Dear Brother Earl,

I was very glad to get a letter from you and to hear that your health was still good enough to permit you to attend to your duties. But Oh dear me! what news I have had since then. So many of your own killed, wounded, or prisoners. There must be great many that are known as so many went from this section. Poor fellows, my heart aches for them, and their families. How fortunate you are, to escape. It seems miraculous to me. We were all very thankful that you were spared. The Lord is very merciful, and we cannot be too thankful.

I do so hope you will not have to fight any more this fall. I can't judge very much about your movements down thar...
If you are too sudden, as Joe Toby says - I wish you could have been there to the wedding. It had a nice time. Everything passed off nicely. There were 31 invited guests. They were married, refreshments were served and then left us. That I went up and enjoyed a slice of the wedding cake.

Every one expressed their regrets that the Deep could not be here. Now were more sorry than Belle herself. I hope you can get a "rest" this winter. I don't want Henry to come again until he comes for you. It will be but a short time now until his time is out and it would be too hard to have him go back. He is having beautiful weather over here and is very fortunate for Father's potato digging as he was afraid about two acres would have to be dug this winter.

Yesterday he had George Sanforth, two of the Sage boys and Pete Blanchard for help.

The potatoes are splendid and there is over three hundred bushels of them. I will write a letter from Belle. Friday. The arrival safely in Ottawa just a week after they were married. She thinks she has a very pleasant home. After they get settled Will Thompson and his wife will board with them. I am glad she is going to house keeping for it will be pleasant for her. I hope she will be very happy in her husband's love. I think a fine man. I think, and they are a fine family. Frankie is a splendid girl, the Doctor is very agreeable and pleasant, and I think Judy is a nice little fellow too. He has enjoyed their visit very much.

Monday morning, it is still pleasant and the hay hulks are coming in. It is a carnival. The men and eight boys do I think the potatoes are bound to come out. I am very glad for Father has to work too hard. It makes him grow old. He ought to have kept a hired man this summer. Help was so scarce, he thought he would do without. Father, Mother and Katie rode up to Gau yesterday to get the mail. I got a letter from Henry saying that Napa
had had his leg off - they thought he would die. Poor man - I feel sorry for him.
There is the Doctor. He's? Do the Col? Mr. Forbes was killed - we heard that Harry Kendall - Ashley Prime - were among the prisoners - how terrible it is - The P.O. is back to Uncle Gibbs. Byron is going to Louisville to live. Mrs. Baker still a Ston - Byronsom

Brother-in-law I have gone for a soldier that dropped down amongst you - I had not heard that he had enlisted. Mother heard when she was at Uncle Gibbs that his wife and little boys were at Mathews. You ask me if Mary is married - She may be for all that I can tell you - as she has not written since last July - I don't think she is - but don't know. Our Thang Ann - must be a young girl if she is going to go away - stay with you - but some girls will eat, about as they have a mind. Grandma is with us and she came down to the wedding - we carried her to stay - as we should be so lonesome. Gents doing must write to Belle as often as you can and for she will be very anxious about you. Your note came the other night - Tomorrow I suppose decisions who shall reside over us for the next four years - I hope they will not be