Memphis, Tenn.
Apr. 16th, 1865

Dear Parents:

I am here in the beautiful city of Memphis in the far away South. I have just got into the hotel from a walk through the city with a gentleman lawyer from Michigan who has come here to practice his profession. Being acquainted he showed many friends of interest things today. But Oh! how to think of the awful calamity that has befallen our beloved country. The assassination of Lincoln,eward and Law! The cold chills would course my blood when first the bad news reached my ears.
as we had neither the name of
the street nor its number. But
we did see many most magnificent
business houses, churches and residen
ties. Since I have not seen all
of the place by considerable in
my hours ride, and two hours
walk, I have had a faint view
of the fortifications as it can how
now from my window. A
Pickets' is so situated as to
deal out destruction at a tremen
dous rate to any foe that might
dare to approach from below or
above on the river, and it could
turn its mighty power upon the
city to its utter demolition and
very lusty too. Also the large
guns standing upon the battery
ready at a single moments
warning, with its garrison of
over 13,000 soldiers within its
walls.
The news first reached here this morning on the boat from Cairo. The news flew like wildfire throughout the place and the flags of the city were hung at half mast, and a drapery in mourning. What horror to think our nation lost to see our Star Spangled Banner draped in mourning? "When God will destroy he first makes mad," and these demons are surely sufficiently mad for destruction.

If possible I will drive these thoughts away for the present and write something else. I got a carriage this morning for Mrs. Billings of New York who came down on the same boat to visit her husband. We rode for one hour but did not succeed in finding...
Then how different the atmosphere here! The sun is almost at its meridian height shining forth its rays of warmth and gladness. It is as warm here as in June there, yet it is neither sultry nor hot, but as we inhale the atmosphere it seems cool and refreshing, much like we sometimes have in North just after a shower in a sultry hot August day, or the fumes are while the dew is rising in a summer's morning.

Then again how different vegetation here! When I left there were scarcely any of the trees were putting forth their leaves or buds, but here we reached this point the peach and apple trees had put forth their blooms and had fallen off. And today the leaves on the oak and other trees are almost full grown and the gardens and yards are green with grass and vegetables.
But with all this I can't tell how I shall like the place. I may not like the climate; the city, the practice to behave, the people, nor the manner of living. I do not know that I have any occasion to be discouraged unless it may be from the high price of living. It is Sunday and the most of business is closed of course and I am doing nothing in the way of business. It will probably be one or two or perhaps three weeks before I shall know what to do. In the mean time I shall inquire and remain as a solicitor as possible. I guess it is dinner time. I will write again when I get more settled in business.

Your affectionate son, L. Mitchell.