

THE MIDDAY HEAT.

HOULTON, April 8, 1862.

MY VERY DEAR DAUGHTER :

Your welcome letter came to us this evening, and its contents would have surprised us very much if we had't been apprised sooner by Henry of your intentions of going back to West Liberty.* Perhaps we may go some day to visit you in your distant home. We should be happy, indeed, to do so, if our Heavenly Father should see fit to bless us with *health, strength,* and means sufficient for so great a journey : but if this privilege is denied us, we have the hope, the glorious hope of meeting in the Heavenly Home, to be separated no more forever.

Pa's face is almost well and his health is tolerably good, but he has not regained his strength ; he finds his arduous duties very tiresome, yet we trust he will be gaining in strength and energy. We know, however, that our youthful vigor has passed away and that old age is creeping on : still we hope to live and labor, a little longer, in God's blessed vineyard, for we long to see many souls gathered into the fold of the great and good Shepherd before we go hence to be no more. We had a letter from dear Boardman last week telling us of his safe arrival at Fort Preble.

Now, dear Annie, don't you grieve at all about us. If we were sitting down here, in our desolate home, and mourning over our loneliness you would have some reason to be unhappy about us ; but that is not the case. We go from place to place about our missionary labors just as cheerfully as we ever did, and when we

*At the time of these letters Mr. James T. Bradbury with his family and his parents was living at West Liberty, West Virginia. They moved there in 1859, and he was Principal of the Academy till his decease.

The two sons, Henry and Boardman, have enlisted in the Union armies.