Cairo, Ill., Feb. 27th, 1863.

Dear Governor:

The regiment arrived here at eleven last night and remained in the cars till this morning. We left Chicago Sunday evening at eight o'clock. The Central G. O. A. to have put us in here before dark yesterday as they promised when we left Chicago. Considering the crossing of Mississippi at La Grasse, our trip from Winona, which we left Friday morning, has been safe and expeditions.

We find no special orders for us. Gen. Butter in command here, only has power to send us as far as Memphis. Even this he does not propose to do immediately, but as I understand him, until some other troops come to relieve us. The 128th Ill. & two companies of 35th Iowa have been here some time. The 128th Ill. moves to Mound City. It is reduced to nothing & cares for sickness, deaths, and deaths, though one of the new regiments, and now to Mound City to recuperate. It has been doing Post guard service here and considering what a miserable filthy hole this is, I do not wonder the regiment is de-
moralized. And as things now look we are to relieve this regiment! It looks as if we were to stay here an indefinitely length of time to guard among other things saloons in this mud hole. We have today gone into the disease breeding quarters which the 125th ill. vacate, and tomorrow are to receive 100 stand of arms & commence guard service with. Just think of the demoralizing effect of this yet should be permitted to continue! When we are needed in the field and are extremely anxious to get there to be left back in such a place as this doing guard service.

I should suppose the two companies of 35th Iowa were enough for that duty. The protection of the town of course depended on the gun boats, and from the number of naval officers about I should think that force here was sufficient.

There are some Enfield rifles here, and others are consigned to the ordnance officer here, but he cannot supply us without authority from the ordnance officer with Gen. Grant. There are no accoutrements here and they must be sent for from St. Louis. Considering that our friends (?) in Washington have been informed of our wants and interests, and that they have been entreated to have us see
plied with first class arms and sent under Gen. Rasecrane, and weeks ago too, it is strange nothing has been done for us, and that we are permitted longer stopped here to wait for accoutrements and to do unimportant guard duty — at a time too when eventful battles are expected. We feel great indignation at this state of things. It is monstrous to keep such a regiment as ours back a day. You know we have done a good deal of work to get the regiment together, and now to see it disgraced and demoralized by detention here is beyond our patience. I hope you will immediately write up the authorities in Washington. Have us immediately supplied with the best arms and sent under Gen. Rasecrane or to Vicksburg. Then if at such a time as this the country can afford to retain such a regiment as ours in unimportant service in Cairo, let the responsibility fall where it belongs. I feel sure however the Sisy of war or Gen. Hallack either will order us on on knowing the facts.

Very truly,

[Signature]

[Address]