

Dayton Ohio Nov 8 - 1861

Dear Robert

Your letter dated Oct 30th was gladly received yesterday which was the first word direct from you since you left home, we heard from some one that you left Cincinnati for St. Louis to join Fremont's body guards, your trunk arrived home by express all safe, but no letter informing us of your whereabouts, so that we were all completely in the dark as to your movements -

The election resulted in the triumph of the Union ticket; in Van Buren twp - I had the honor of two majority over all others - we did expect to get 20 major & for all the Un ticket, but I found secesh stronger than expected Jewel had one majority over Tod; but the County brought us all out right by, from 7 to 900 majority - the brave Kinney had all his trouble for nothing, he did not run much if any ahead of his ticket as was supposed he would - the slate goes for Tod by 50 M - Col McKook made Brig. Gen. and is in Ky, in Sherman's Division, the 1st Reg in command of Co Smith (a West Pointer) Lieut Col E Parrott, Adjutant John Parrott - left here last Thursday Oct 29 - for Cincin, thence to Louisville by boat, thence on the Nashville Road to McCook's Brigad, who is pushing on towards Bowling Green when last heard from - I was in Cincin on last Sunday - Will and the boys were all in good spirits and anxious to be going ahead - when returning home Monday, who should I meet on the cars but Andrew Steele Liza & Jennie Price who accompanied me home, Andrew says Kentucky is fast waking up to her dangerous condition and in a short time will have a strong force in the field. Has no notion of being the battleground and ruin, to accommodate the rascally seceshers, though our Ohio boys have not much faith in their professed Unionism, only where the Union bayonets show themselves, -- Monday the eleventh Andrew started for home on Friday Mon, Liza and Jenny stay with us for the present - Uncl Jones and Walter has been with us a day or two - James Reynolds is clerk with Gen Rosagranz [Rosecrans] - Frank Jones has been promoted Adjutant of Col Smith's Regt, we learn today that the first Regt left Louisville for McCook's Brig on Friday last (the 8th) 2nd Lieut Sam Davis appointed Aid to Gen McCook with rank of Capt - We are sorrowing over the sad loss of life at Belmont Mo. opposite Columbus Ky. Gen Grant claims the result as a success but we lookers on view it as a defeat in consequence of the great loss of life on our side. You will doubtless see the details of the battle in the papers - A letter from Mr. Dryden of Palmyra Mo says secesh is pretty nearly played out in Northern Missouri, he says for six or eight weeks he was a doomed man for nothing else than being true to his country and her Flag. Now he breathes easier - the union men will have a grand good time settling up with Mr Secesh & Co after a while if they don't have to crawl on their bellies and eat dirt I am much mistaken - Gen Hunter's proclamation issued at Spr Fld is just the thing: (if it is true) the telegraph has it; that the secesh is to guard the flag, protect union men and property, and on dress parades tip their hats, to honest men and ladies - We are all anxiously waiting to hear the result of the Great expedition they landed at Port Royal S.C. We have no doubt but with what success reports differ very much. I am fearful the ships and men were(?) in bad plight when they arrived at their

destination on account of the severe storm they met with on the way - We have not yet learned the particulars, yet hope for the best - as we have passed a _____ B B as that seems to be an unfortunate letter on our side, old Buck, Baltimore, Bulls Run Balls Bluffs, Big Bethle and lastly Belmont - What an unfortunate areay of B Bs -

Mother has just started Stephen to Oxford, to take an irregular course of a year or two - We are all in our usual health, I am gladd you had the good fortune to meet with Dr. Cowan and Mark Parrott, they will render you all the aid in their power I have no doubt

I go to Columbus the first Wednesday in Jan, have had numerous application for my help for clerkships in varius departments - a note to day from a gent of Piqua asking my support of Dr. Dorcy for U.S Senate, the Dr is now elected State Treasurer which ought to quench the thirst for office of any common man the Dr is awful dry - affectionately, your father

J. Patterson

Robert Patterson

Color Ensign. Benton Cadets Company C Mo O