

West Butler Nov 25th 1861

My Very Dear Grandson

As I have been reading your kind letter of the 17th to Ethel
I thought it might not be amiss to pen a few lines to you seeing
you ^{have} stepped forward as one of the defenders of our free institutions
and also supposing you might have some respect for my age and
experience, I have no doubt you are in a good cause and hope
although you are young you may be a blessing to ~~the~~ our distracted
Country and I have no doubt if you pursue a proper course
and live to see ~~them~~ the end of the present conflict it may be
a benefit to yourself I am aware that you will have many a
temptation to vice which it will be very important for you to
withstand even on every occasion you undoubtedly will see some hard
times but I hope you will remember that your honor the honor of
your Country and your Country's God demand that you faithfully discharge
your duty as a soldier and give your superiors to believe you may be
trusted in every place you may have to face the cannon's mouth or
bleed on the battle field but remember that a certain individ^{cal} said that resistance to tyrants is obedience to God; my health
is rather poor and as I am 70 years old it is not very likely that I
shall ever see you again in this life but I shall long remember the
pleasant time I had with you and the rest of the family when
I was at your Father's. I have 3 Brothers sons one Sisters only son and
lots of Cousins in the army all for the Union and may wisdom
guide our Rulers that this may soon be brought to a close and that

peace and liberty may once more be enjoyed before I go hence
your friends in this place are in usual health I would like
you to send this to your Father for it is quite a burden for
me to write. I hope if you can you will write me and let
me know how you get along, and be assured you shall have
my best wishes for your happiness in this life and that which
is to come. I hope you will remember that one of old said let
not the mighty glory in his might nor the wise in his wisdom
but let him that glorieth glory in the Lord. Remember now
thy Creator in the days of thy youth but I must close for now
and believe me as ever your friend and Grand pa

Wm M Koon

To. William E. Spencer