

11-6-1861

## Letter from Robert Tracy to Jennie Mitchell, November 6, 1861

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Blwood, Kansas, Nov. 6, 1861

Miss Jennie Mitchell

Dear friend - Your kind

and welcomed letter was received at Tipton, Mo., some time since, and, after a long, unexcusable delay, I am seated to answer it.

I have been in Kansas for a month, recruiting for our regiment. Such a lonely place I never was in before. Everybody, almost, have "gone to the wars." There is scarcely any persons left to gather the abundant crops which have been raised this season. And we think Kansas is a poor place to look for soldiers, now. Our young State has furnished twelve regiments for the "Holy cause" from a population of less than 111,000 persons.

I wrote to you last from Chillicothe. We soon moved from there to Tipton, on the Pacific Railroad, where our command is now stationed. From there myself, with several others, were sent to Kansas, where we have been ever since. I have traveled through Moniphan, Brown, and Nemaha counties, often enjoying myself very much. At Sapona, I boarded about

a week at a hotel, which constituted the town. The landlord owned a farm adjoining, and, one day, he invited all the "billes and beaux" of the neighborhood to a "husking" party. The "beaux" husking corn through the day, and the "billes" preparing the supper. In the evening, they commenced dancing, and danced nearly all night. It was a real old-fashioned affair, and we had a most excellent time. There were not many girls there, but the few made it up by beauty. However, that is a "general fault" in Kansas.

Dr. Stewart's regiment has been at St. Joe for two months, and I see him often. But he is now gone to Illinois recruiting. He doesn't like being kept away up here where there is no fighting.

Col. Mitchell's, 2<sup>d</sup> Kansas regiment, was "mustered out" at Leavenworth, a month or two ago, but he is successfully reorganizing it again.

I do not think your brother, John, had he lived, would have discarded his principles of non-resistance until it was known to be a war of extermination

to the curse of Slavery. I think it will ultimately end with the destruction of Slavery, ~~but~~ and I think our Statesmen should bring the war to that issue at once. For we are fighting against <sup>an</sup> the rebellion which is nothing but Slavery. And when the rebellion is put down Slavery is at an end. What a pity our Generals are not more like Fremont in their proclamations: "The property of the rebels shall be confiscated, and their Slaves shall be free." Sending their slaves back to them is like sending recruits to their army. Lane, Montgomery and Garrison, although not liked much by Missourians, would crush the hideous revolt in Missouri sooner than any other men, their very names <sup>are</sup> ~~as~~ as much as an army to the rebels. Garrison names his camps after John Brown, Coppie &c.

We had a very heavy rain yesterday. The family is well. Frank is with the regiment, and was well at last accounts. Did Miss Annie write to Jeff Davis? If she did, Frank need not fear ~~desist~~ bullets any more. Ask her if she won't write to

Mr. Davis not to put bullets in any  
of the guns, for the soldiers all shoot  
very carelessly, and it seems as though  
they shoot right at the "exjir boys" some-  
times.

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Bro. Joe was not in the battle  
at Lexington, but was in the fight at Blue  
Mills. Many of my acquaintances were in  
the Lexington battle, two of them of the late  
"Free Democrat" office. I sent you a little paper,  
"The First Kansas," from Chillicothe. We were to  
publish it regularly, but were ordered  
away when the 2<sup>d</sup> number was in type.

I think our regiment will be sent back  
to Kansas soon.

Getting to the end of the last page,  
makes me think of our "inclinations for  
long letters," and, although I have said  
so little on so much paper, I will bring  
it to a close.

Give my respects to all the family. Tell  
Willie I have not received his letter, and  
am looking for it. Please write as often  
as convenient  
Your Friend  
Robt Tracy