

for that, but there was some pretty
hard firing on both sides, for we
was in front of all of the rest not
^{more} hundred yards from the enemy, but

TRANSCRIPTIONS

LETTERS

what's inside...

8.1 Payson Pierce, April 19, 1865

8.2 Payson Pierce, undated

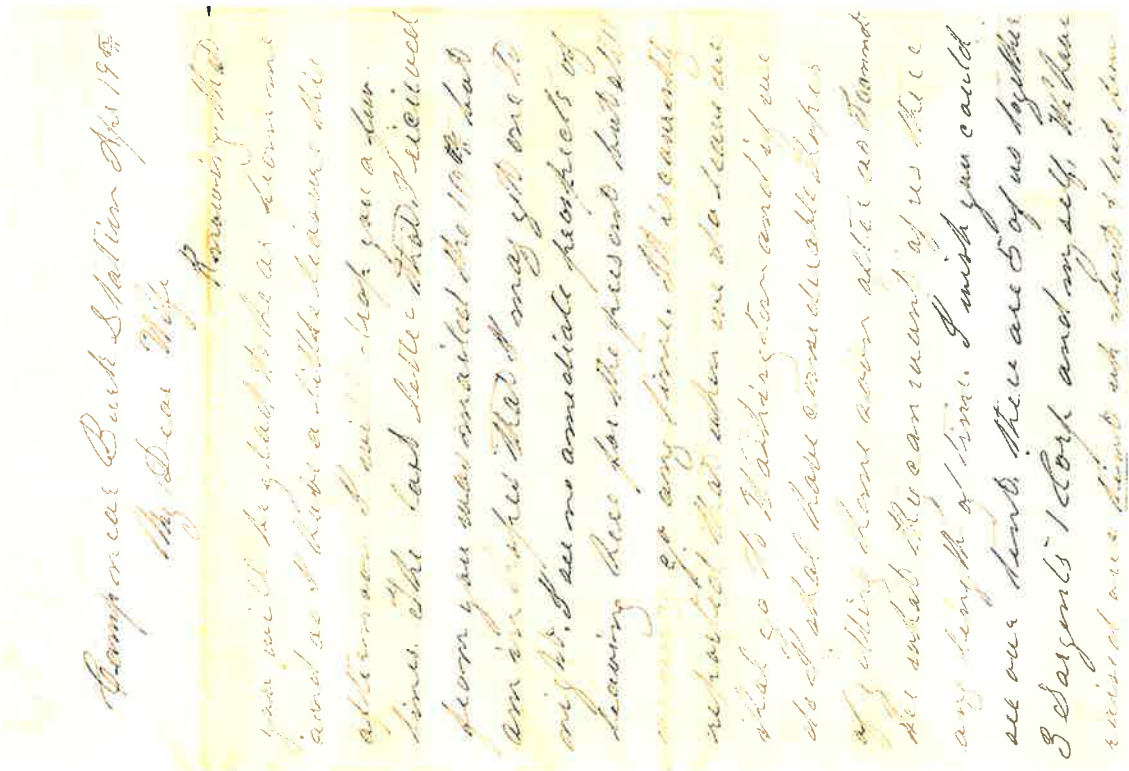
8.3 Payson Pierce, private

8.4 Henry Lewis, July 14, 1864

Camp near Burk Station Apr 19th

My Dear Wife

Knowing that you will be glad to hear from me and as I have a little leisure this afternoon I will drop you a few lines. The last letter that I received from you was mailed the 10th but am in hopes that I may get one tonight. I see no amediate prospects of leaving here for the present but still we may go anytime. It is currently reported that when we do leave we shal go to Washington and if we do I shal have considerable hopes of getting home soon after as I cannot see what they can want of us there any length of time. I wish you could see our tent. There are 5 of us together 3 Sargents 1 Corp and myself. We have raised our tent up about 4 feet from



Courtesy of the Woodstock Historical Society.

the ground by setting posts in the ground
 of the night light and putting a pole
 on the top all around and then we
 filled the space between the pole
 and the ground with cedar and pine
 boughs and it looks very pretty I think
 it keeps the sun out and lets the
 air in. We have made two beds one
 in each end raised about 2 feet from
 the ground and they are covered with
 pine boughs over which we spread our
 blankets so that we lay very comfortable.
 We were to have a monthly inspection this after-
 noon at 2 o'clock but it has been put off on account
 of the Presidents funeral and every [thing] is very
 quiet here this afternoon it seems like Sunday. I
 went over to the 11 Reg yesterday and saw the
 Houghe boys they were all right they did not stand
 the march very well but have come out all right
 after a few days rest. Day before yesterday 3 Cos
 of this Reg went out as guard for a

the ground by setting posts in the ground
 of the night light and putting a pole
 on the top all around and then we
 filled the space between the pole
 and the ground with cedar and pine
 boughs and it looks very pretty but I think it keeps the sun out
 and lets the air in. We have made two beds one in
 each end raised about 2 feet from the ground and
 they are covered with pine boughs over which we
 spread our blankets so that we lay very comfortable.
 We were to have a monthly inspection this after-
 noon at 2 o'clock but it has been put off on account
 of the Presidents funeral and every [thing] is very
 quiet here this afternoon it seems like Sunday. I
 went over to the 11 Reg yesterday and saw the
 Houghe boys they were all right they did not stand
 the march very well but have come out all right
 after a few days rest. Day before yesterday 3 Cos
 of this Reg went out as guard for a

forriaging train. There was 8 teams went with us. We went to guard against gurillus. We went about 4 miles before we found anything we then came to a house where there was corn enough to fill 3 waggons we left them and one Co to guard them back and the rest went on about as much farther when we found enough to fill the rest. We got from 100 to 150 bushels of corn in the whole. We did not stop to ask whether we could have it or not but backed the wagons up to the buildings and loaded them up. The man that owned the place where we got the last did not live on the place but had an overseer there to see to the place there was any quantity of Slaves both old and young the man that owns the place lived about 5 miles from there he has 2 sons in the Reb army one is a Col the other a Capt. I have thought moreabout going home since Lee surrendered

forriaging train there was 8 teams
went with us, we went to guard against
gurillus, we went about 4 miles before
we found anything we then came to a
house where there was corn enough to
fill 3 waggons we left them and one
Co to guard them back and the rest
went on about as much farther when
we found enough to fill the rest, we
got from 100 to 150 bushels of corn in
the whole. We did not stop to ask whether
we could have it or not but backed the
wagons up to the buildings and loaded
them up. The man that owned the
place where we got the last did not
live on the place but had an overseer
there to see to the place there was any
quantity of Slaves both old and young
The man that owns the place lived
about 5 miles from there he has 2 sons
in the Reb army one is a Col. the
other a Capt. I have thought more
about going home since Lee surrendered

than I have before. I do not seem to feel so contented as I did before. I hardly know what the reason is as there is hardly a possibility for us to see any more fighting but I suppose the reason is that there seems to be some prospect of our going home and I can hardly wait but I shall try to be patient but I so long to see you and all the rest. I have more time to think of such things than I did when we had an enemy right in our front and liable to have a fight any moment. I can hardly realize that there is not a Rebel army out here a little way as we have had one right in our front ever since I came out till now. We have no pickett duty to do now, though I believe they have a small force out to guard against gurillus but this Reg has not been called upon to furnish any yet. We are having beautiful wether now it is very warm today I sweat sitting in the tent writing. Have you heard anything from Nelson as to how he is getting along. I feel very anxious to hear and to learn where he is. I shall write him as soon as I learn where to send. Has Worthy succeeded in getting his leave of absence extended. I hope he has as he might just as well be at home as staying in Parole camp for all that I can see till he is exchanged which I hardly think he ever will be as things look now. I think that I have written enough of this nonsense and all that you will have patience to read so I will close. May God watch over us and preserve our lives is my earnest pray. Give my love to all the friends and accept a large shair for your self and Hattie.

From your aff Husband

Payson A. Pierce

than I have before. I do not seem to feel so contented as I did before. I hardly know what the reason is as there is hardly a possibility for us to see any more fighting but I suppose the reason is that there seems to be some prospect of our going home and I can hardly wait but I shall try to be patient but I so long to see you and all the rest. I have more time to think of such things than I did when we had an enemy right in our front and liable to have a fight any moment. I can hardly realize that there is not a Rebel army out here a little way as we have had one right in our front ever since I came out till now. We have no pickett duty to do now, though I believe they have a small force out to guard against gurillus but this Reg has not been called upon to furnish any yet. We are having beautiful wether now it is very warm today I sweat sitting in the tent writing. Have you heard anything from Nelson as to how he is getting along. I feel very anxious to hear and to learn where he is. I shall write him as soon as I learn where to send. Has Worthy succeeded in getting his leave of absence extended. I hope he has as he might just as well be at home as staying in Parole camp for all that I can see till he is exchanged which I hardly think he ever will be as things look now. I think that I have written enough of this nonsense and all that you will have patience to read so I will close. May God watch over us and preserve our lives is my earnest pray. Give my love to all the friends and accept a large shair for your self and Hattie.

From your aff Husband
Payson A. Pierce

Undated

Kiss Hattie for me and I wish I was where I could give you one but you will have to take the wish for the deed.

Payson

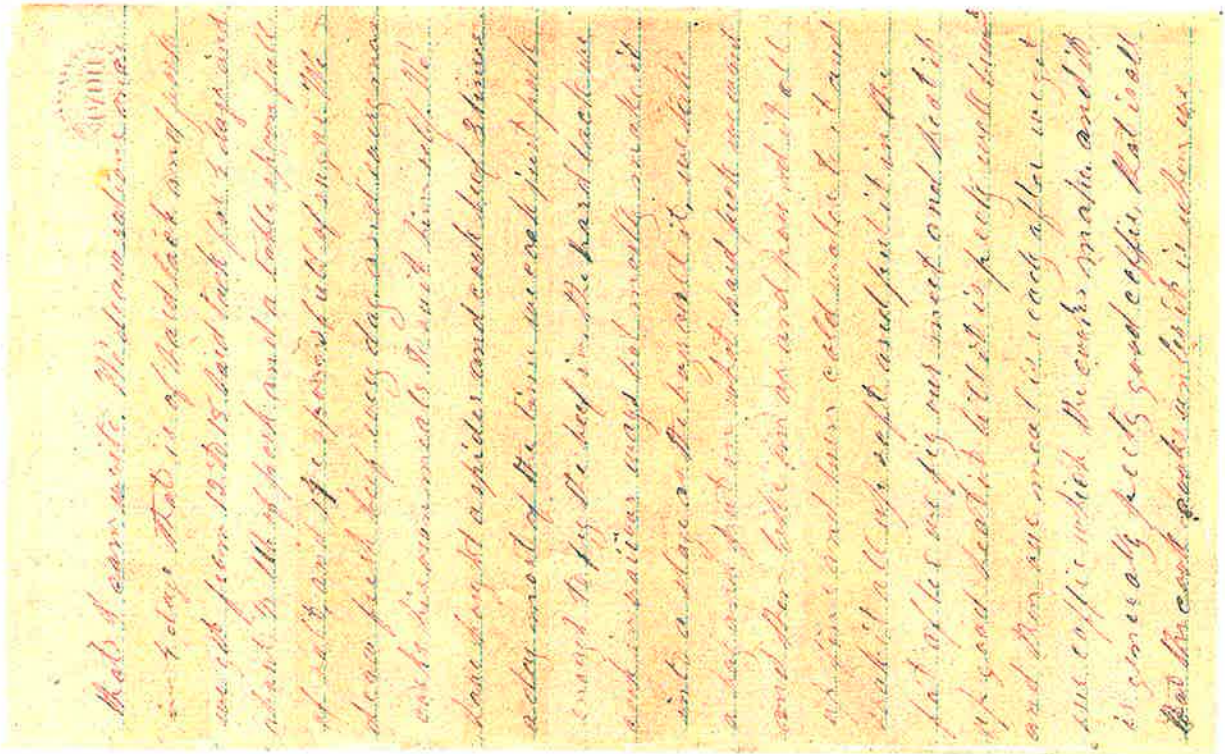
Monday morn

Dear Frank

I will write you a few more lines this morn as the maile will go out soon. The mail has just come in and I was very glad to get a short letter from my Dear Wife. You say that Nelsons folks get letters when you do not. I do not see how that can be as I have sent you a letter every maile that has left camp since I joined the Reg and I do not see why you should not get them but I think they must come along soon. You have spoken about my clothing I believe once or twice everything has done well my pants have riped some and I have just been mending them and I think that they will stay where I sewed them. I sewed the buttons all on again at Windsor so that they have not bothered me at all. I believe I have never given you a description of our manner of living perhaps it would interest you as much as I

I will write you a few more lines this morn as the maile will go out soon. The mail has just come in and I was very glad to get a short letter from my Dear Wife. You say that Nelsons folks get letters when you do not. I do not see how that can be as I have sent you a letter every maile that has left camp since I joined the Reg and I do not see why you should not get them but I think they must come along soon. You have spoken about my clothing I believe once or twice everything has done well my pants have riped some and I have just been mending them and I think that they will stay where I sewed them. I sewed the buttons all on again at Windsor so that they have not bothered me at all. I believe I have never given you a description of our manner of living perhaps it would interest you as much as I

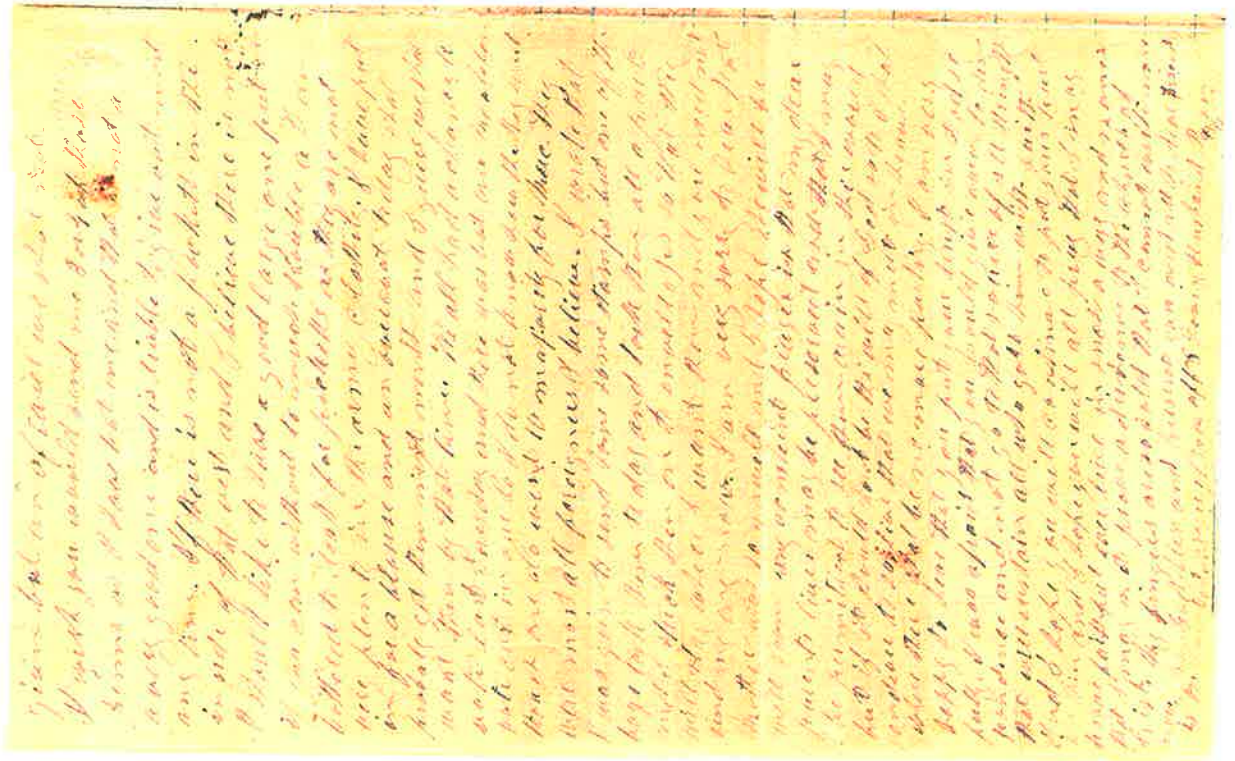
that I can write. We draw rations once in 4 days that is of hard tack and pork we get from 12 to 18 hard tack for 4 days and about _ lb of pork and a tablespoonful of salt and [?] spoonfull of sugar. We draw fresh beef every day and every man cooks his own meals to suit himself. We have bought a spider and cook beef three times a day most of the time we cook just pork enough to fry the beef in. The hard tack we cook in various ways but mostly make it into a stage as the boys call it we take a bag and put in what hard tack we want and then take an ax and pound it all up fine and turn cold water to it and shak it all up soft and put it in the fat after we fry our meat and heat it up good heat it till it is prety well brown and then our meal is ready after we get our coffie which the cooks make and it is generally pretty good coffie. That is all that the cook cooks unless it is when we



 that I can write. We draw rations once in 4 days that is of hard tack and pork we get from 12 to 18 hard tack for 4 days and about _ lb of pork and a tablespoonful of salt and [?] spoonfull of sugar. We draw fresh beef every day and every man cooks his own meals to suit himself. We have bought a spider and cook beef three times a day most of the time we cook just pork enough to fry the beef in. The hard tack we cook in various ways but mostly make it into a stage as the boys call it we take a bag and put in what hard tack we want and then take an ax and pound it all up fine and turn cold water to it and shak it all up soft and put it in the fat after we fry our meat and heat it up good heat it till it is prety well brown and then our meal is ready after we get our coffie which the cooks make and it is generally pretty good coffie. That is all that the cook cooks unless it is when we

draw beans and that is not very often as we have not had any but once
 since we got here except some that we went out in cornfields and
 picked up and cooked ourselves which we have done several times.
 Today we drew some beef that was not fit to fry and we have bor-
 rowed a kittle and are boiling it. we have done so several times and
 we like it better than we do fried and if we have to move our meet is
 all cooked so that when we stop for dinner we can have meet with our
 hard bread and we hardly ever have time to fry meet. I wish you
 would make a jar of boiled cider apple sauce and a jar of pickles. I
 should like some sweet pickles but I suppose it is to late for them
 now, and have them ready as I want a box sent as soon as we get
 where there is a prospect of stopping and I think we shal go into winter
 quarters before long and probably not far from here. I hope we shal be
 where we can get such things for thanksgivn

draw beans and that is not very often as we have not had any but once
 since we got here except some that we went out in cornfields and
 picked up and cooked ourselves which we have done several times.
 Today we drew some beef that was not fit to fry and we have bor-
 rowed a kittle and are boiling it. we have done so several times and
 we like it better than we do fried and if we have to move our meet is
 all cooked so that when we stop for dinner we can have meet with our
 hard bread and we hardly ever have time to fry meet. I wish you
 would make a jar of boiled cider apple sauce and a jar of pickles. I
 should like some sweet pickles but I suppose it is to late for them
 now, and have them ready as I want a box sent as soon as we get
 where there is a prospect of stopping and I think we shal go into winter
 quarters before long and probably not far from here. I hope we shal be
 where we can get such things for thanksgivn



but I am afraid we shal not. I wish you would send me 3 or 4 of those
 [?] as I have but one and that is not a very good one and is liable to
 give out most any time. If there is not a pocket in the inside of that
 vest and I believe there is not I should like to have a good large one
 put in if you can without to much trouble as I am bothered to death
 for pockets as they are not very plenty in the army clothing. I have put
 in for a blouse and an overcoat today. Shal probably get them next
 month and I guess we shal want them by that time. We all had a
 chance to vote last Tuesday and there was but one [?] vote cast in and
 so I do not know how the Reg went though one Co went the majority
 for Mac. They were most all foreigners I believe. I wrote that I was
 going to send home some stamps but one of the boys took them today
 and took them all apart and I stuck them on to envelopes so that they
 will stay where I want them and you need not send me any now. I am
 very sorry to hear that Mother was so unwell and I hope she will be
 well soon. My constant prayer is that my dear parents lives maybe
 preserved and that I may be permitted to see them again in this world
 but if it should not be the will of God so to I shal endeavor to so live
 that we may meet in heaven where there shal be no more parting. I
 am very happy to hear that you put your trust in God so fully. I was
 afraid that you would give away to dispondence and not go to that
 source of all strength that will sustain all who go to him with faith and
 I hope you will continue to put your trust in him and I hope you will
 all pray that I may prove faithful and live in such a way and manner
 that I may not prove a dishonor to the church of Christ. My fingers
 are so cold that I cannot write more now. May God bless and pre-
 serve you and all my dear friends is the constant prayer of your aff
 Loving Husband Payson

Private

My Dear wife

I had been trying to think of something that I could get for you when I went home but I did not know what you needed most and had not made up my mind what to get and was very glad to have you help me out of my dilemma. I wish you would write as soon as you get this and let me know how many yards it will take and there is another thing that I want your advise about I wish to get something from Bell and mother and Father and you know what will do them the most good and that will please them the most. Please think it over and let me know as soon as possible, do not say any thing to them about it. and I would like to get something [for]

Private
 My Dear Wife
 I had been trying
 to think of some thing that
 I could get for you when
 I went home but I did not
 know what you needed
 most and had not made
 up my mind what to get
 and was very glad to have
 you help me out of my dilemma
 I wish you would write as soon
 as you get this and let me know
 how many yards it will take
 and there is another thing that
 I want your advise about I
 wish to get some thing from Bell
 and mother and Father and
 you know what will do them
 the most good and that will
 please them the most, please
 think it over and let me know
 as soon as possible, do not say
 any thing to them about it, and
 I would like to get some thing

Delia if you can think of
 any thing that will be suitable
 I may not hear that I
 can stop in chusing as
 there is some talk of our
 having to go to VT to be paid
 off but I rather think we
 will be paid here. Oh
 Frank how I do long to see
 you I cannot find words to
 express my feelings it does
 not seem as though I could
 wait but I will try and be
 patient. If the work is not
 driving when I get home I
 shall want to spend a few
 days in visiting and your
 work will admit of it. it
 does not seem as though I
 could do much work on the
 farm for a spell at least as
 I have done so little hard
 work since I came out here
 that one hours work tires
 me more than it used to
 but I shall soon get used
 to it I think. I would like
 to try it at any rate. My
 sheet is full and I must
 close accept lots of love and
 kisses for yourself and
 Hattie from your aff
 Husband
 Payson

Delia if you can think of any thing that will be suitable. It may not be so that I can stop in New York as there is some talk of our having to go to Vt to be paid off but I rather think we will be paid here. Oh Frank how I do long to see you I cannot find words to express my feelings it does not seem as though I could wait but I will try and be patient. If the work is not driving when I get home I shall want to spend a few days in visiting and your work will admit of it. it does not seem as though I could do much work on the farm for a spell at least as I have done so little hard work since I came out here that one hours work tires me more than it used to work all day but I shall soon get used to it I think. I would like to try it at any rate. My sheet is full and I must close accept lots of love and kisses for yourself and Hattie from your aff Husband

Payson

There were some that fell down dead on the march from Richmond from the effects of the heart. I can near giving out one day I got so that I was almost blind everything looked dark I could not tell the men that was in front of me but I kept on and soon come to some woods so that I was in the shade a few moments and got over it but I told the boys that I should not go so far again as I did not care to be marched to death aff the fighting was all over and we had started for home, but I did not suffer so much any day after that as that day. That was the 2nd day out of Richmond. I hope that ear many Sabbath pass that shal be permitted to be with you again and attend church with you again. We have had no meetings for a long time Our Chaplain is at home on a leave of absence.

There were some that fell down dead on the march from Richmond from the effects of the heart. I can near giving out one day I got so that I was almost blind everything looked dark I could not tell the men that was in front of me but I kept on and soon come to some woods so that I was in the shade a few moments and got over it but I told the boys that I should not go so far again as I did not care to be marched to death aff the fighting was all over and we had started for home, but I did not suffer so much any day after that as that day. That was the 2nd day out of Richmond. I hope that ear many Sabbath pass that shal be permitted to be with you again and attend church with you again. We have had no meetings for a long time Our Chaplain is at home on a leave of absence.

I do not know whether he will come back or not. Tell Mr. Howe that
 he will come back around
 Tell Mr. Howe that I went
 down and saw his boys last night. They are all right. It is so
 hot and I have a very uncomfortable position to write in so I think that
 I will close this hoping to hear from you soon. May God watch over
 us and soon permit us to meet again is the fervent prayer of your aff
 and loving Husband
 Payson
 Give my love to all the friends and especially to Father & Mother and
 Be'll and all of Ira's family. Accept a kiss for yourself and Hattie
 Payson

I do not know whether he will come back or not. Tell Mr. Howe that
 he will come back around
 Tell Mr. Howe that I went
 down and saw his boys last night. They are all right. It is so
 hot and I have a very uncomfortable position to write in so I think that
 I will close this hoping to hear from you soon. May God watch over
 us and soon permit us to meet again is the fervent prayer of your aff
 and loving Husband
 Payson

Give my love to all the friends and especially to Father & Mother and
 Be'll and all of Ira's family. Accept a kiss for yourself and Hattie
 Payson