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*The following transcription is from an original Civil War letter. The letter was written by Union soldier L. W. Wolcott from Camp Montgomery, Mississippi, on September 22, 1862, concerning the Battle of Iuka, Mississippi. The letter, addressed to his mother, was signed Laurens. It was purchased and donated to the museum by Greg Woodruff, Brenda Whitfield, and RaNae Vaughn.*

Camp Montgomery  
Sept 22nd 1862

Dear Mother—Yours of the 17th came to hand day before yesterday while we were on our way back from a chase after "Old Price." We left this camp about 7 a.m. Wednesday. Soon after we started, the rain began falling and it continued to rain till afternoon when we stopped and built fires. I tried to dry our clothes and shoes which were thoroughly wet through. We partly succeeded by night and as we were without tents we built more fires and lay down. Everything went off to our satisfaction till about 1 or 2 in the morning when it again commenced to rain and kept it up till morning. Just before the rain began two of us laid our blankets together—one under us and one over us and drawing the top one over our heads we let it rain. The top one kept the rain off very well but it would run under on the lower one. Next morning we cleaned our guns and tried them and about 9 we left and marched about 8 miles. We again camped for the night. Next morning we were roused up before daybreak in order to be ready to start on the road at half past five. At this time we formed in line and stacked arms, then we waited till near night expecting all the time to be ordered to march. About an hour before sundown we started and marched three or four miles within five or six of Iuka (Miss.) at which place Price was. We lay here all night and next morning at 3 1/2 a.m. we again set out toward Iuka. After going forward some two miles we halted and formed in line of battle. Batteries were planted and skirmishers thrown out and all expected that another hour would see us engaged in conflict. Well we waited and continued to wait for nearly two hours when it was discovered that Price was at his old tricks and had skeedaddled. We were immediately put in motion toward Iuka which place we reached about noon. Here

we were surprised to find some 300 or 400 of our wounded and about 500 wounded Rebels. All of whom were wounded in a fight between our right wing under Rosecran's and Price's forces. It took place the night before and this was our first initiation of it as the fighting was done principally with musketry, Here we took dinner and filled canteens and immediately after we turned around and marched back to Burnsville (Miss.) which place we reached some two hours after dark. We laid down and shivered till two in the morning for we were without woolen blankets. Then roused up, took some coffee and prepared to march but did not leave till about 7 when we set out on the march for this place. The march however was turned into a forced one by the receipt of the news that an attack on Corinth (Miss.) was expected at about 4 p.m. We reached here however a little before that time or rather about one third of us did for the rest were obliged by fatigue to fall out of the ranks. I got through however with the regiment and with only one blister on my feet and that not very bad. If this reached you in time I wish you would send me my rubber blanket, two pair of homemade socks (they are so much better than we can get), a good stout tablefork and a spoon as it is impossible to get them here. I am very much obliged to Mrs. Lockwood for her kind interest in my welfare. Also to others you mentioned. The socks Mrs. Lockwood gave me are about worn out but the towel does good service yet.

From your affectionate son, Laurens.