29th. Warm. Lieut. Potter and David Smith got furloughs and
started for the river this morning. Got letter No. 25 from
my Wife. Had my hair cut.

30th. Co. mustered for pay. Wrote letter No. 35. The 124th
detailed for Picket and sharp shooting. Our Engineer Corps
have made a wooden Mortar for throwing hand Grenades. It
does the work first rate.

1st. Last night the Rebels rolled a gunpowder keg with a 13 inch
shell in the middle of it and the balance of the keg filled with
powder over the parapet and into the breach. No one was there
at the time so that it did no damage, but the explosion was terri-
fic making the ground tremble in our camp. About noon today
the mine being ready was exploded, throwing high into the air
an immense body of dirt, Timbers &c. Several men Rebs
were blown up. Three Reb soldiers and three negroes that
were digging for our powder were thrown outside of the fort
and landed near our works. The three white men and two of
the negroes died. The other negro was more scared than hurt.
He said that he went up into the air about two miles. The Rebel
were seen very busy in digging immediately after the explosion,
It was thought that they were digging out those that were buried
up. Our Regt. occupied the Rifle Pits ready for action in case
of an emergency. Our Artillery poured into the fort a perfect
storm of Shell, Grape, and Canister. We were relieved about
6 P.M. Weather very warm.

2nd. Weather warm. Detailed for fatigue to remove timbers
from the breach in the Fort preparatory to starting another
mine. Saw one of the little "Wooden Mortars" at work throw-
ing 12 pound shell into the Fort. It works nicely. It takes
but an ounce and a half of powder for a charge. There is quite
sharp firing on our left. The Rebs are firing by Volleys.

3rd. The Rebels raised a flag of truce at 8 A.M. Firing ceased
till between two and three P.M. when it was resumed for an
hour or so, when the Rebs again raised the white flag and
firing again ceased. Guards were placed between the two
Armies by both sides. They were in some places but a few
feet apart. I saw a Union and a Secesh soldier drilling each
other on the parapet of the fort. The Generals of both armies
held a conference under the shade of an Oak tree between the
two lines.
4th. Independence day. The most quiet fourth of July that I ever knew. Not a gun was fired all through the night. 6 O'clock A.M. The Generals are now together under the "Oak tree" talking up the terms of the surrender of Vicksburg. 7 A.M. Word has come that Vicksburg is ours and that we are to march in at 10 A.M. and take possession of the city. A good enough fourth of July celebration for us. I was detailed for Guard duty on the line of Rebel Rifle Pits. Our troops marched in at noon. The Band struck up "Yankee Doodle" as they passed through the Fort. The Rebels have holes and caves dug in the ground in every direction to protect themselves against our shells. The Rebs are starved out and our Boys are giving them Hard Bread and Bacon which they thankfully receive and eat as if they was hungry. They had to eat mule meat and were living on quarter rations. Our sharpshooters have riddled their sandbags pretty thoroughly.

5th. Sunday. All quiet through the day till near night, when the captured Arms were fired off by a detail made for that purpose. A caisson was blown up accidentally by some men throwing cartridges into the fire. No one was hurt by it. The Prisoners are the most of them very friendly with our Boys, mixing in with them and eating at our tents, talking, exchanging canteens, and trading generally. They are buying a good deal of coffee which is a great treat to them, as they got none in the Army. Our tents and camp equipage that was left at "Millikens Bend" on the 25th of April came up today. I was not relieved from guard till near 8 O'clock P.M. Our Govt. issued rations to the prisoners today. Weather very warm.

6th. Went on fatigue duty. A Rebel Lieutenant ate breakfast with us. Wrote letter No.36 to my Wife. Took a stroll along the fortifications on our right. Saw the effect of some of our shots on the Rebel Artillery. I saw one Parrott Gun with three feet of the muzzle knocked off and a number of wheels disabled.

7th. Lying around camp and fixing up the tent. Got some Confederate money and sent part of it home. A few citizens came into town today.

8th. Detailed on fatigue to load the captured Arms on board the "Metropolitan". 100,000 stand of Arms are estimated to have been captured here. Saw the "Lady Bowen" a 10 pound Parrott Gun on the Boat. This was a "pet" with the Rebs. Took a walk along the River and saw two of the "Big Guns". Also saw our Gunboat "Cincinnati" which was sunk by the Rebs. Nearly every house in the city has the mark of one or more of our shells.

9th. On fatigue this morning. Detailed for Picket at night. Our Regt. had Dress Parade this afternoon. Went into a tent with Stickel and put up a bunk in it.

10th. The Paroled prisoners are going out in squads on their own hook. They appear to be well pleased at the prospect of going home. Weather very warm. Sick today. Some of them were caught carrying powder out with them and now they all have to be searched.

11th. The Rebs commenced marching out in a body early this morning, but as they had to be searched they did not get out till afternoon. I found a stocking leg with about a pound of powder tied up in it by one of the Rebs. He had thrown it out to prevent having it found on his person. It is reported that Pemberton sunk 1500 stand of Arms in the River after the surrender.

12th. Sunday. Another large body of Rebs marching out this morning. It is reported that all the Negroes are sent back, they not being considered as "Private Property".

13th. It is said that many of the paroled prisoners have come back inside of the lines to take the oath of allegiance. Heavy details are made from our Brigade to fill up the trenches that we dug during the siege. Our Boys are all on duty every day either fatigue or Picket. Weather warm.

14th. Very warm. Nothing unusual today.
26th. Sunday. Cool and pleasant. A Shower in the afternoon. A part of our Pickets were relieved by the 2nd Brigade this morning. Received letter No. 28 from my Wife. Answered it by letter No. 39. Major Pattison dismissed from the Service for Fraud.

27th. Cloudy and cool.


29th. Cool breezes. Copied my Diary to the 15th of July and sent it home.


31st. Warm. Got letter No. 29 from my Wife. Was quite sick today.
AUGUST, 1863

13th. Very warm. I was taken to the Hospital sick with a fever. Wallace Baker came to the Regt.

14th. Some better today. Got letter No. 31 from my Wife. H. Mostow bought me two Lemons.

15th. Very warm and close. Not so well today.

16th. Sunday. Orrin C. Allison died this morning at Sunrise. Funeral services by Capt. Brink of Co. D.


19th. Cool and pleasant. The Steamer "City of Madison" blew up about noon today. She was being loaded with Ammunition. The explosion was caused by the dropping of a Percussion shell, which exploded and set fire to the other Ammunition. A great many were killed. Some of the Boats lying in the vicinity were considerable damaged. The shock of the explosion broke all the windows in the vicinity.

20th. Rainy and cool. Our Regt. received orders to be ready to march tomorrow morning at 7 O'clock. H. Kennedy returned to the Regt. last night.

21st. Fair and warm. The sick of our Regt., myself among the number, taken to the city Hospital. Logan's Division started out on a reconnoissance in the direction of Munroe La.

22nd. Pleasant but warm. An Ohio Soldier on the cot next to me died at noon today. Received letter No. 32 from my Wife. Very welcome indeed.

23d. Sunday. A Sultry day. Preaching down stairs by the Chaplain. A Negro Regiment marched out today. They looked well.

25th. A great change in the weather. Very windy, and quite
cold so that blankets were needed for comfort. Got a paper.

26th. Weather rather cool yet.

27th. Cold and rainy.

28th. Clear and cool. Very weak and kept to my cot all day.

29th. Pleasant and cool. Some better today but very weak yet.
Appetite improving.

30th. Sunday. Pleasant. My health improving. Went down to
dinner today for the first time. Attended preaching at 5 P.M.
by the Chaplain.

31st. Enjoyed a good nights sleep last night. Weather clear and
cool. White frost on the grass this morning. A soldier had
his arm taken off this A.M.

SEPTEMBER, 1863

1st. Weather cool and pleasant. Wrote home letter No. 43.
Not so well today.

2nd. Weather getting warmer. Had a severe headache and
temperature last night. Logan's Division came back today. The
"First Brigade" passed here about 5 P.M. They have been
gone twelve days.

3d. Warm but pleasant. Felt a good deal better today.

4th. Today I was changed from room No. 17 to room No. 14.
Attended prayer meeting.

5th. Weather Fair.

6th. Sunday. Weather pleasant. No preaching but attended an
interesting prayer meeting in the evening.

7th. Weather warm. Was quite sick again today with fever
and colic.

8th. Warm and fair. Wm. Carpenter came to see me today
and brought letter No. 33 from my Wife, and some stewed
Fruit &c. I appreciate his kindness in this and other in-
stances, and shall endeavor to make some suitable return,
although I shall always be under obligations to him. Felt
some better today.

9th. Warm and fair. Wrote letter No. 44 home.

16th. Received letter No. 34 from my Wife.

25th. Received letter No. 35 from my Wife. Answered it by
letter No. 45 enclosing $10.00. My health improving.
26th. A Body of cavalry started out this morning in the direction of Big Black. I left off taking medicine about this time.

27th. Sunday. Pleasant but very dusty. Gen. Blair's Division came in from the Big Black River. They embarked on Boats bound for Memphis. Preaching by the Chaplain on the "Pearl of great price". Prayer meeting in the evening which was a precious season. My soul was refreshed and revived.

28th. Pleasant. Some signs of rain which is much needed. More soldiers came in today. Large details of men are at work along the Jackson road building fortifications. I am getting better slowly.

29th. Had a little rain last night. Received letter No. 36 with little Mary's likeness in it. Wrote letter No. 46. Troops still coming in from the Big Black. Weather cloudy, cool and rainy.

30th. Cloudy and rainy. Another Brigade came in from Big Black today. It is supposed that the Troops that have passed through here during the last few days are to reinforce Rosecrans at Chattanooga. Occupied today in reading "Biographical sketches of Rev. Valentine Cook".

OCTOBER, 1863

1st. Morning cloudy. Sun shining part of the afternoon. Did not sleep much last night. Hitchcock of the 63rd I1ls. died this morning of Bloody Flux. Wrote a letter to Jerome.

2nd. Cool and pleasant. Four of the 16th Wisconsin started to their Regt. this morning. Attended prayer meeting.

3rd. A lovely day. The sun shining clear and bright and the air just cool enough to make it pleasant.

4th. Sunday. Another lovely day. Sergt. Bonney came to see me today. He brought letter No. 37 and told me of the drowning of Leroy J. Smith of our Co, on the 27th of Sept., on the occasion of the burning of the "Robert Campbell Jr" near Milliken's Bend on her way down. Preaching by the chaplain at 3 P.M. Prayer meeting in the evening. I attended both. Commenced regular bathing.

5th. Fine weather, clear and cool. The Doctor told me this morning that it would (be) two months before my bowels would be well and strong. Wrote letter No. 47.

6th. Cool and blustering. Mended my pants and coat. Logan's Division out on review today on the Jackson road in front of the Hospital. Saw a novelty pass along the road, a cart with two mules hitched to it side by side.

7th. Attended prayer meeting last night. A religious interest springing up in the 124 Regt. under the Chaplaincy of Lieut. Howard. Also meetings are being held in the Methodist Church in the city which are very interesting. Good news for Zion. May the glorious work increase and spread all through the Army. We had a
heavy thunder shower last night, this morning cloudy and damp. There was an alarm last night that the Rebels had driven in our pickets on Big Black. Some of our Artillery was ordered out at midnight in the rain. Wrote a letter to Mother.

8th. Cool and pleasant. The men detailed to work on the Breastworks brought their Arms and equipment with them today. The Rebel force that drove in our pickets was about 150 cavalry. They did not come within cannon shot of Big Black river. It is reported that there is a large Force of Rebel cavalry between Jackson and Grenada.

9th. The 124th this morning moved their camp a mile nearer the city. Large details of men are at work on the fortifications and they are progressing rapidly.

10th. Pleasant. Attended meeting last night. A large number of sick from Gen. Tuttle's Division, on Big Black, came into the Hospital last night, and more came in today. They expect an attack out there soon.

11th. Sunday. Pleasant. Attended preaching in the afternoon and prayer meeting in the evening. The Iowa 3rd Brigade marched out towards Big Black this morning. George Rake came to see me today. The Doctor spoke to me about a furlough.

12th. Cool and windy. A heavy detail from the 3rd Brigade are at work on the fortifications in the Hospital Yard. Wrote letter No. 48 and enclosed some little books for the children. A thunder shower just at night.

13th. Cool. Shinkle of Co. C came to see us. Our Regt. out on Picket and under marching orders. Today the Ohio and Iowa soldiers voted on their State Officers. The vote in this Hospital was, for Gov. of Ohio, Brough 22; Vallandigham 5. For Gov. of Iowa, Stone 37; Tuttle 10.

14th. Cool and cloudy. Had a fire in our room today. Attended meeting last night. Gen. Logan's Division, except the 20th Ills., marched out toward the Big Black this morning.

15th. Pleasant. Ate a little applesauce this A.M. Went to our camp to see Wm. Carpenter. Found him very low with a fever, but the worst of it was past, and he was getting better. The Regt. marched to the Big Black yesterday and started on again this morning. There was only 4 or 5 of Co. H left in camp.

16th. Windy but pleasant. Went down to the convalescent table today. Took a walk and went through some of the caves that the citizens dig for their protection during the siege.


18th. Sunday. Pleasant. Preaching at three P.M. by the chaplain, from Acts XXVI Chap. 28. Reports of a battle at the Big Black.

19th. Clear and pleasant. Wrote letter No. 49 to my Wife and one to George W. Snedeker.

20th. Cloudy and warm. Logan's Division returned to their camps today. They have been out beyond Jackson. A general clearing out of convalescents from the Hospital to make room for the sick and wounded from the scouting expedition.

21st. Attended meeting last night and enjoyed it very much. A small body of Cavalry went out this morning. About 40 of them were Black soldiers mounted
on mules. Got discharged from the Hospital and came to the Regt. this morning. Received letter No. 38 and a letter from George dated July 11th. Weather cloudy and cold.

22nd. Reported to the Surgeon and was excused from heavy duty. Went down town today to see Carpenter and found him improving. Got rather tired. Signed the pay roll. Weather cool and pleasant.

23rd. A Cold Northeast storm. Suffered some with the cold last night and today. The captain got my descriptive roll from the "City Hospital" today. Applied for more clothing.

24th. Another cold night. This morning cold and raw. Afternoon pleasant. Fixed up the tent this morning. Went down town about noon and took a walk along the river. My right leg has ached all day.

25th. Sunday. Clear and cool. Carpenter came to the Regt. this P.M. He is quite weak yet. The 8th Louisiana (Colored) Regt. went down town on a review this afternoon. No preaching today.

26th. Attended prayer meeting in the chaplain's tent last night. Wrote letter No. 50 home.


29th. Slight showers. Wrote letter No. 51 to my Wife, and a letter to Chas. G. Bowman, relating to my affairs in New Haven and requesting him to act as agent for me. Sent another enclosing $2.00 to be used in sending letters and papers to me. Our Regt. received two months pay today. Our Clothing account settled up to August 1st, 1863. I had drawn to the amount of $3.56 more than the Govt. allowance, which was deducted from my pay. I received $22.45. The Sutler is doing a brisk business just about now. Was reported for duty today. Attended meeting in the Chaplain's tent last night. It was crowded full.

30th. A rainy day. Albert Stickels and Henry Young returned to the Regt. today.

NOVEMBER, 1863

1st: Sunday. Cloudy. Our regular monthly Inspection was had today. While standing in column a musket was accidentally discharged by one of the 131st Ills. Vols., which is camped opposite to our Regt. The bullet struck the ground under Mrs. Col. Sloan's horse, on which she was sitting looking at the Regt. It made quite a stir among us. The 8th Louisiana (Colored) moved their camp near the R. R. today. Our chaplain preached this afternoon from the text "It is finished", after which the "Articles of the Regimental Christian Union" were adopted by unanimous vote of the professing Christians present. In the evening we held a prayer meeting in Capt. Field's tent, and about a dozen others and myself signed our names to the Articles of the Association. Received letter No. 40 from my Wife.

2nd: Clear and warm. Brightened up my Gun barrel today.

3rd: Clear and warm. Detailed to work on the fortifications. Got back to camp pretty well tired out. A meeting was held in the Chaplain's tent for Prayer and conference. After meeting, several more signed their names to our Christian Association. After which the officers were elected.


5th: Rainy and muddy.

6th: Detailed for Picket. Our Brigade got Orders to be in line tomorrow at 5 A.M. with knapsacks packed and two days rations in our haversacks. We were relieved from Picket at sundown by the 2nd Brigade. Weather pleasant.

7th: Got up at 3 A.M. Got breakfast and our tents rolled up by 5 A.M. Got into line and started for the cars at 5 1/2 and got aboard immediately. The cars started at 7 O'clock and got out to Big Black River between 8 and 9 A.M. Found Tuttle's Division in line ready to leave for Vicksburg by the return of the train. Saw the "Grey Eagle" belonging to the 8th Wisconsin Vols. Bought Photographs of Genes. Grant, Logan, and Leggett. Our tents came out just at night. George Orme came to the Regt. today.

8th: Sunday. Fair and warm. Was sick with a fever most all day. No Preaching.

9th: Spent the day in fixing up our tent, raising it and fixing up a stove in it. Got a letter for Carpenter and sent it to him by Harvey Seymour.

10th: Pleasant. On fatigue duty.

11th: A cold night and a pleasant day. Reported to the surgeon sick.

12th: Pleasant. Today Libby is 6 years old. Drew a pair of Pants, price $3.55.

13th: Mild and pleasant. Gen. Logan came out on the cars. Reviewed the 1st Brigade and made a farewell speech to us. He is now in Command of the 15th A.C. We drew lots for furlough today. E. Pinney was the fortunate one.

14th: A slight shower last night, pleasant today. Inspection of Arms, Equipments, and Quarters today.


16th: Pleasant weather. Our Regt. commenced to have Battalion drill today. Wrote letter No. 53 to my Wife today. Bought some Milk and Eggs. Received letter No. 41 from home.
17th. Pleasant. Went out on drill a little while this afternoon. Soon tired out.


19th. Fair and mild.

20th. Cloudy and Rainy. Got a letter from Mother and one from Brother George.

21st. Pleasant. Received letter No. 42 from my Wife.

22nd. Sunday. Fair. Attended preaching and Bible Class. The Regt. was paid two months pay in the evening.

23rd. Reported for duty. Wrote an answer to Mother's letter. Wrote No. 54 to my Wife.

24th. J. Sedgwick, S. A. Campell and Sol Dennison were detailed to a Negro Cavalry Regt. today. Had a very severe pain in the Stomach and Bowels all night and all day. Took Morphone to relieve it.

25th. Fair. The whole Brigade out on trial drill. The 31st IIs., and the 23d Ind. drilled the best. It was witnessed by Gen. McPherson and all our Brigade Officers.

26th. Pleasant. Thanksgiving day. Gave Lieut. Potter $33.00 to Express at Vicksburg to my Wife. Sergeant D. Bonney detailed to a Negro Regt.

27th. Pleasant.

28th. A Rainy night and a raw day. Our Regt. was vaccinated today in obedience to a General Order. Received a letter from Chas. G. Bowman on business and answered it.

29th. Sunday. Raining in the night and cold all day. No Preaching.