

Pleasant Hill, Ky. Dec. 25, 1862.

Dearlly beloved and ever remembered Parents in the
gospel, Elderss Betsy and Elderss Ann,

To day being Christ-
mas, we thought we would devote a portion of the day at least, in
penning a few lines, to inform you of our present condition. But
in the first place, we must acknowledge the receipt of two lengthy
communications from the beloved Ministry, bearing date, Nov.
6th, & 23rd, for which we return our sincere thanks, for the precious
store of gospel love, for the interest and prayers you so feelingly
manifested in our behalf, and also for the good counsel and
encouragement contained therein. To beloved Elder Giles we feel
under many obligations, for his kind labors of love and care, in
penning such feeling and beautiful communications; and our
prayer is, that your labor be not lost, but treasured up into good
and honest hearts.

We most certainly feel and know, that your late visit at
Pleasant Hill, has had a good effect on many here, and we
hope will finally accomplish the work, and bring stupid and
sleeping souls into the resurrecting fire of the gospel. Prohibition
at home is far worse among believers, than in the political world,
altho' at this time things with us are in a very quiet condition,
and as to outward troubles for a few weeks past, there has
been but little appearance of war around us, until within a few
days. But having so many military camps close around us,
and large companies of soldiers passing thro' our streets, does and
will have more or less effect ~~on~~ the minds of young people, in excit-
ing and drawing the attention from their present call and duty;

[2] though our young brethren have less ~~not~~ ^{desire} for a soldiers life, since their late experience in Dixie, than they had before.

On the evening of November 14th, word was brought that there was five thousand union soldiers to pass thro' the village that evening; of course many were anxious and on the move, to see an army of federal soldiers dressed in uniform, well equipped, and in good style; but this, in some measure, proved to be a false report, there was but one full regiment, and they encamped in the river bottom on the south side, and on the following morning came marching up all in good order, to the tune of Yankee doodle. There were ten fifers and as many drummers; When they arrived between the meeting house and center house they called a halt, & the officers told them they could get good water here, and all who wanted it could fill their canteens, which many did.

They treated us with great respect, with a few exceptions; some started immediately for the Bee stands, after their ranks were broken. The officers seeing this, ordered them out of the door yards; others flocked to the kitchen door, where they were supplied with such provisions as were on hand. After a short rest they resumed their march on to Harrodsburgh, where they were to be located for the present. This was the ninety sixth Ill. infantry, Colonel Champion commanding.

Shortly after this, the convalescent sick and wounded rebels, left behind after the battle of Perryville, were also brought through here, on their way to Nicholasville, to take ^{the} cars for Louisville; and such as were able to march did so, guarded on each ^{side} of the column by federal soldiers. There was a great many also conveyed in wagons and ambulances. They presented a sorrowful picture of human misery; some with crutches, some with

their arms in a sling, poor, thinly clad pitiful looking creatures.

The neighbors washed and mended their clothes, they being put upon their Scotch neighbors to be taken care of; we also took care of several of them for about six weeks. They seemed to be very grateful for any favors bestowed on them, and often express a desire to return to their homes, that they were sick of the war, &c. The supply trains and ambulances conveying these poor creatures to the depot, and taking supplies back to the army, generally pass over to Nicholasville one day and back the next; there are between 40 and 50 wagons in this train, and they never pass without some of them calling for dinner, some times as many as 20 or 30 in a day. We never refuse a meal to a soldier, when we can consistently feed them, nor charge a dime for any thing bestowed in this way.

When the southern army was here, we were obliged to turn many away thro' necessity.

On the sabbath morning after receiving Elder Giles's last communication, it being the coldest morning we have had, the mercury being 8 deg. above zero, we thought we would have the meeting house warmed early in the day, that all might be made comfortable, and thereby give good attention to the reading of the letter—when lo! to our surprise, what did we see but a large company of cavalry coming up from the west. When they came into the village, we learned that they were the ninth Penn. and 2nd Mich. regiments, with their artillery and baggage train. The Cannon 4 in number, and caisson wagons, were drawn each by six horses, the wagons and ambulances were all drawn by 4 horses; these with quite a number of led horses, made a great show,

we were fearful this would spoil our meeting; but after some time the end came to our great joy. It being in the time of the ten o'clock union meeting the hour was spent pretty much in looking at the trains as they passed. The officers called for breakfast which was given them. They seemed surprised at finding such a village as this in their rout, said they had been to South Union and had been very kindly treated by the people there, and wanted to know the name of this town. Being told it was Pleasant Hill or shaker town, some of them sportively asked if we shook here, the boys answered, mightily, we are shaking now meaning with the cold. This unexpected scene of excitement finally pass off and quiet was again restored in time for our one o'clock meeting, for which we felt truly thankful. We have been very much blest in our sabbath meetings, never having large companies to pass at such times.

Thousands of eyes have surveyed these premises who are total strangers to shakers or shakerism, and we find it has had a tendency to awaken a spirit of inquiry into the faith & principles of the Society, and to find out the mystery of our success in a community life. Some of the northern men say, as far as their knowledge has extended, all such communities have been a failure outside of believers.

Our young brethren were often enquired of relative to believers faith and doctrine; some of ^{them} said they had never pronounced and explained the faith as much in their lives, as they did while the southern army was here; they seemed anxious to hear, and to talk on religious subjects, and would not let an opportunity pass unimproved. We hope talking so much on these subjects to our young brethren will be an advantage to them, and cause them to examine the matter more carefully for their own benefit, and become more familiar, with this important subject.