Among the singular sights we saw, none more characteristic than the skirmishes. If we start on a march early in the morning they are just as likely to come to us as at a halt. At Cane Creek we were attacked a week ago to-day, they were riding over the battle-field, setting their horses free, but the smoke had cleared away and while the dead lay on the little plantation on the ground.

The newspapers, from Washington to Day are full of the Merced & Napa Chase. Well, I hope they're happy but fear they won't be. We are having a quite pleasant time here — no butlers here. Some of the Commission has been eaten, but Coffee & Misenchuck managed to get some corn to make it good at Kelly's Mills at Kelly's Ford. Whence we have had a chance to renew our acquaintance with the taste of corn bread & fried mush. But, is off the after noon & countig for butter. I am going to bring Kaler's girl this evening. The bread was a failure, & I hope we meet with success. We have had a lot of fun. The Sentinel has been in when writing to you. I am sorry that you did not write to him. The weather has been fine. The cold has been gone for some time. The Capt. yesterday, I was told by him that mother and child were doing well.

My dear Wife:

I have read the letter from home since Monday — a long time I think. — I have forgotten to tell you in my last that I saw Mrs. Say last week. She is a good friend. We are having very pleasant weather - have had no rain since the 3rd of October. It thunders & storms every few days, but so far it has all blown over. On Monday it thundered near, and a few flakes did fall but it cleared off breakfast when we came. The first morning the tops of the mountains were quite white. At the camp we were in sight of Tony Mountain which was on our left at the Camp from Cripple Creek, now it is on our right.
As we are in the very bow of our present camp, the mountain is not visible—If you have not taught the red men well, you spoke of no Indian to do it, as it will give you a good deal of trouble. If you have an opportunity of sending the white man to Washington, so far, I will get them to here.

Nothing has that I have met, appeared to know what are we going to do. It is generally believed that we will move, in some direction as soon as the bridge at Poppehemack station is completed, which will be long before the bad weather will set in, when it will be next to impossible to move, then we shall probably go into winter quarters, but when are our one can guess. We are all convinced that we can with the rest of us can get a chance at them, but that they are not to be forced to give up. If we go towards George, I sup

for they will contest themselves with operating on our communications so as it cut off our supplies, it is quite certain that a very considerable portion of our army would be required to guard the communications, if we get much farther away from Washington.

The officers of the army whether new or old are getting some new experience in this Army. We are all in a state of ignorance as to our movements, which can be styled anything but blessed, the Corps, Officers, Brigades and Divisions and I may even say of the Corps, as almost as much in the dark as one who commands a regiment. Nobody knows when a movement is to be made until the order comes down from General Headquarters, then when we are to go, it becomes no more of Brigade or Division Head Quarters, than at my own. All this is very different from politics, when the rank and file are posted to a great extent as to the operations of the part, but of one thing, among the devoting masses that a single atom of humanity is an inconsiderable trifle, and here in the army one has the same sensation, to which I add, the feeling that nothing in all the material of war is so highly valued as human life.