

From William to Ellen W. McCoy

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Independence  
June 7/[18]63

My dear Ellen.

I have yours of 29th. It gives me no uneasiness to know that Nannie has measles as I presume she is pretty well over with it or would have heard from you since. It is better for her to have them in the opening of the summer than in winter and hope no after disease will result which is almost the only danger.

We shall be looking for your return now before long. It would not be well to visit until the extreme hot weather of the early part of July which often comes. I have been quite alone almost all the time. With the exception of Mr. Massie who staid a night with me have had no visitors and wish you were back now. I love quiet seclusion but Amanda says it is scary[,] the trees and bushes with their foliage make it so dark she is afraid to go out after dark & is not as it used to be for I think it best to stay at home myself at night. I have been in all day to day (Sunday) as there has been a cold rain storm from the East rendering it uncomfortably cold without fire which I have had. There was a gust in the night -- the wind doing some damage to the locusts[,] rose bushes &c. The rose on the porch

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lattice is in full bloom and looks very pretty[,] are [our] vegetation is very luxuriant[,] the season thus far having been among the most desirable I have known. Sufficiency of rain and none too much and the temperature balmy as could be wished.

The military in status quo (Anglise) just the same, Col[,] Penick received during the week a peremptory order to have his regmt[,] mustered out forthwith but Gen[,] Blount telegraphed to him to remain until another force relieved him. It is now said Col[,] Halls regiment is to come but all the rumors have proved untrue and this may be of like character. There is no doubt however of a change very soon it may be better or it may be worse.

The Bushwhackers still continue their annoyance. Two men[,] German union citizens who lived out near the Kansas road 2 miles from town at the crossing of rock creek[,] were taken from their homes one night this last week as they said to hang them in retaliation for one of their number who was hung at Kansas a few days since. They have not been heard from yet and it is not known what their fate has been. The work on fortification is being continued. Charley Morris has not been called for again as yet.

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Penick had two citizens from the same neighborhood arrested as he gives out to hang if those are hung that the Bushwhackers took -- so if this kind of retaliation is to be carried on there is no knowing where it will stop or where life would be safe.

Tell Allen his garden is pretty much taken with the weeds, he will have to come back and clean them out or there will not be much product[,] The refugees still remained absent, Ms[,] Chrismans father came a few days since[,] I have not heard if any thing

more than a visit nor have I seen her to know if she is going to Ky or not but think not[.]

Perhaps I write the same thing twice to you[,] having both you and Jno [John] to keep posted[,] it may be that I forget which I have detailed some item to but I reckon I may as well stop for this time[.] When I sat down to write I could raise no ink and had no pencil & that [thought] I should have to defer but improvised some ink by adding a little water to the ink stand and as you know it is very troublesome for me to write with a pen such as I can pick up in the desk. Kiss Nannie & Allen for their pa and also imagination for yourself. With much love I am

Very truly yours[,]

William

[P.S.] Mrs[.] [Charlotte?] told me to give her love as well as some others.