayer meeting again to night[.] Gods people seem truly to enjoy these seasons[.]

F[eb.] 26th

Another pretty day[,] more like spring than any weather we have had. Our number is being considera[bly] lessened by the departure of those who have taken the oath[.] I am very sore in all my limbs from over exercise yesterday. Our prayer meeting still increases in interest I hope[.]

Feb[.] 27th

Quite cold and damp to day with the wind from the S.E. Two prisoners from Ft[.] Henry died last night. A good many sick among

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Feb[.] 27th 1862

I learn to day two persons are feeling concerned for their souls Salvation. Oh may God breathe upon his people true earnestness in the work before them, And meet with us in our prayer meeting[,] And pour out his Spirit upon us and upon sinners[,] causing many to cry out for Mercy[.]

Prayer meeting again to night[.]

Feb[.] 28th

Permitted this morning to see the Proclamation of President Davis of the Southern Confederacy calling the constituents to observe this day in humiliation, fasting[,] and prayer before God, for his blessing upon them. Also had the pleasure of reading his Inaugural address[.] I hear of several who are anxious about their souls salvation[.] O God bless us with many trophies of thy Grace. One or two are indulging a hope of forgiveness[.]

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[*text stricken through*] March 1 1862

Winter is gone and to day Spring is ushered in with an icy covering over the face of all surrounding objects. Cloudy, dreary and cheerless is the appearance on all around, especially so to us cooped up in these prison walls as we are[,] with sickness and death surrounding us[.] Oh God give to us that [*text stricken through*] faith that can look unto thee and trust in Thy Almighty arm in adversity as in prosperity. Three prisoners have died to day[,] Robert Irvin of our company among them[.] Our prayer meeting still continues[.]

Mar[.] 2nd

Sunday. Bro[.] N.[G.?] Smith and Mr[.]Robert C[.] Wilson of our county called to see us this morning. Through Mr[.] Wilson I heard my family were well. Permitted to send messages to them. Bro[.] R[.] E[.]

Kirtley preached for us from

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Mar[.] 2nd 1862

the text, I am the Door[,] By me if any man enter in he shall be saved, And shall go in and out and find Pasture. Prayer meeting to night[.] I spent this night in the Hospital with the sick[.] Giles Kisers mind is very much improved[.]

Mar[.] 3rd

A very cold day[.] Have been in the Hospital the most of the day[.] A good many left to day who had taken the oath[,] Among them several acquaintances[.]

Mar[.] 4th

The sun shined out very pretty to day[,] But air Cold[.] Quite a number leaving to day. This morning an order was read from Gen. Halleck [,] granting to the prisoners the opportunity to petition for the oath till the 20th Inst. I understand a number have applied to day[.]

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Mar. 4th 1862

Received a letter from my wife to day[.] She writes more disconsolate than she ever has, And consequently makes me feel more gloomy.

Oh Lord, Be with me and Grant that Grace and Wisdom which will comfort[,] sustain[,] and direct Thy servants amid these trials and afflictions[.]

Mar[.] 5th

My little Dena's Birthday. Oh Father will Thou Be a Guide [*text stricken through*] and a Father to her, in this Pilgrimage world. Flying snow all day and quite cold[.] To day the privates were all moved out of the officers room, and communication forbidden between them[.]

Mar[.] 6

Cold and still snowing[.] The friends of Mr[.] Kiser are trying to get permission to take him home[,] Believing it to be the only hope of his recovery. I am quite unwell to day, suffering with my bowels and head[.]

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March 7th 1862

The sunshine is delightful after the past stormy weather[.]

To day the sick were moved into a large room fitted up as a hospital[.] Every thing has more an air of comfort about than I have yet seen for the sick[.] Couches neat and comfortable[.] About sixty sick in the hospital.

March 8th

A fine spring day[.] The prisoners were to day formed into squads of 21[,] each with a sergeant as head. Five corpses were removed today.

Mar[.] 9th

A very warm morning[.] Giles Kiser died this morning[.] Three dead bodies lay in one room awaiting

interment[.] Oh how solemn our situation[.] How painful to our friends. Preaching today by Bro[.] [Bourne?][.] Text Oh wretched man that I am[.]

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Mar[.] 9th 1862

who shall deliver me from the body of this death, followed in some remark by Bro[.] Willis [.] Rained hard about the middle of the day, with hail. Wrote to my wife to day. Prayer Meeting to night[.]

Mar[.] 10th

A beautiful spring day[.] My mind anxious about my fam[ily] and my duty to them under the circumstances by which we are surrounded[.] Oh God direct me in the right way and keep my feet from wrong paths[.]

Mar[.] 11

Delightful weather[.] one of the prisoners died last[.] making 18 who have died since we have been here, And since we have been prisoners[.] Received a letter from my nieces Kate and Sally whom I much thank for their kind remembrance of their far off uncle[.]

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March 12th 1862

[Wallis?] Birth Day[.]

Another fine morning[.] My cough very troublesome last. Some prisoners were brought in this morning from the neighborhood of Palmyra. Some of them charged with Bridge burning. The papers contain an account of a battle in Arkansas lasting 3 days[.] in which they state the Confederate troops were repulsed[.]

Mar[.] 13th

Another pretty day, very warm. The reports in the morning papers very unsatisfactory. I feel very feeble to day, my cough worrying me a great deal and my bowels very weak[.] Pray Meeting to night, more thinly attended than usual, But less noise in the room.

March 14

My little Bettie's Birthday[.] A rainy morning[.] I have this morning presented a petition to take the oath that I may go home[.]

This evening to[ok] the oath of allegiance[.] start home in the morning[.]

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Mar[.] 15 1862

A rainy morning, left the walls of imprisonment about 8 oclock in the morning With what feelings of satisfaction, it is hard to appreciate But by one who has[.] like myself[.] been shut out from the world by close confinement and watched by bayonets. Went down to St[.] Louis on the Steamer City of Alton. Arrived about 11 oclock[.] Found many sympathising friends. Took Passage on the the steamer Siox City for Miami[.] Left St[.] Louis about dark[.] It has been a damp chilly day[.] About 33 of the released prisoners are aboard of the boat destined to to them home. Many hearts [*text stricken through*] will be made glad that has been wont to ache for months past[.]

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Mar[.] 16th 1862

Sunday[.] Cloudy in the morning. The sun shined out brightly about 9oclock[.]

Feel much better this morning[.] The Steamer is very near us all the time and some anxiety felt as to who shall be ahead. Reached Herman after dark where we found a number of our [*text stricken through*] friends who had been left behind awaiting us, They having come to this place by Rail Road from St[.] Louis. Much pleased to meet with each other.

Mar[.] 17

Arrived at Jefferson City 9oclock. The boat stoped to take on freight left here last fall when the boats were stoped from going up the river. With a number of others visited the State House and took a view of all that was to be seen[.]

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March 17th 1862

From the Rotunda there is a very extended view both up and down the River as well as of the surrounding country. In the Senate Chamber are two large paintings, one of Jackson on horseback and one of Washington. Both life size.

In the Representative Chamber are painting of Jefferson and Benton, Life size. The improvements around the Public Grounds are in an unfinished condition. Capt[.] Riece of Pettis Co[.] who has been a prisoner at Alton Died on the Boat this morning[.] His remains were taken off at this place to be conveyed home by Rail Road[.] Thus have many peaceable citizens been [MS. illegible] from home and families in these times of tyranny and confined in prisons for opin[-]

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Mar[.] 17th 1862

ions sake, till their cold and lifeless remains were all that was left of them to be returned to those whom they loved. Left Jefferson City 12oclock, Having taken on a large lot of freight.

Mar[.] 18th

Quite cool this morning[.] Passed Booneville about daybreak[.] Arrived at Arrow Rock 7 A.M. Three of our number got off here. Stoped at Glasgow at 11 A.M. One of our number got off here. Reached Cambridge 1 P.M. four left us here. Stoped at Frankfort 3P.M. Here 7 left us, Rainy this forenoon. Sunshine part of the evening. Reached Brunswick a little after dark. Here several prisoners got off to go to their homes. We staid here until morning[.]

March 19th

Left before it was

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light. Before reaching De Witt the boat ran on a snag and tore off part of her guard. We arrived at Miami about 9am where we landed and met with friends warm welcome[.] Rainy[.] Borrowed a horse and proceeded through the mud and splash where I arrived about 12oclock with mingled feelings of joy

and deep humiliation[,] much broken in constitution from my three months suffering and exposure[.]

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Song

Dedicated to the Prisoners of [MS. illegible] Md College

Stand up for the right boldly, brave sons of the west.
Though tyrants watch oer thee, Still be not depressed
No chains shall enslave thee, nor dungeons confine
The fetterless spirits round Liberties Shrine[.]

Strike manfully Brothers, Sons of Hero sires
Strike, strike for your hearthstones[,] your altars and fires
Drive back the invader, and with your last breath
Shout "Freedom forever, aye, Freedom or Death[.]"

Bear up nobly Brothers[,] our new Ship of State
Bears millions of loyal hearts as her rich freight
With Davis to guide her and Beauregard brave
A world shall acknowledge her "Queen of the wave[.]"

Then fling out her banner of unsullied stars
As [MS. illegible] hand carries the proud Crimson bars
Let it wave in glad triumph, We scorn the decree
of Vandal and Despot, and dare to be free.

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Then victory or death boys and Price for [MS. illegible] toast
With prayers for his brave men, our pride and our boast
Three cheers for the colors that never have run
And three for the battles those colors have won[.]

Rebel Faith

St[.] Louis Jan[.] 12th 1862