



DISCOVERY

Edited by
FREDERICK E. MASER

A FASCINATING DIARY

An entertaining and informative diary of the Civil War period written by a Methodist preacher should prove to be a fascinating **DISCOVERY** for our readers this quarter. The diary is edited with an introduction by Benjamin L. Pilcher, a member of the faculty of McMurry College, Abilene, Texas. Dr. Pilcher holds two graduate degrees from Texas Technological College and a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico. Although his degrees are in biology, Dr. Pilcher has always been interested in history, having taken six hours of graduate history study while at Texas Technological College. He has thoroughly researched the diary, adding helpful footnotes.

There is a lengthy reference to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and its effect on the country. The author of the diary suggests the calamity was permitted by God to show the nation that "while the lenient policy may have been best thus far . . . now greater severity may be demanded." Even Methodist clergymen can sometimes come to weird conclusions.

One cannot help but be touched by the minister's concern for souls and by some of the outdated theology. For example, one soldier who had been shot in the arm, which was later amputated, believed it was because "he did not trust in God at the time he was shot." Two Roman Catholics refer to Luther as a rascal, in sharp contrast to present day Catholic theologians who look upon Luther in a more kindly light.

The diary is well worth reading, and we thank Dr. Pilcher for his work and his contribution in editing the diary.

**A PERSONAL DIARY OF JOHN NELSON PILCHER
DELEGATE OF
THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION
APRIL 5 - MAY 18, 1865**

Introduction

by BENJAMIN L. PILCHER

Several personal diaries of John Nelson Pilcher (1833-1915) have been handed down in my family. I am now in possession of five of these journals. The following journal reflects several aspects of the Civil War period in Tennessee during the spring of 1865. The journal itself is 4 inches by 6½ inches and has 110 numbered pages, of which 81 were used by J. N. Pilcher to record his experiences. On page 86, four names and hometowns of delegates were written. At the first of the journal is a printed portion with instructions and duties of delegates as well as a list of field officers of the United States Christian Commission. Inside the front cover is a pass to be within the city limits of Chattanooga, Tennessee for 90 days, dated April 21, 1865 and signed by M. Buzzell, Lt. 16th U.S.C.I. and Provost Marshall.

Every effort has been made to copy the manuscript exactly. However, this editor has made minor changes for the purposes of clarity. Also, individuals' initials were inserted when they could be verified.

John Nelson Pilcher was born on February 15, 1833, in Canaan Township, Athens County, Ohio. He attended Ohio University, earning two degrees, a B.A. in 1858 and an M.A. in 1861. He entered the ministry in 1858 as a member of the Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Although he retired from the ministry in 1871, he remained loyal to his calling as a minister until his death at the age of 82, on April 10, 1915. He is recorded as having been a very devout Christian throughout his entire life.¹

The United States Christian Commission was the outgrowth of numerous Christian groups that responded to aid and comfort soldiers of the Union Army during the Civil War. The Commission was constituted at a Convention of delegates of the Young Men's Christian Association in New York, November 14 and 15, 1861.² The major objectives were "the spiritual good of the soldiers in the army, and incidentally their intellectual

¹*Journal*, Ohio Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church (1915), pp. 124-126.

²Lemuel Moss, *Annals of the United States Christian Commission* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1868), pp. 104-105. Hereafter referred to as *Annals*.

improvement and social and physical comfort.”³ John Nelson Pilcher was one of 4,589 delegates commissioned during the war. Primary activities for delegates were visiting the soldiers, comforting the sick and wounded, preaching (with no attempt for conversion), providing reading rooms, and distributing literature in the forms of religious tracts, Bibles and magazines. Delegates issued writing materials to encourage soldiers to write letters to their families. The Commission also provided diet kitchens and educational facilities in some instances. Public support for the Commission was strong, as evidenced by the donations of \$6,291,107.68 during its existence of four years. The Commission was closed officially on January 1, 1866, although most field stations had been closed soon after the end of the war in April 1865.⁴

The following is a transcription of John Nelson Pilcher’s personal record of his experiences as a delegate in Tennessee for the period April 5-May 18, 1865.

Left Jackson *April 6 [5], 1865*, about eleven and half A.M. Reached Cincinnati just before night. Stopped at the Henrie House in company with Dr. Star.

April 7th [6] visited Book Concern — Ordered and paid for forty eight S.S. Advocates — Twenty Six dollars worth of S.S. Books — Paid to Dr. A. Poe one hundred and one dollars missionary money from Isaac Harrison and Mrs. Bennet. Paid Book Account eighteen dollars and thirty two cents and one dollar and sixty eight cents on Periodicals. Called on Bro. Marley and made arrangements to go forward — Received my commission⁵ two army Shirts and twenty dollars in cash. Paid two dollars and eighty cents fare to Cincinnati and two dollars and a half at Henrie House. Went to wharf and got on boat Gen. Bytte. Paid fare to Louisville three dollars. Started about one P.M. and after a pleasant trip arrived at Louisville about two A.M. April 7th where I remained on boat till morning. Then called on Bro. J.F. Loyd⁶ and breakfasted secured a pass and by perserverance succeeded in getting on train with soldiers. Arrived at Nashville about sundown after a long and tiresome ride. After wandering out of my way somewhat I succeeded in finding head Quarters of the Christian Commission at 14 Spruce Street. Found about one dozen Delegates laboring about the city.

April 8th Arise about sunrise — Breakfasted — Worship was conducted by one of the Delegates consisting of singing, reading scripture, and prayr.

³Ibid., p. 107.

⁴Ibid., p. 120.

⁵Delegates were commissioned to serve for not less than six weeks under the direction of a Field Agent. Expenses were paid by the Commission. *Annals*. Also “Introduction to Delegates” in diary.

⁶Rev. J. F. Loyd was a Field Agent for the years 1863, 1864, 1865. *Annals*, p. 212.

Read three chapters in Bible. Was detailed to remain here until Monday. Directed to labor at Cumberland Hospital in giving assistance to Chaplain Day. Called on the Chaplain. He conducted me around to the several wards of the Hospital — thirty wards. Each fitted to take care of Sixty five patients. Wards one hundred and thirty feet in length and twenty in width. Ten wards lying side by side with a space between each tastfully laid out and planted with shrubs and flowers. In one a vine — another a horse — a third a fort &c. well executed — Buildings — Officers Quarters — Guardhouse — Cooking Department — Dining Rooms — Chapel under way — Laundress worked by steam — Baths — Dead House — Post Mortem examination room — Commissary department &c. Fifty acres of ground furnished Streets being macadamized — Water supplied from tanks, and tanks from City resevoirs and resevoirs from the Cumberland River. After prospecting around the ground with Bro. Day commenced with Ward No. thirty to visit the Sick — visited thirty, twenty, eleven, and twelve — visited one soldier near death — his experience not clear — Died near noon. Found the men very ready to engage in religion conversation — some religious — Sat. Rel. Con. with 10⁷

Said to a soldier with fever, "I see you have a good friend by your side" — Bible "yes" said he "it is the best book in the world for me"

Another who had been some time from his family, and home and was much reduced by disease said to me, "Whereever the Savior is there is home"

Said a man from Mich. aged forty five years — "I believe in God as much as you do: but do not believe in making any profession of it" I replied Can you give too much evidence of your regard for your friends. God has done more for you than any earthly friend so why not show your love for him. He was all broken up.

Received a warm welcome from most of the men. Felt that by the aid of the Spirit I was enabled to reach them and the Lord shed the dews of his grace upon my own Soul. Visited some of the Forts near the Hospital about noon. Prayr meeting at 8 P.M. at Commission Room. April 9th Sunday Rel. Con. with 7 Very rainy throughout the day. Walked throug rain $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to Cumberland Hospital where I preached to about fifteen patients from John 13,17.

In afternoon visited through No. 1 and No 8 wards in C.H.. An Indian died in No. 8 yesterday — David Johnson — Was converted before his death — sung the praises of God. Died happy pointing heavenward and saying "I am going home"

Saw Bro. E.B. Wise — brother-in-law to Ozias Elbright — formerly of Royalton. At night visited Hospital No. 19 Branch — Preached to quite a number of the men in the 2 ward belonging to the 2 & 3 wards — very

⁷Religious conversations with 10 men. As a Methodist minister and delegate, Rev. Pilcher was disciplined to make such daily notations.

attentive — visited all in No. 2 on their couches after preaching — Some told me they were very glad I came and preached to them and requested me to return.

Apr. 10 Rel. Con. with 9

Early in morning visited State House. Formed an acquaintance of Hon. A.A. Snoderly member of Legislature from Union County. was in the Legislative hall — saw Governor [William Gannaway]⁸ Brownlow. About 9 A.M. went to Hospital No. 19 and distributed 100 papers and talked to all on their couches and others as I had opportunity in wards No. 1 and 3 — Found some christians — others mellowed closer and ready to receive the truth. Found two Catholics, one very severe on Protestants branded Luther — a rascal. He knew scarce by any thing about the Bible and less about experimental Godliness. The other liberal seemed happy — said he always trusted in God — Virgin Mary and Jesus. He was shot in arm and had it amputated. He thought it was because he did not trust in God at the time that he was shot.

At 2 P.M. went with Bro. [John B.]⁹ Fairbank to Depo to go to Knoxville: but could not get on train. So visited Cumberland Hospital. Talked with the sick and wounded in wards No. 7,9, and 10. Found a number of christians — one whose countenance beamed with joy — name French Barnes — age 22. From Ill. Said he “I can be happy anywher” — He had a heaven in his soul while the measles and mumps had been working upon his body.

A young soldier who had been reckless was melted to tears in penitence when I talked with him and told him the Savior came to save great sinners — He wished me to come and see him again.

Some buildings illuminated over the Surrender of Lee to Grant — At a prayr and speaking meeting in the basement of one the M.E. Church South.¹⁰

April 11th R. Con. with 8

Bro. [T.R.]¹¹ Ewing desired me to stay until tomorrow and go in company with Bro. [D.C.] Cooper. In forenoon visited Cumberland Hospital — had pastoral visits to sick and others as I had opportunity in ward No. 2. Held religious services in ward No. 3 consisting of singing — prayr — reading Scripture and short sermon and afterward visited and talked with the sick. In afternoon passed through ward No. 4 and had religious conversation with the sick and wounded and with others as I could get opportunity — visited Forts Morton and Negley.

⁸Governor of Tennessee 1856-1869. *Dictionary of American Biography*, V. 3 (New York: C. Scribners & Sons, 1929), p. 177.

⁹Name was listed at the end of the diary. p. 86.

¹⁰Methodist Episcopal Church South. The Methodist Church in America divided into northern and southern branches over the issue of slavery in 1844.

¹¹Unless otherwise noted, initials supplied by this author were from two sources: *Annals* or *United States Christian Commission* 4th Annual Report (Philadelphia: 1866).

April 12 R.C. with 10 in forenoon

Stormy and muddy — Labor in Cumberland Hospital in forenoon in Wards No. 5,6, and 7 — Had religious conversation with (10) ten. Said a sick soldier when I attempted to point him to the Savior "I will do better from this time" with a good deal of feeling. Conversed with a wine [wise?] Cenarian — Think him a good man. Bridge not crossable at Stone river So Bros. [L.N.]¹² Wheeler, [D.C.] Cooper and I failed to go towards the front. Read a part of the history of the battle of Marathon and made preparation to preach. Preached in the basement of McKindrie [McKendree]¹³ Chapel to over thirty — mostly Soldiers from St. John 14,15. One female white and one colored. Hearers attentive. †R.C. 15¹⁴ April 13th †Religious conversation with fifteen.

Preached in forenoon at ward No. 18 in afternoon at No. 12. About twenty at each ward — Quite attentive. An unusually deep interest was taken by a Tennessean as I conversed with him. He wept freely and said "I would give the world to enjoy what some others I believe enjoy." I tried to point out to him the simplicity of faith.

Conversed with two who seemed to be near the gates of death who expressed faith in Jesus. Dined with sister Shower at the Hospital Kitchen for sick and wounded.

Bro. [L.N.] Wheeler preached at 7 P.M. at basement of McKendry [McKendree] Chapel. Picked up some shells in the grounds of the Cumberland Hospital. My heart goes out after the sick and wounded soldiers. Wrote a letter to B.E. Sibley.¹⁵

April 14 R.C. 13

Visited Cumberland Hospital. Talked with twelve on religious Subjects and received encouragement from them. Found two near the gates of death. They expressed a trust in the Savior. Dined with Miss Shower. Went out nealy a mile to see a Brigade drill. Went with Bros. [A.B.] Clough and Gaston to Post Hospital No. 2 Chaplain Hoover M.E. minister has been keeping up a series of meetings for past week. Five at altar — Three made profession. A blessed season. I bless God for what my eyes beheld and for what my heart felt. Rainy, Soldiers very zealous when religious.

April 15 Rainy during night

Spent sometime in the C.C. Room¹⁶ reading last weeks M.E. Advocate and the daily Nashville Union. The proposed integrity of government is encouraging. Today set apart by the Mayor of the city to celebrate the recent victories achieved by the union forces.

¹²Name was listed at the end of the diary. p. 86.

¹³*U.S.C.C. 4th Annual Report* (Philadelphia: 1866), p. 205.

¹⁴On April 12 and 13, a cross was drawn adjacent to "R.C." Its significance is unclear.

¹⁵Probably a relative of his wife Florence Madelaine Sibley Pilcher.

¹⁶The Christian Commission established rooms with reading material for the troops. *Annals*.

Order of Exercise —— Offices and Business houses to be closed at 10 A.M. All the military forces about the city to be formed in the city and marched through the leading streets. Military officers and City officers at front. Forces from 15,000 to 20,000. Buildings to be illuminated at night. Preparations extensive. All appeared in a glow of joy as the imposing ceremonies were just commencing it was whispered "President Lincoln was assassinated last night at a Theater." I thought it a rumor at first: but soon found it one [on?] every tong [tongue] and sadns began to settle upon every face. The possibility of the truth of the report was first admitted — then the probabilities of its truth began to multiply. I began to feel that it was a sad reality as the Batteries ceased to fire and the flags were seen to float at half mast and the soldiers proceeded through the streets led by the muffled music of the death march. Soon the floating flags were draped in mourning. And my worst fears were realized when a telegram posted at the Dispatch Office I read "Abraham Lincoln was assassinated last night at Fords Theater and died at twenty two minutes after Seven o clock A.M. today" Also that "Secretary Seward was assassinated about the same time." The order of the day was soon changed — the cheerful look was followed by a sad continence — the joyous expressions gave place to words of grief and the life and activity in the morning was succeeded by a lull and a general spirit of gloom. O how my heart has been wrung with grief as the awful tragedy of last night has vividly passed before my mind. In this hour of deep affliction my only solace is obtained from the God who rules in the heavens and causes the wrath of man to praise him. For the dispensation I would humbly bow and kiss the hand that has thus permitted us to be smitten. This to human wisdom seems mysterious: but I trust it will be overruled for the advancement of Christ's kingdom and for the glory of God in our land.

Visited Cumberland Hospital with Bro. Clarke Con. Min.¹⁷ from Wisconsin. Passed through two wards. One died last night. Said to me his trust was in God. Held religious conversation with six. The day has been saddened by the minute guns — twelve pounders — all the afternoon at Fort Huston. Bro Beard [W.F. Baird]¹⁸ — Bible Agent — led evening worship deeply imbued with the Spirit of occasion. O how the heart aches and how slowly the hours drag by.

April 16 R.C. 2

Went in company with Bros. [A.B.] Clough and Batson to Hospital No. 2 Called on Bro. Hoover — Chaplain of this Hospital. Preached for him at 10 P.M. from II Cor. 4,7. nearly an hour. The Lord was with me and the Soldiers were very attentive. Probably one hundred and fifty present.

¹⁷Conference minister or Congregational minister?

¹⁸Rev. W. F. Baird was an agent of the American Bible Society. *U.S.C.C. 4th Annual Report* (Philadelphia: 1866), p. 162.

Preached at Wilson Hospital — Negro — at 4 P.M. to some of the officers and their wives and about seventy five Negro soldiers from II Cor. 4,7 about one hour. Had much freedom.¹⁹ The tears coursed down the bronze cheeks of the christian negro soldiers. They seemed to be enjoying a rich feast. Bro. Oviate [G.D. Oviatt] — a baptist Bo exhorted with good effect. Some of them expressed an anxiety to have me come back. One said they “were better prepared to eat food than to prepare it.” Also “We want to have the Peters and Pauls preach to us.” Bro [D.C.] Cooper — a coventer new School was also present — Attended McKendrie [McKendree] Chapel at night. Bro. Norris preached his last sermon. A good practical Sermon.

April 17th R.C. 10

Read the daily news at the Commission Rooms —& have faith to believe that God will bring good out of the base trechery which assasinated our Chief magistrate. First — think it will lead the people to trust in God rather than in man. Secondly think it may be that God is permitting this bereavement to befall the nation in his infinite wisdom to see that while the lenient policy may have been best thus far that now greater severity may be demanded.

Labored at Cumberland in forenoon — Visited twenty fourth ward — and had religious conversation with ten. At basement prayr meeting at three P.M. and at preaching at night — Bro. Buekls [L.C. Buckles] preached an excellent sermon. I lead in prayr and we devoted some time in an experience meeting. Then I called upon all who wished to testify for the savior to arise. About thirty arose. Then at the suggestion of Bro. Buekles I called upon all who wanted the prayrs of christians to rise about a dozen arose. Our meeting was quite interesting. My heart was glad to see such a feeling among the Soldiers.

April 18th R.C. 8

Read while at C.C. Room — visit grave of James Knox Polk — Picked up two shells near his monument. With Bro. Clarke visit Cumberland Hospital — Went through No. thirty. Dine at Diet Kitchen — Preached at No. 13 at two P.M. to about thirty — Attend Preaching tonight. Bro. Oviate [C.D. Oviatt] preached a good discourse — Bro Buekles [L.C. Buckles] conducted meeting afterwards — Eleven soldiers asked the prayrs of Gods people. Weather warm and pleasant.

April 19th

Bro Rea and I made efforts to go out on Nashville battle ground. Could not get a pass in time — Took a bath. Prepared to attend the

¹⁹A common expression for ministers at this time, referring to the freedom of expression due to the presence of the Holy Spirit, i.e., uninhibited.

ceremonies coetaneous with the funeral seremonies of the President of the United States. Procession — Brig. Gen [John Franklin] Miller²⁰ — staff — Eleven Regiments and two Detachments — a large number of soldiers from Hospitals Catafaleo — Maj. Gen. [Lovell Harrison] Rosseau²¹ & staff Maj. Gen [George Henry] Thomas²² & Staff — members of State Legislature Governor [William Gannaway] Brownlow. Societies and last citizens. Never have been so large a collection of troops, citizens as through the streets and suburbs or Nashville today.

Had a good view of Brig. Gen [John Franklin] Miller — Commander of Post. He has lost one eye — left Large fine looking officer. Has the appearance of a frank and genial man. Maj. Gen. [Lovell Harrison] Rosseau Looks independent and resolute. also potly Just shaves his chin. Maj. Gen [George Henry] Thomas — plain in his appearance — has a firm look — Quite large. Saw C.W. Stewart and T.L. Batemann formerly of Athens on streets, Also G.W. Adams of Jackson and W.L. Persons. About 2 P.M. started from Nashville in company with Bro. McLary [T.M. McClary]²³ of the Minnesota Conference to Chattanooga. There are many evidences of war along the R.R. — Block Houses — Barricades — Forts — and Rifle pits — and in many places the absence of fences and general desolation. Hood's Army had torn up the rails along the line and burnt the ties and heat the rails and bent them probably fifteen miles between Nashville and Murfeysburrough. The cars pass through the Stone river Battle ground — a vast number of graves are to be seen. Limbs and Tree tops cut off by cannon balls. Trees scarred by rifle balls. The strongest Forts and Fortifications are to be found about Murfeysburrough I has as yet seen. Rode on through the night — Dark and cloudy with wind, lightening, thunder and rain. Get scarcely any good sleep. At Shelmound at daybreak.

April 20 R.C. 6

Arrive at Chattanooga about Seven A.M. Walked around town some time before we found the C.C. Home. Found at the Home T.S. Stivers, W.S. Waters, R.R. Boyd, J.N. Tomes, L.W. Calkins, Three Sisters also. Felt very tired when we arrived. Walked to Hospital No 1 where I passed a part of the fore noon — Passed the afternoon in distributing Papers (25)²⁴ and paper letter and envelopes (25 of each). Talked about the subject of religion with Six. Attended C.C. Church at night and heard Bro [R.R.] Boyd (of Erie Con.) preach — a good discourse. There is a Christian league formed here of two hundred in five weeks. Give accessions tonight. I bless God for such scenes in the Army.

²⁰Assigned to command of the city and post of Nashville in 1864. Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Blue* (L.S.U. Press, 1964), p. 324.

²¹Commander of the districts of Nashville and Tennessee. Nov. 1863-November 1865. *Ibid.*, p. 412.

²²Commander of the Dept. of Tennessee and Governor of Tennessee 1865-1869. *Ibid.*, p. 500.

April 21 R.C. 3

Passed the forenoon in visiting the wards of Hospital No. 1. Distributed 28 monthlies. Had prayr in three wards. Had 3 religious conversations. In afternoon in Company with Bros. McLeary [T.M. McClary], Latson and visited Lookout Mountain. Found a cavalry gun barrel near the R.R. track towards the mountain. Found many bullets on the mountain side. The finest view I have ever witnessed is from the summit of Lookout Mountain. We can see the Blue Ridge in Virginia and North Carolina — into Georgia and Alabama beside far into the interior of Tennessee. We joined in singing “Praise God from whom all blessing flow” &c on the summit. When I think of the “Everlasting hills” and Him who existed before them, and who by His word spoke them into being my view of Deity become more exalted. Sent to the Hospital on the mountain 3 Monthlies and 6 tracts. Found a rifle ball on summit of Lookout — We ordered one dozen likenesses taken on the face of the mountain. When we arrived in town it was near night — very tired.

War’s desolation is to be seen on every hand in this vicinity. It is about five miles from here to the summit of Lookout. Walked over the battlefield where Gen. [Joseph]²⁵ Hooker dislodged the rebels from the mountain steps where it seems barely practicle for men to ascend without any impediment.

April 22nd R.C. with 13

Wrote a letter to Flora,²⁶ Then visited the twenty ninth Indiana Reg. In., about one mile east of town. I distributed one dozen tracts and conversed with six on religion personally. One man told me he had been trying to serve God for some time and that he had been “more faithful since he had been in the army than before” Another “my father entreated me to be faithful and I am determind to be so.” Another told me he had read the Bible through fourteen times — Was trained to read it by a pious mother, yet he had never made any proffession of religion; but said he would be glad to have a prayr meeting kept up in the regiment and he would assist as far as he could. In afternoon visited Employees Hospital — Talked formally with seven on the subject of religion. A Quartermaster formerly from Ashtubula Co. said he had never thought much about the service of God; but seemed considerably affected when I told him no man ever ought to be ashamed of the savior. Said I to a man dangerously sick Do you feel that you love God he replied “I know I do,” with emphasis.

²³Also spelled McClary and McLeary in diary. Name listed at the end of diary as McLary, p. 86.

²⁴Papers were similar to religious tracts and apparently several pages in length. Again, Rev. Pilcher is careful to document his work as a delegate.

²⁵Ned Bradford, *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* V.3 (New York: Hawthorn Books, 1956), pp. 703-710.

²⁶His wife Florence Madelaine. Married on July 17, 1861 in Nelsonville, Ohio. Personal diary of John Nelson Pilcher for 1861.

There were two men very low with erysipelas²⁷ — one near death — not consious. The other has lost his hearing. How important to seek God in health. I wished to whisper in his ear the name of Jesus: but could not as he could not hear. Endeavored to point another man who was very low to the savior but his disease seemed to take his attention. Went with Bro. Conkins across the river to the Black House. Crossed the bridge near half a mile long — met with the soldiers of the 68 Mich. Reg. In. and addressed them on the subject of temperance. The Captain — a M.E. local preacher spoke and four others made short speeches. There are two hundred members in temperance Society. Many of these men are working for their country for temperance and for their God. I bid them God speed.

April 23 Sunday R.C. 2

Distributed twenty three papers to prisners in the division military prison. Preached to prisoners — some Rebel prisners some our own soldiers imprisoned for various reasons. Had good attention while I Sung “While nature was King” praying and preaching to them from “This is a faithful saying” &c Some were affected. Distributed one hundred and twenty seven papers to Co. K 1st Minn, H.A. member not large: but attentive. They gave me a warm welcome and invited me to return. Some men of God.

Preached at the C.C. Church at night — meetings held at several places, so member not large — Text 2 Cor. 4,7. Had some liberty. Saw a squad of Assasin sympathisers who were arrested, tried and sentenced to break stones on the streets during the day and to confinement during the night. They were drawn up in line with “Assasin sympathisers” in large letters across their breasts and their likeness taken. Quite cool. There is the best religious influence among the soldiers here of any place I have been. Mr. McLean [J.F. McClain] a Methodist preacher from Indiana²⁸ is here today. Have been employed pretty closely during day.

April 24th Monday

Left the brethren and in company with Bro. [Joel] Latson started on the cars for Knoxville. We distributed papers at the following places viz: at Cleveland three hundred — at Athens one hundred — at Philadelphia twenty five — also at London, Concord, and at camp of teamsters &c. Arrived at Knoxville about sundown where we found our way to C.C. Rooms. Rev. [M.M.] Longley, Congregational minister from Mass. Rev. [M] Williams Presbyterian from Indiana were at the C.C. Rooms also P. Methodist a detailed soldier. We passed not less than twelve or fourteen trains of cars moving the fourth army corps to Nashville. Am somewhat tired.

²⁷Erysipelas is an acute infection of the skin, accompanied by fever.

²⁸Dillsborough, Indiana. *Annals*, “List of delegates for 1865.”

April 25 R.C. 3

In the morning start for the tenth Tennessee Reg. Find they have moved to Greenville. With a soldier visit soldiers Cemetery to find grave of John Thanett Co. D. 22 Mich. Found it in 9th circle from center No. 35. Distributed twenty two tracts, twenty five papers — four Testaments. prayer in two rooms of Employees Hospital and preached in Rebel prison in afternoon and federal prison at night. Went across river to 2 O.H.A. on hill. When I asked one of the employees if he was trying to serve God he replied "Every one to his own notion about that." After talking to him awhile he seemed to look at it otherwise. There was good attention at both prisons while I preached. Text in the Rebel prison 1 Tim. 1 Chapt & 15 verse — in the Federal prison "This man receiveth sinners."

April 26

Hunted up Bro. J.L. Gibson — Found him near Fort Sanders rooming with the surgeon. Went with him into the fort and we stood over where he told me about eight hundred rebel soldiers were buried under one corner of the fort. Wrote a letter to Flora. In afternoon went with Bro. [M.] Williams to Carols who were awaiting transportation to Nashville. We distributed thread, needles, pins and twelve thousand four hundred and fifteen pages of tracts to Carols and twelfth Ohio Infantry. Attended a prayr meeting of the colored people — about forty present.

April 27 R.C. 4

In company with Bro. [Joel] Latson walked to dismounted camp four miles east of Knoxville — about noon when we arrived. Distributed thirty three hundred and fifty nine pages of tracts, two hundred & thirty four sheets of paper and envelopes, needles, thread and pins. There seems to be difficulty in getting the men together as they are composed of numerous regiments. A large number of men are on Fatigue duty. The Hospital Steward of 12th Kentucky comfortably quartered us in the Surgeons hd-qrts. Talk personally on religious subjects with 4 persons.

April 28 R.C. 2 R.C. 2

Bro. [Joel] Latson left for Knoxville in morning. I visited the tents on the right of the creek and distributed thread, needles and one hundred and seventy four sheets paper & envelopes one hundred and fifty six pins, buttons and thirty hundred and eighty six pages of tracts. Called on Captain Saunders of the 12th Ohio and took dinner with him. He is much of a gentleman. He told me his father was a Congregational preacher. Went up on to the hill to see the men drill. Drill short. Windy and rainy so it is not suitable to have meeting out of doors. Took supper with the Hospital Ward Master — a very accomodating man — from North Carolina. Told me that he laid out for fifteen months rather than go into the rebel army. In the winter he dug a cave in the bed of the creek. He was one of the six hundred Home Guards who took to the mountains. Were pursued by eight

hundred troops and two hundred of them captured. The Home Guards took to the mountains and fired from behind trees killing more of the rebels than were captured of their own number. He with rest of Home Guards mad his way through to Kentucky and enlisted in the tweleth Kentucky calvary. Had not heard anything from his father's family since he left there eighteen months ago. Visited a man quite sick with bowel complaint. Endeavored to point him to the Savior. Took supper with Ward Master and Sang several pieces for the Soldiers in Hospital Kitchen and had prayrs with them. Gave one of them, Carroll's Revival Hymns. He said "I would not take five dollars for it." Slept alone in one of the tents — slept well.

April 29th R.C. 4

Took breakfast in Hospital Kitchen. They waited for me to ask the blessing. We had "hard tack" beans, potatoes and "sour belly" and coffee. After breakfast went with Lieutenant Campbell of East Tennessee — to see a sargent who had been sick for a few days. Found him at a house near the borders of camp. He was a member of the Baptist church and an excellent man — an intelligent, high minded man — From twenty miles N. East of here on Holston River. He was not eighteen when the war broke out. His unkle — a rebel told the enrolling officers his age. He said "I determined never to fire a gun in the rebel cause — and if they would not let me stay at home — that I would go into the union army." He left the day before the enrolling officer came and escaped to Kentucky where he entered the union ranks.

Lieutenant Campbell is from East Tennessee — was a merchant — Says he lost everything he had. He says the people were carried away with the Politicians and Preachers. He is a man of sound judgement and much intelligence. Visited the 10th Michigan and distributed two thousand three hundred and forty nine pages of Tracts. Took dinner with Dr. and Hospital Steward Mr. Wassrfr. Dr. was four years at O.W. University — was acquainted with unkle Henry²⁹ and several of the members of the Ohio Conference. If he had known I was going to Knoxville he said he would have secured me a seat in the ambulance. Walked into Knoxville where I arrived about three P.M. Assisted in takeing in boxes and un-packing until 9 P.M. Rev. Rea came through with a car load for this station. Much disappointed at not getting any word from Flora — Three weeks and three days passed. It is four miles from Dismounted Camp into Knoxville.

Was talking with a boy living just outside the fortifications about how things had been since the war commenced. Said he "Every dog has his day; the rebels had their day and now the union men have theirs." Assisted in

²⁹Henry Echart Pilcher (1802-1891). Also a Methodist Episcopal minister. *Minutes of Central Ohio Conference, 1888-1891*, Methodist Episcopal Church, pp. 603-605.

takeing boxes in and unpacking some of them. Bro. [Joel] Latson quite unwell.

April 30

Packed up and visited the Union Prison and preached to them from 1 Tim. 1,15. Quite attentive. Distributed twenty five Hymn Books — Seventy five Papers — twenty nine hundred and eighty seven pages of tracts. They wished me to make them a temperance speech some night. After dinner packed up and rode onto dismounted cavalry camp. Found a large dirk in the road. Went to Captain Thompson's Head Quarters. Spoke to him about preaching. He appeared very indifferent about it and directed me to the Major of the 10th Michigan who was post commander. went to his head quarters and he was absent: Found that Captain Sanders of 12th O. was present and was Adjutant. He was ready to give all the assisence he could. Sent an orderly to notify the Company officers that there would be preaching in fifteen minutes where I would select a convenient place. He concluded that the 10th Michigan would respond to Bugle and thought it best to have it in front of Head Quarters. The 10th Mich. came forward in Companies and then from the detachment and formed a part of a hollow square. We sung "Out on an Ocean" &c. Prayed and then preached from "Suit yourselves as men" about half an hour. Was highly pleased to see the order and attention there was on the part of the men. Sung pronounced the benediction and the men marched to camps in the order they came. Probably eight hundred present. Saw Chaplain of 10th Mich. Think he is not doing much. He did not invite me to return. Captain Thompson said he was very glad to see such a turn out. Distributed one hundred papers — twenty five Hymn Books and twenty five hundred and sixty pages of Tract and arrived at C.C. Room just before dark.

A negro boy probably twelve or thirteen just arrived here from Charleston, S.C. looking for his mother who was sold to a trader here about two years ago. She was sold away from five children. The boy got safely through with the Yankee soldiers. One of the fruits of the "Sum of all villanies." Bro Batson [Joel Latson?] suffering from diarea. He is homesick. Was very happy to get a letter from my beloved wife — three weeks and four days since I left and had not heard a word since.

[May 1]

Bro. Rea left this morning — Detailed to assist in unpacking goods and giving them out. Eighty two or four boxes to be opened. So many articles of different kinds, that it is much trouble to open and assort them. This morning twenty three rebels came into town with a white flag and rode through the Streets. Lieut. Abbott assistant Prost. Marshall notified the guard to be on hand and then walked up to them without any arms and demanded of the Lieut. Colonel to lay down the white flag and get down and stack their arms. He demured and claimed to have his white flag respected. Lieut. Abbott said to him take down that rag and stack your

arms or Ill shoot you. One of gang cried shoot him. He said "shoot and be" They then got down and stacked their arms and their horses were taken and they were taken to prison. I was forceably impressed with the dignity of the United States Government. One of these rebels — Reynolds took four federal prisoners and wanted to go to a ball and to be relieved from the care of the prisoners shot the four. Saw Bro. [J.L.] Gibson awhile this afternoon.

May 2

Cool nights — Detailed to assist in unpacking boxes and other labor in the C.C. Room. Save out to Chaplain Gibson three hundred papers — thirty Hymn Books and sixteen hundred and fifty three pages of tracts and fifteen Almanacks. Walked out with Bro. [J.L.] Gibson on the field of battle — saw a house where some rebels concealed themselves and where our soldiers shot eighty five balls through the side & fifty two through the end. Took supper with Bro. Gibson and Surgeon Moore. They have a negro to cook for four of them in a mess near Fort Saunders. I looked through a glass at the surrounding hills, mountains, &c. I think the senery the finest I have ever looked upon. To the North Cumberland Mt. increases to the S.E. Smoky Mts. to the E. House top Mt. There are four Mts. in view to the S.E. Smoky and three this side. Had a long talk with Bro. Gibson about the work of Chaplains and C.C. Delegates.

In the night the fire cry was mad — I saw light — Dressed myself and went to the spot — after waiting a short time. A small brick building and a frame building were burned and a fire brick residence caught fire at windows and roof: but was put out with water carried.

Had a good chance to see Maj. Gen. [George] Stoneman³⁰ — rather tall and slender — seemed all absorbed in his observation of fire and quick in his movements. His features sharp and his eye keen and penetrating.

May 3 Pleasant R.C. 6

Packed up and walked to dismounted camp four miles east of town. Distributed eighty eight papers — three papers needles — a package of thread — twenty "Soldiers and Saylor's Almanack" — Pens — and two hundred and twenty four sheets of paper and envelopes. Had personal religious conversation with Six. The camp that I expected to preach to was being moved so an opportunity was not afforded for preaching. Walked back to Knoxville where I arrived about dusk. Felt somewhat tired as it has been a warm day. Saw an old Gentleman a little more than one mile east of Knoxville with whom I had some conversation respecting the war. He said the "niggers" would be left in a wretched and suffering condition. That they could never take care of themselves. He then said he had kept two for many years and now when he stood in need of them to take care of him they had run off and left him. The Negroes apply less frequently to

³⁰*Generals in Blue*, p. 481.

Christian Commission than the white people of the south and I think that there is but little doubt but that they can shirk for themselves better than those who have been brought up without ever having learned to work. The advanced condition of vegetation is very inspiring.

May 4th Very pleasant

Today appointed by the Governor [W.G. Brownlow] as a day of Thanksgiving and prayr for victories achieved. Appointed before the President's assasination. Preached to the Negroes at 10½ from Psalms 97,1 with some liberty. Bro. [M.M.] Longley talked a while afterwards and some of them seemed to get near the top of Pisgah³¹ — Bro. [M.] Williams an Old School Presbyterian and I had a protracted discussion in reference to salvation of heathen. He claimed that heathen infants would be saved; but that all heathen adults would be lost. I claimed that Christ was the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world and that God could by his spirit just as easily reveal Christ as the Savior as any other revelation. I showed him that God did reveal himself to Patriarchs in various ways to the call of Abraham — Meleisadeck — and also to Cornelius the Centurian and if God did not manifest himself to the Gentiles in the time intervening it was for him to show when God changed his manner of dealing with different nations. Said I to him I could become an athiest sooner than to believe that a God of holiness, justice, love and goodness, and mercy should bring the heathen into the world. So they could not know anything of Christ and then damn them because they did not know of Him.

I told him I could much sooner expect that the Almighty would send to hell the professing Christian for neglecting to preach the gospel to the heathen than that he would everlastingly punish the heathen for their neglect of Christians. Said I to him, "Bro. Williams did I believe that all the heathen would be sent to hell in mass if they do not have the Bible and Gospel preached unto them I would not sleep day nor night until I had carried the truth to them or news on my way

Our discussion was with good feeling; yet with earnestness. In the evening went to Federal prison and we sung and prayed and I talked to them of the subject of temperance some time. Curry from Sallipolise talked awhile also — and about half a dozen signed the pledge. Some of them were brought to the prison for intoxication. Distributed one Dozen Hymn Books in prison. Packed up to go to Bulls Sap and Greenville.

May 5th

Warm — Got ready and went to Depot about 7 A.M. It was about 8 A.M. before cars left. The whole train made up of boxcars. Found 230 troops at Straw Berry Plains 1 Co. of 1 L.A.V. 1 Co. 2nd O.W.A. Left

³¹Mt. Pisgah is the peak where God showed Moses the lands beyond the River Jordan. Deut. 3:23.

seventy Papers. At New Market thirty four men of 1st O.A. Left twenty Papers. At Moss Creek one hundred men 1st O.A. Left twenty five Papers. Mom's Town eighty soldiers, 1st O.A. Left twenty papers. Russellville forty five men 8th Tennessee Calvary. Left fifteen Papers. Bulls Sap thirty five soldiers 9th Tennessee Cavalry. Left fifteen papers. Found no more troops until I reached Greenville. Arrived late in afternoon. An engineer fell from car at Bull's Sap station and car wheel smashed his right arm above elbow and left leg below knee. He was uttering bitter oaths in his delirious condition as he was taken into the Hospital at Greenville. How shocking. Took supper at Mr. Parks with Bro. McConnell [S.D. McConnel] and slept with him on counter with one or two quilts under us and a couple of soldiers blankets over us.

May 6 R.C. 1

Warm and pleasant — Arose about six we had prayr at C.C. Room. Took breakfast at Mr. Parks and after writing up my Diary In company with Bro. McConnell [S.D. McConnel] went out to the Camp of the 1st O.H.A. where we found Lieut. Delay and in a short time Bro. Jacob Delay returned from town. Gave him some Hymn Books for distribution — also some thread and needles. Formed an acquaintance with Lieut. Col. [For-dyce M.] Keith³² and Maj. Mathews [Timothy S. Matthews]³³ of Salia Co., O. Took dinner with the officers. Went through the camp. Found two of Bro. Steel's Sons one of Daniel Ware's sons — Bros. E.R. Snowden, Sthevion Long, James Crawford and J.I. Foster. Passed some time in conversation with them. Saw a company shoot off their guns at a walnut tree about ten inches through probably one hundred yards distant. I think not more than four or five balls hit the tree. Took supper with the officers at the request of Bro. J. Delay. Several came in to attend preaching. A local Preacher — of the M.E. Church from Philadelphia by name Tompkins preached from "ye have heard it said an eye for eye and a tooth for a tooth &c." He dwelt particularly upon justice, mercy and humility. Twenty two years of age. He preached quite a good discourse. Some superfluities. Probably fifty out. Talked with a sick man a member of N.B. Church — He was melt to tears as I talked to him of the comforts of religion. This is the former residence of President Johnston saw his house — a plain brick building. This is the place where Gen. John Morgan³⁴ was killed. He had arrived here before sundown and taken up his head Quarters in a fine residence. He had stationed pickets on two of the roads leading to Bull's Sap and had neglected to post pickets on another road. Some one — a boy about fifteen — They got his horse but after dark he got away and rode

³²*Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, U.S. War Dept., 128 V. (Washington: 1880-1901), V. 59, Part 2, p. 325.

³³*Ibid.*, p. 325.

³⁴ General John Hunt Morgan, a Confederate general killed on Sept. 3, 1864 in Greenville. Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Gray* (L.S.U. Press, 1959), p. 221.

twenty miles to Bulls Sap and carried the intelligence to Gen. Gillam [Alvon Cullem Gillem]³⁵ before midnight and about day light his forces reached here and opened fire. A guard got around the house where Morgan was quartered. He was in bed — he arose — partially dressed himself and ran out into a vineyard adjoining the house. A private of Gen. Gillams company ordered him to halt and as he refused to do so he shot him down. shot through the breast hig [high] up towards the shoulder. I saw where the tops of two boards were broken off for the purpose of taking Morgan out. He was taken out and taken on the horse by the sargent that shot him and taken out of town by him before him on his horse to escape the rebels. Page 68³⁶ Saw this morning where the Cumberland Presbyterian Church — church unfinished — was struck by a shell from one of our guns when Morgan was assaulted. The church was not seriously injured — several bricks were fractured.

May 7 R.C. with Six

Arose soon after five. Visited the Hospital a while. The engineer whose arm and leg were broke at Bulls Sap the other day was in a deplorable condition. Seemed delirius. His right arm amputated near the shoulder. Conversed with two men on the subject of religion. Went to Church at the M.E.C.S. and a Cumberland Presbyterian preacher — of this place before the war preached from “This is a faithful saying” &c. The sermon was as applicable to almost any other text as this one. Another C.P.P. administered Sacrament quite appropriately. said he was marched under the bayonette about two years ago for administering the Sacrament. Quite a number of us partook of sacrament. He described with much pathost the terrible storm which had swept with such fearful rage over this part of the land for the past four years.

Bro. [Jacob] Delay, Bro. [C.E.] Knox — a good man and a member of the M.E.C.S. and myself took dinner with a Bro. J.C. Hankins also of the M.E.C.S. He wishes the M.E. Church to come in possession of the property — formerly held by the M.E.C.S. He voted against A. Lincoln for President the first time; but for him the second time. What persons on the war paths have suffered can never be fully realized by others.

Bro. [Jacob] Delay and I walked to Camp of 1st O.H.A. where the church call was made about two P.M. Quite a large number collected and conducted the services. I preached from St. John 14,15 — Had some freedom. After preaching was over we talked awhile in the tent of Major Mathews [T.S. Matthews] in reference to the three questions “When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the end of the world?” Took supper with the officers — Colonel Heath took exception to inspiration of scripture because the evangelists way that

³⁵*Generals in Blue*, p. 175.

³⁶A paragraph for May 8 appeared on this page and this author moved it to the proper time frame.

Christ was the son of Joseph. I told him that was first addressed to the Jews and if they did not prove the genealogy falso we certainly cannot. After supper Colonel Health and I talked some time upon the resurrection. He claimed that the body was possessed of no merit — or demerit and hence would never be raised from grave. I asked him what the word resurection meant and endeavored to remove the objection he presented. Finally he got onto foreknowledge and asked me if God knew what we would do before he made us: I answered yes. He then said "If God foresaw you would do one thing and you having a free will should do another then Gods foreknowledge would be frustrated. I replied that "his statement limits the foreknowledge or infinite knowledge of God, and there I kept him and all he could say to it was that I had a way of getting out of it.

Lieut. Delay and Dr. Cary of Cincinnati walked in to the church in the evening. Bro. Thompkins of signal corps opened meeting. After prayr some Bro. told him that Chaplain was there and Bro. McConnal [S.D. McConnel] told him I was there he invited me into the stand after Bro. Milburn got up into the stand. I told him I prefered to sit on my seat to hear. We talked a while and then called on Bro. Milburn who talked for awhile — then some more of the brethren. I spoke a while on the necessity of earnestness, perserverance and faith in prayr and that the baptism of the Holy Ghost was the great want of the church. Bro. Thompkins is a man of some talents and I think a good man; yet there is danger of his suffering from enlargement of head.

May 8 R.C. 2 Pleasant

Visited the largest spring that I have ever seen in the S.E. part of town. Probably there is four square feet of water flows from this spring. Walked up to signal station. see Page 62³⁷

May 8 Walked up to the post of the signal corps south of town. The next signal post is about twelve miles distant on the Chuckey Mountain. The summit of this mountain is the state boundary. Looked through eye glasses and a small telescope. So smoky we could not see very well.

Visited the Hospital. Talked with one man — Mr. Long — on subject of religion — a man who was a prisoner eight months at Salbury, N.C. Starved almost to death. Born new Lewiston, Minn. He said he was endeavoring to trust in God. He is the most reduced human being I have ever seen. I verily believe that the cry of such tortured human beings will reach the ears of God of sabaoth and the vials of his wrath will be poured out upon the heads of the perpetrators of such abominations. Took dinner with Bro. [L.] Hawkins.

By request walked with Bro. [C.E.] Knox to the creek south of town where we took a bath. then we visited the 10th Tennessee Reg. expecting to preach if the way opened up. The Lieut. Colonel said he did not feel that he was justified in doing any thing about it in absence of the Colonel. We dis-

³⁷Insert. See footnote 36.

tributed thread, needles, pens, about twenty five papers and two hundred and forty sheets of paper and envelopes. Visited camp on 1st O.H.A. saw Lieut. Delay the most of the officers, J.N. Foster, Bro. E.R. Snowden, S. Long and Steel. Got a limb from a willow tree in President A. Johnston garden. He rode from Washington with a willow whip then cut it up and stuck it in ground and these three trees eighteen inches through are the results.

May 9th R.C. 8

Much rain fell last night. Visited Hospital in forenoon and conversed with seven on subject of religion. In afternoon walked to dismantled camp two miles east of town and distributed forty papers, Six hundred pages of tracts, Six Family magazines Six musical leaves, ten Hymn Books. Conversed with one man on subject of religion. Said he had been more faithful in Serving God in the Army than when he was at home. Preached at night — at the M.E.C.S. to about one hundred — mostly soldiers — from 1 Cor. 16,13. Had considerable liberty.

May 10 very pleasant

Saw Brig. Gen. Tilson [Davis Tillson]³⁸ and wife. They started away on a special Train this morning. Gen Tilson is near six feet high — large and well proportioned — nothing very striking in his appearance. Features long and complexion dark. His wife a medium sized woman. Pleasant and genial in her manner. Is a very good looking woman. Saw her yesterday at the Hospital feeding a soldier who had been reduced near the point of starvation in the Sulsbury Prison. After meeting was delighted with the music discoursed by the Dayton Band by way of serenading Gen. Tilson.

Left Greenville at fifteen minutes before eleven A.M. Mrs. Parks invited me to call and see them if I should ever get into Greenville again. An agreeable family. Quite a rough road from Greenville to Knoxville. A soldier from Terry Haught who had been a prisoner eight months at Andersonville — He married a wife there and brought her through with soldiers, Negroes and wagon train which came through. Reached Knoxville just before night. Distance from G. to K. seventy five miles.

May 11th

Walked out to see Bro. [J.L.] Gibson in forenoon after calling awhile to see Bro. Mcconal [S.D. McConnell] who had been sick a day or two. Bro. Gibson walked in to C.C.R. with me and took dinner. Never saw such a torrent of water as rushed down the streets by room occupied by Mr. Creswell. Bro. Gibson told me of an apology made by a Methodist preacher at London. Said he “my colleague is a better preacher than I am and should have been in charge rather than I” “I shall not preach a good sermon for two reasons first because I don’t know enough & secondly I

³⁸*Generals in Blue*, p. 506.

have not grace enough." Preached at federal prison at night from John 18,17 — and distributed two shirts and two pr. drawers. Packed up one hundred papers to distribute on tomorrow. Saw Mr. Henry — Clerk in Provost Marshall office — Mr. Robert Henry's son. Passed some time with Lieut. Abbott at Provost Marshalls office.

May 12th

About 6½ A.M. started for cars. Bro. [M.M.] Longley accompanied me part of the way. Bro. Spence on train to Athens. He invited me to go with him and dine at Hotel. Mr. Magill, Prop. Good dinner. He made no charge. Taking a barrel from the cars tore my pants badly — stiched them up. Arrived at Chattanooga about sundown. Conversed with a man who had been a staff officer in rebel army — Bryan — his parents of M.E.C.S. of Nashville. He said he believed God intended to free the slaves by this war and to establish the supremacy of U.S. over state rights. Said we are badly whiped — want to live quietly and will volunteer to whip French out of Mexico. Was astonished at the fighting qualities of negroes. Invited me to come and see him.

May 13

Passed the forenoon in reading and sewing up my pants where I toar them on yesterday. Bought three groups of photographs for one dollar. In afternoon assisted in unpacking boxes and double up papers. At night attended the Post Chapel with Bro. [T.S.] Stivers an experience meeting — quite prompt. a very pleasant day.

May 14th R.C. 1

Visited the 18th O.V.I. camp about one mile from town. Preached to a number — not large — who were called together by the bugle and usual notification. Text John 13,17. Distributed three hundred papers — Took dinner with Capt. _____ of Harrisonville, Meigs Co., O: a nephew of sister Burnifr [?] He was raised five miles from Chester, much of a gentleman He told me of Capt. W.S. Ware, Co. E. 18th O.V.I. He married some years ago — had some difficulty with his wife and got a divorce — Married a widow with one child — has a child by her and it is now said that he loves the woman he first married better than the one he lives with. He has been threatening to take his own life. Got his revolver. It was taken from him. He then started for the river to drown himself — was placed under guard. He told one he had given up the intention. I told him it was a dreadful thing for no murder hath eternal life I urged him to seek God. He manifested a good deal of feeling as I talked with him. Met a young soldier and with tears in his eyes told me he would endeavor to serve God. Bro. [T.S.] Stivers preached at C.C. Church at 3 P.M. I preached to a full church at Post Chapel — Text John 14,15. The congregation were very attentive. God was with me and I had much liberty. I felt an unusual travel of soul for the soldiers. The news of the Capture of Jeff Davis — may he receive his deserts.

May 15th

Bro. [T.S.] Stivers persuaded me that I could stay until tomorrow. Distributed two hundred and fifty papers to the 44th Ia. I. Weather quite warm. assisted in the room part of the day. Bro. [T.R.] Ewing came tonight from Huntsville. Preached or talked at Employees Hospital — prayed and had Personal religious conversation with — One man told me that he had been a local preacher in the Wesleyan Church England. Deeply moved — said he had backsliden: but was determined from tonight to change his life. Saw and talked with a man said to be one hundred and five years old. Found a Sweed whose armes were paralyzed so he had scarcely any use of them. Said he wanted to die as he had no relatives in this country. Said he was trying to trust in God. Had religious conversation with ten. Bro. Ewing arrived here tonight.

May 16

Visited some Batteries and distributed two hundred papers among them. There is a stratum of marble about five or six feet thick with limestone above and below. Stelagmite formed in crevices of the limestone. Visited the battery on the high point just in the bend of the river N.W. of town. Three one hundred Parot guns are in position. Ball 6 in and 4 tenth inches in diameter. Rolling mills for making R.R. iron west of battery.

At half past one I started in a boxcar for Nashville. Had a long conversation with a young man who had been four years in Rebel army. He belonged to the M.E.S. He said he thought the rights of south would be trampled upon. He said he did not think they were farely whiped. I asked him what he called whiped. Said he thought he would never try to do anthing again. Said he was worth \$150,000 dollars before war. not 1,000 left now unless he could hold six hundred acres of land. He said he was determined to serve God more than in the past. He lives near Murfees borough. One man from Rebel army said he was on his way home and that he expected to go home and he expected not to fight hereafter excep to defend his wife and children.

May 17

Reached Nashville about six A.M. Got a pass and C.C. horse and rode out on pike and crossed overt of [over to ?] Franklin pike. Found shells and some signs of the battle yet. Got a percussion shell and after talking with some soldiers threw it into creek. Got back about noon — started for Lewisville at three P.M. in a second rate car. Reached Lewisville before three and searched a good deal of the city for C.C. Room.

May 18th

Did not find it until nearly seven. Took breakfast and Bro. [J.F.] Loyd made out my discharge. I conducted worship. Got on boat "United

States" new The finest boat I have ever seen. Fare two dollars. Given a room with a good man from Huntsville Ala. a member of M.E.C.S. yet a loyal man through the struggle. The river is so high that there is a fine view along river. Talking, reading, music and dancing and card playing &c all around tonight. Fair very good on this boat. My time passed on the "United States" rooming with Bro. was very interesting — a truly humble christian man.

I have had personal religious conversation with one hundred and thirty five while out as a delegate, many of them have been very interesting and I trust and pray to God, may be instrumental in the salvation of those they were held with and through them to others.