

February the 27 1863

My dear beloved wife I have taken my pen in hand to let you know how I am a getting a long my health in every way only I am weak I received your kind letter of the 13 on the 24 and was glad to hear from you all we are still a laing in camp here at this place it is call youngs points in Indiana a bout three hundred yards from the river we have not got any pay yet but it is reported that we are a going to get a bout 16 dollars a peac in a few days that is to be paid up to the thirty first of october and that will a bout 16 dollars so I dont no what to dew for I would like to send some money to you but I am a fraid that it would not go for some times letters dont go any but I no you must need some for I dont no how you have got a long as long as you have for you have never sade a word a bout how you got a long wheather you had a nuff to eat or not so I would like to no how you get a long you said that you wanted to no what we had to eat we have side bacon and pickled pork and some fresh beef and some barled beef put up at col umbus ohio that is the kindes of meat we have and we have drawed some meal and the boys makes mush and fry it and some has hooked up ins and lids and they can make them

bones and we get lite bread and ~~and~~  
crackers our Comprney saved too barls  
of pickel pork and sold them to the  
boats for twenty dollars and we took  
the money and bought too a barl of ~~potatoes~~  
potatoes and we had to give six dollars  
and fifty cts a barl and our sutler had  
~~the~~ various and we got some of them  
and we had some good mases so we fair  
first rate their is a grate deal of  
dis sates faction in the army a bout  
the proclimation that the President mad  
last fall a bout the Emancipation bill  
they have got to think that the war  
is just to free the niger and nothing  
els they think that it is not for the  
union so they ar not willing to be  
ex posed for the sake of the niger they  
say if the polley is not change they  
will desert and go home but I dont  
like the Idea of deserter so I will  
stick to it till I can get a way  
honorbel in the site of god it is im  
posibel for m to get home this spring  
their is a grate many troops hear  
now and the say that their is still  
more a comen down the river but  
how true it is I dont no wear a  
making a canall a crost the bend of the  
river in frunt of vix burg and when that  
is dun the gun boats can get be low very handy  
and can shell them on boath sides so fare well  
for a while From Andrew J. Nickel  
To his beloved Wife Isabella J. Nickel