VII

Expecting to start for camp once more, tomorrow morning. I take my pen to address a few lines to my dear absent family. I very unexpectedly received thy letter No. 30 this afternoon (just six days from writing) containing fathers very welcome letter. I said "unexpectedly" and I will give my reasons. I expected a letter some days ago but the mail was lost in attempting to cros the Canadian river, and I had made up my mind that I had sustained the loss o a letter, but it is none the less welcome for not being expected. from thy and Fathers account of meeting affairs you must have got up a muss for certain. I hope it will quiet down before I get home if I ever do. It really seems as though there is no peace for that meeting, and thou knowest, dear heart that I could never reconcile myself to the manner of its establishment, but thought it might be for the best, but if it bursts out into a volcano now, it may after spending its force and getting vent become more calm after a while. I do hope Father Gregg will watch the stepping stones very closely, and not let that which is excited easily to rise into dominion, but possess his soul in patience. Many times the Master works in silence without requiring words to defend the innocent life, even when the wild winds and waves are such as to causeeven the strong men to tremble, yet He is able to say"peace be still", withbut the words of man, and it will be effectual in producing a great calm when a few unguarded words would but increase the agitation of the elements and perhaps shiwreck be the consequence. I was very glad of Fathers letter, Though I know it is hard work for him to write. I suppose of sourse they see my letters or hear them read. I have thought that was the case and a s I write to you so frequently, that as they could read them or hear themread, that I have omitted writing expressly for them.

I expect if I live to get home to bring both Fathers a little present. F. Batteys from an Indian boy expressly for "Thomissy's Old Father".Oh well I will tell thee what they are, they are nothing but a couple of "canes" to walk with. My health continues much as I have heretofore written, though just now a little improved, though I do not get rid of the constant pain in my stomach. Peaches are of quite a size on the trees and other things correspond. Lettuce, Radishes and Onions from the garden areydaily on our table at the Agency, and here thou wrote of snow storms in Iowa. It hardly seems that we have had winter at all. Grass has been green all winter, but very little ice and snow at any time and when we have had snow it has not remained for the space of 2 days. I have suffered very little from the cold and would not at all were my health had not been so poor. I have travelled considerably alone camped alone at night on different occasions, and slept as well as I should have done in my own house- so much am I favored to rise above fear when occasion demends. I cannot shrink, but would not like to travel alone for my own gratification or pleasure. (unprotected) Perhaps I wrote in my last of the precious company I had while camped alone on Beaver Creek some 20 miles from any known human being.

I was so glad to read in thy letters, of late particularly,of thy renewed if I may so speak, concern to press after a holy life. Faint not my love, tho the clouds do lower, and the cold storms overtake thee, there is one whose everlasting arms are underneath, and He will support and sustain through every trial and temptation, as our trust is fully reposed in His all-protecting power. He will be more than a husband to thy widowed heart, more than a father to those dear lambs. I can trust all in His all-powerful arms. But it is getting late and my paper is full so with my love to you all, I remain as ever thy husband and your father. I am much o'bliged to Herman and Vina for their kisses though their lips were too far away before I got them to feel warm.

T. C. Battey

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