

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864.

My dear Liz

I read my attempt at a letter to which I referred in my last as one started while I was enjoying the quiet of the evening & during which I was interrupted by the order to march. I half way promised to complete that projected letter but upon a review of it I find myself in so different a mood as to be incapable of catching up with its style or temper, and beside the arrival of your dear letter of 25 so full of a wife's tender anxiety mingled with the tormenting cares which surround you in the present condition of your household - while it warns me that the day has glided by more rapidly than I had supposed, summonses me to address myself more particularly to the contents of your letter, leaving still unanswered several of your former letters - which I have sealed up & laid aside for another reading & a leisure day in which I can reply.

Thank God by this time your anxieties in my behalf have been relieved & we are again permitted to magnify the loving kindness & mercy of our God, who has been my shield & defense. Take care lest in your great anxiety you fail to exercise the proper faith or rather trust in God. Try to repose in him. He will lead you into the green pastures. He will set your feet upon a rock. Today's reading in Crumbs says "Faith views all in Christ. Hope expects all from Christ. Love gives up all for Christ. The nourishment of faith, hope & love is the word of Christ. Let the word of Christ dwell richly in you." I humbly trust that the hopes which sustain me in the dangers I am called on to pass through are not delusive & that I am

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864. Contd.

not presumptuous in appropriating the precious promises which seem to occur for the occasion. Oh let us believe all that he has told us to encourage us in this vale of tears. Let us not abuse his exceeding goodness, but believing cast all thy burdens upon him, & love & praise his holy name. As thy days so shall thy strength be. Are we his - then he is ours, & all that he puts upon us is for our good. It is in love that he tries us. Let us not murmur. Are we on our journey home, we can not expect all the road to be smooth, but he will help us over the rough places. Let us live more as pilgrims. Let us think more of the beautiful land to which we are journeying. We may be separated on the way but if we persevere and endure unto the end we will meet again - meet never to part. Let not your soul be cast down, but trusting, praising, loving Hope will conquer fear & the peace of God which all understanding will fill your heart & mind.

I must tell you how fortunate I have been. Going into a deserted house offered to us for Hd. Qrs. I found a copy the Crumbs, despised by its former owner & left under his table. I have it now - so the lost is found.

We are having more rest now than we have had since we have been in Va. - too good to last long I fear. Our Hd. Qrs. are pleasantly situated & we are almost comfortable.

Yesterday I heard that Bratton's Brigade was near us. So in the P.M. I started out to find them, & spent some hour with our dear friend Calvin & the two boys. They had heard

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864. Contd.

that I was killed in the late fight & were glad to see me. I hope to see them again. They were all looking well. Their Brigade has not been worked as hard as ours.

And now I want to say something about the next box. All depends upon the packing. The only things spoiled or that did mischief in the last one was the Catsup & the Eggs. The former only needed to have the cork well secured. The latter were packed too close. Well the reason most of the boxes which are sent are spoiled is because our friends in the country dont understand packing. Just be careful to see that each parcel put in is itself secure & then when you put it in see that it is secure from its neighbors, & you can pack silks with oil, Lard & tar. Now as to a few suggestions as to contents. First of all will be the winter shirts, then if I have my heavier draws, 3prs. 2prs. stockings (or 3) will be a plenty. You need not send my over-coat. I will keep poor Jim Ross'. Gloves if you can get some from the neighbors, a muffler. Now as to eatables, - Grist, Butter, Pickles, Sorgum, Catsup, Ginger Nuts, Beets (if you have any). Those sent were very acceptable. Can you send me one more Hdkerchief. I have lost one of the new ones already. Am I not unfortunate or careless ? I need one all the time. My nose wont stay blowed. Now I have named I think all my wants, & I wont be disappointed if you find it impracticable to supply them. The last box is not yet exhausted & the Hominy is a great treat. Genl. H. & myself now mess together. (

I have heard nothing definite from Charlie for a day or two, but I hear he is better. I am much better.

If you can get a few sweet potatoes - they will be accep-

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864. Contd.

table -very. Onions also, but cork them up tight. A sprig of garden herbs also - if convenient.

Day before yesterday our troops attacked the enemy at Reams station & gained some advantage. Captured 2,100 prisoners & 9 guns. Our loss about 800. Jim Connor, Comdg Lane's brigade was in the fight. Returning from it, a tree fell upon him, but I believe did not injure him seriously.

What do you think about the peace movements at the North? The bouyant are hopefull. I think it is all a Yankee trick & see no hope for an end yet. That is nothing now exists on which to build a hope, other than the only hope we ought to encourage- as the only power able to bring the war to a close, viz. hope in God. The only glimmer that I can discover in the recent move at the north is that if they make a proposition, it may be submitted for arbitration to the Foreign powers. God grant that the way may soon be opened up & this stream of human blood be stemed. Only think of the numbers of victims in this campaign. Grant's losses in the last 20 days must reach 10,000 & ours 3,000. How long Oh Lord. How long.

What you write about the children interests me greatly. Andrew's case is one which needs a firm but gentle hand. Dont lose patience with him but show him that his listlessness will not be allowed. Dont tax him too long. If you find him in-attentive send him off to play at something & then bring him suddenly back to his book & hurry him. I think some such course the best to keep up excitement & to keep down laziness.

I am truly sorry to hear of Hannah's case added to your other troubles. I can only pray for God to help you & this if

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864. Contd.

granted is abundant.

If you have such a thing as a stout piece of cloth & can make me a haversack, I will be glad, - but I am thoughtless in the midst of so many cares to add to them. Dont bother about the box until you have leisure.

My letter bears evidence of the haste with which I have had to write.

God bless you & all ours & relieve you from all the troubles which surround you & cause even the least of them to work out a peaceable fruit of righteousness & what seems now greivous to beccome Joyous -- prays your devoted

Husband.

South West from Petersburg, Va.
Aug.29th,1864.

My dearest

I have but a moment to write to you. I have been & still am very busy. Overhauling books & papers, preparing monthly reports, Muster & pay rolls, signing commutation of rations &c,&c. The mail man has come. I am detaining him for a few minutes to let you know that by the blessing of our kind Father I am well & still permitted to enjoy the partial rest & great relief afforded by our present position & to acknowledge the rect. of yours of the 26th. Thank God your mind is relieved. My deliverance was signal. To God be the praise.

Yesterday I saw Charlie & Ella. Charlie is still unwell. I dare say Ella will give you an amusing account of a dinner I ate with her. My appetite is enormous when I have anything good to eat.

I rejoice that your sick are recovering.

There has been no fighting since Thursday, but there is no telling what a day may bring forth. The enemy have been shelling the city furiously.

Genl. Hagood has recd.the highest compliments for his & the gallantry of his Brigade. Genl.Lee's Inspector Genl. pronounces the whole affair as the most gallant act of the war. But what a ghastly record. How many bleeding hearts. Oh that God would interpose.

I hope to commune next Sabbath. Try to be with me in spirit. I will if possible write again this P.M.

Love to all. Kisses to the little ones. Tell Anna

South West from Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 29th. 1864. Contd.

she must soon be well & I am glad she has been so patient.

God be with you & bless you.

Yours,

George.

South West of Petersburg, Aug.30th,1864.

My dear Liz

The promise of a few quiet hours this morning tempts me to indulge myself in what has been denied me for several days. I really feel mortified on account of the hasty incoherent letters I have been compelled to send you recently & in reviewing my experience of the last ten days the feeling that some dear & habitual delight has been wanting is owing to my missing what has for some time been my chief daily pleasure. I really feel badly too that during this very period I have received from you just such letters as would have given me inspiration to reply. But the fact is now I can not call any hour my own. My Office hours are from sunrise to sunset & am liable to be called upon at any moment in the interval. I am mastering the back work of the office & I hope in a day or two if we are still permitted to remain where we are to have leisure sufficient to enable me to withdraw my mind from business & indulge in the sweet intercourse which even this cold medium permits. Long separation has made letter writing a pleasure. The mechanical effort assists the mind in being in the dear object while with perfect freedom the pen runs on with the same theme as the tongue would around the hearth or in the chamber. I dont know what would become of me if deprived this medium. To dwell in thought upon the loved ones is pleasant, but it has also a sadness with it. They are thoughts which reach not the object & bring back no reply. And beginning however sprightly, they soon gather a gloom which fills the heart with sadness & dejection. With a pen in my hand I find that hope always grows brighter & I seem to approach quite near the object of my wishes & my spirits grow high & a

South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 30th, 1864. Contd.

feeling of relief takes the place of any depression which may have existed. But I am running on, giving you no account of these last ten almost barren days as far as letters are concerned.

After our disasters of the 21st & immediately succeeding the fall of Capt. Molony, Genl. Hagood assigned me to discharge of the duties of his office. Unfortunately he carried upon his person the satchel containing late important papers & reports, the loss of which have hindered me materially in my work & added greatly to my labors. The duties of the office have thus kept me very closely employed. Fortunately however & in this I have indeed been favored, we are located at the most pleasant place we have occupied since our arrival in Va.- indeed the only place worthy to be called a rest. Here we can pitch our tents or rather stretch our flies & pull off our shoes & lay aside our swords & pistols. You cant imagine how great the relief is.

I trust I am truly grateful for this as for the unnumbered overflowing mercies which My Father has bestowed on me with lavish hand. Has he not been my shield and defense, my high tower & house of refuge, and shall I not praise him. But greater things than these has he done for me. Not only has he preserved my life, but he has given me a new life. He has set me upon a rock even Christ Jesus who is my life & light. He has delivered me from the enemy but a greater deliverance has he wrought out for me, in that he

South West of Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 30th, 1864. Contd.

has put down Satan under his foot & daily delivers me from his power. Teach me Oh Lord more and more to realise the height & depth & length & breadth of the love of God in Christ, that I may make better returns of love & experience stronger desires and inclinations after thee, and may love all other things, even life itself, in comparison as if I loved them not.

I feel very grateful to Ella for writing to you when she did. I wrote as soon as possible to relieve you.

How sad about Jamie Ross. I would write to his mother if I thought it would do her any good, but I feel so sure that he is no more that I dare not, as Charlie has not told her the worst. I feel no hope that he is merely wounded. The last man who passed him describes him as lying upon his face- his right arm extended & his pistol which he had been shooting lying on the ground about 2 feet in front of him. From this description I feel sure that he was killed instantly. Oh how I wish I could hope that it were otherwise. My heart would be lighter & I could write to the dear old Lady what perhaps would cheer her, but how cold & useless are words of consolation under such bereavements. I dread to hear of the result of the news upon them all. I realise what a crushing blow it will be to them. God be with them & pour into their wound the only balm which can heal or relieve. May the consolation of his grace be so abundant that what now seems so grievous may grow & produce the peaceful fruits of righteousness wherein is joy. When you write to them say to them that had I known when or where he was I would have

South West of Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 30, 1864. Contd.

stuck to him & that as soon as I heard he was missing, I used every effort in my power, exposing myself, to have him found.

Our Brigade now does not number "For Duty" as many men as the smallest Regt. brought out to Va. I pray it may never go into action again & if it does it may be under the most favorable circumstances. We have gained great credit in Military circles for good conduct but this will not assuage the grief of one bleeding heart.

Genl. Hagood has again paid me the compliment of applying for me as his A.A.G. Genl. Hoke-our Major General-went to Richmond this morning for the purpose of securing the appointment of certain officers on his staff & Genl. Hagood sent on by him who will urge it, the application for my promotion. I am not sanguine even now, so guard yourself against a second disappointment. Perhaps I am not wise so to raise your hopes.

We are having cool nights & mornings now.

I am so disappointed about the suit I want made up. Ella says no one can get the cloth but herself. I am out at elbows & seat & will be most shabby.

We ate the last of the grist yesterday & I missed it this morning. The potatoes are not all gone yet & the dried fruit continues to furnish us with dessert.

I sincerely trust my dearest that all your sick are better & that you are enjoying relief from the weary & anxious nights you have recently endured.

I wrote to James yesterday to apply for a transfer to our brigade that I may have him detached as my head clerk. I

South West of Petersburg, Va.
Aug.30,1864. Contd.

hope he may succeed. He will be very valuable to me in the position.

Love to all. Remember me particularly to Uncle Billy & Cousins John, Nancy & Jane Younge . Kiss the little ones & may heavens best blessings be with thee my dear wife ever prays

Your devoted

Husband.

South West Petersburg.
Aug. 31, 1864.

My dearest

I have been over head & ears busy since the peep of day & only steal a moment to acknowledge recd. of box with knife, fork, spoons & papers & letters- none of which I have yet had time to examine.

We are under marching orders to return to our old place & we will start in a short while

Many thanks for securing these little conveniences for me.

I feel quite well this morning.

Another month of mercies closes today. God be praised for all he has done for us.

I hope to hear from you tomorrow. Thought I would hear today. Did not get any yesterday.

Love to all & blessings rich & free upon you all.

Yours as ever,

George.

Dunlop's Farm, Sept. 5th, 1864.

Dear Liz

No doubt you have wondered & have been anxious on account of my silence for the last three days. I am surprised at it myself. Have you been very severe upon me ? I hope not & I trust that the knowledge of the fact that we are in reserve has prevented any the least anxiety, knowing too as you ought to know by this time that in times of danger & exposure I am prompt in writing. I wrote you just before starting for this most delightful spot, really it is a beautiful place; the ruthless desolating hand of war has rested lightly upon it. Here & there a broken fence, paint needed there, undergrowth wild in some places - show that some calamity has prevented the evident care which the proprietor was wont to employ. We have been most fortunate & blessed during the last 16 days. You will naturally think that during such a rest I would have abundant time to write. It has been quite otherwise. I have never been more busily employed. I very rarely sleep as late as $5\frac{1}{2}$ & am as closely engaged as possible. A change in the mail too makes it necessary to be ready by 8 A.M. This morning rather than allow an other day to pass, I am postponing my work to send you a few hasty lines.

Your late letters so full of anxiety have distressed me not a little. Poor soul you have had a trying time in those days of anxious care. Is not our Father teaching you to cast thy burden upon him who careth for thee ?

I wrote at the earliest opportunity & I knew that Ella who had before promised me would write immediately. By this time you understand it all, & so will not now use

Dunlop's Farm, Sept. 5th, 1864. Contd.

my few moments in further explanation.

We have been resting here for three days. I have much back work to bring up & the condition of the Brigade requires daily work which is more than ordinary.

I was disappointed in not being able to go up to the city to church & so missed the Communion service I had expected. I needed its holy influences. This absorption in work has not been good for me. There is much to annoy & irritate & other causes of natural corruption have prevented me in duty & I have had to mourn the hiding of peace & comfort. Pray continually for me that I may be delivered from temptation & kept by the power & grace of God in the way of his commandments.

Hearing that Ella was to start home this day, I rode over to say good bye to her, but Charlie and herself had gone to Petersburg to church & my long ride was for nothing.

Dr. Porcher told me a piece of news which makes me anxious to see Charlie today. He says Genl. Beauregard has assigned Charlie to the command of some Forts in the neighborhood of Wilmington & that he will start for that place in a few days. You will be glad to hear of this & may wish that a certain Adjut. would also be ordered to report there also. I do not think favorably of it & think it a misfortune for Charlie & regret it very much on his account. It will be pleasant but added to the unfortunate connection he has had with this campaign, I regard it as a misfortune.

The mail man has come & I must close. God bless you & all.

Yours as ever,

George.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864.

Dear Liz

It is quite late - too late for me to hope to do more than write you a few lines, knowing as I do how utterly impossible for me to do even so little in the morning in time for the mail and as I have not written since Sunday except a few very hasty lines I must if I do no more answer your affectionate letter of 11th.

You say nothing about yourself. How is your lameness ? I fear you are suffering more than you are willing to tell me. By saying nothing you cause me more uneasiness than if you told me all unless I could feel that your silence was favorable. But I know how obstinate such cases have been with you heretofore & I am anxious to hear that you are relieved.

My former letters will have told you ere this reaches you how & why I did not as I had hoped enjoy the privilege of communion on the 4th. I have missed it very much & will if God spares my life make greater efforts to partake of this sacred & healthy ordinance whenever & wherever the opportunity to do so presents itself & may God bless it under all circumstances & by whomsoever administered to my growth in grace & especially in humility & penitence that I may more & more feel my need of my Savior & so love him more & more. Pride & selfrighteousness have a rank growth in my heart & I have constant need to be reminded that I can do nothing but fall down in utter helplessness before that cross on which hangs the sacrifice. Blessed Lord may I never cease ^{to feel} that there & only there can I get rid of the burden & by & through it only win the crown.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864. Contd.

I do not misunderstand you in your anxiety about my attendance upon the services of the Episcopal Church. I know how strong your preferences are, that you will never be other than thoroughly Presbyterian in your heart & faith. Let this give you no more care than it does me. I have not attended the Presbyterian Church or the Methodist, first because I have felt a preference for the Episcopal, but although I have enquired I don't even now know where the church is & am told that their services are infrequent. I have not so much as seen Mr. Girardeau since I have been in Va. & have never heard of his preaching until too late to go. I happen to know that I will certainly hear preaching & a style that I think benefits me if I go to the Episcopal & as I barely get the opportunity to go, I do accordingly. I am now making the effort to secure Mr. Girardeau as our Brigade Chaplain & have secured Genl. Hagood's consent & have taken the initiatory step to have his acceptance accomplished. And you know that I was among the few who were not extravagant admirers of his style of preaching. If you will recall some of our discussions you will remember that I had some objections to him. I hope I have abused your mind of any impressions of the possibility of future differences which might grow up upon this point & so little am I affected by my preferences that I will say nothing in defense of them, or attempt to account for them. There is no danger of our worshiping but at the same church, no danger of our children being taught but one doctrine. Grant merciful Father that we both may be spared to nurture them in the fear & admonition of the Lord & by lives of constant godliness set

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864. Contd.

such an example before their eyes that the religion we profess may be attractive and lovely in their sight. Let this be our effort so to practice the doctrines we profess that they may regard them as realities & seek too to enjoy them & the influences they exercise. Let us so walk with God that his image will be reflected in our lives & they beholding the sweet & gentle & happy effects may be led within the fold & made partakers of all the blessings which as sons of God we are entitled to. Let us be more in earnest to make good use of our heritage. If we are Christ's then he is ours & all his promises are for us. Let us therefore be careful that all the blessings which thus are provided for us be not only secured but enjoyed & so enjoyed that they will shine forth in our lives & conversation. Oh blessed Master, brother, friend, so reveal thyself to us that we may so love thee as to rejoice in thee & so obey thee, as in the most trivial events of life we shall submit with a meek & cheerful spirit to all thy holy will, and when thou callest us to pass through the deep waters may we rest on thee and be not fearful but believing, or when in the fiery furnace of trial may we not only realise thy presence with us but may others see thee at our side surrounding us so that they may be made to believe in thee, Let not the cares of the world overwhelm us. Let not the law which we daily discover in our members overcome the law which thou hast written in our hearts. Let not Satan prevail against us. Be thou the captain of our salvation, our Prophet, Priest, & King. So guided & upheld we shall not only teach our dear little ones, but lead them to the Way, the Truth, the Light & the Life.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864

I am sorry after what you say that I kept Jamie's over-coat. I hesitated at the time but after consultation with Charlie felt none whatever. I am mortified at what Ella has told & my recollection is that she was present during my conversation with Charlie & if she did not agree with us she certainly expressed no contrary views. I can't understand why she was called on to speak of it at all. I will send it over by the first opportunity. Had I recd. your letter yesterday I could have sent it by Adger Smyth, but other chances will offer in a few days. Do get Anne if the subject is ever introduced during her visit to say that I regret very much having kept it & would not have done so had I thought a little more about it. If Ella sent to me for it I never received her message & in fact on no occasion during her visit did I receive any word from her. I will write to Charlie about it & ask him to explain the matter the best he can & indeed he must do so. I feel wounded by Ella's allusion to the subject.

It is very natural for people at home to conclude that Genl. Hagood is "rash" &c. I do not intend now to combat this impression, but will only say that he only obeyed orders & if other Brigade Commanders had done the same it is the opinion of everyone here that the affair of the 21st, and as well as that of the 24th June would have resulted in the happiest final results. I am surprised at the flagrant disobedience of orders constantly occurring in this army & still more so that they are allowed to go unpunished. One Brigade goes into a fight as they are ordered & are cut to pieces sim-

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864.
Contd.

ply because those who were ordered to move forward with them fail to obey. Of course the Commander who obeys under such circumstances must be "rash" . Napoleon or Wellington would have shot four Brigade Commanders had either of them been in command of our army on the 21st Aug. & then with the same troops have gone in & won the fight. The spirit of our people is indeed declining if they prefer surrender to the gallant recovery of even one of our battle flags. There was a time when our State would have risen as one man & called loudly for this tattered & riddled flag & placed it with feelings of enthusiasm in their most conspicuous place of assembly as a trophy & sign that Carolinians never surrender. There was a time when he who dared such a deed of devotion to the flag of his country would have had his name emblazoned near the honored spot where it ought to hang. May the day yet come when among a better & nobler generation my son shall tell that his Father was at the battle where this deed was done. Oh shame upon those who taking their ease at home can not appreciate such a deed. Still greater shame upon those who are cold blooded enough to censure him whoever he is who displays such a spirit under such circumstances. You can tell those at home that in the Brigade & in this poor worn out army, the men who surrendered themselves on that day- if they ever return- will have to fight hard to regain the confidence of their comrades & they who fell upon it are enshrined as martyrs, who fell in as gallant a fight as had been made in the war. That this is not properly viewed at home is a sad evidence of the waning spirit of our people.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864. Contd.

Although your recent letters warn me by their silence on the subject that you had postponed sending a box by the car of the 5th as you first proposed to do, I nevertheless made search for it among the parcels which arrived today. Do not think I felt disappointed for I felt almost sure it would not come. I dare say the winter cloth if it leaves on 15th will get here in good time. We have had some cool nights already & fall is evidently approaching. Do not undertake to send anything after this box.

Let Ella know that I will return the overcoat. It may remind her to hasten forwarding my cloth to John for I need the sack coat he is to have made for me very much. I hope she has not delayed to forward it. I am now compelled to wear my best coat in common & I do not know when I will be able to pay for another.

I am sorry to see that your troubles with the servants are not yet over. God reward our kind friends for all the help they have given you. May it be returned to them ten fold in their crops & cattle & above these in the sweet pleasure imparted and promised to cheerful givers.

It is impossible for me to tell you any fixed amount that you can draw against. Just exercise prudence in view of the future & continue to draw upon John.

It is now nearly 1 O.C. & I must prepare for bed. It is a lovely night. Bright moon. Floating fleecy clouds. A sighing wind. But the distant booming of shell & incessant fire of sharpshooters are mingled with the mourning of the

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864. Contd.

wind among the trees. No wonder. The night is robed of its otherwise peaceful, pleasant features. How long, Oh Lord? How long? The shelling this morning all along the lines was very heavy. Terrible. Thank God we are yet permitted to enjoy this rest.

My bowels have been quite bad the last two days. If I don't improve I think I will try if the Medical Board will recommend a furlough. Don't build even a faint hope on this poor foundation.

I must say good night. God bless you & all our dear ones this night & every succeeding night that no disturbing thoughts by day may rob you of quiet peaceful rest. God grant thee all the desires of thy heart & fill thy soul with blessing only he can bestow.

Good Night.

Sept. 15th

Good Morning.

You alluded to the appropriateness and sweet comfort afforded in our readings for the 11th. I felt them so at the time. How precious also was the lesson for yesterday. The oftener I read these sweet songs the more I enjoy them.

I heard from James a few days ago. He was about to obtain a furlough. I am very anxious to have him in my office & have written to Barker to assist me in obtaining his transfer. If I had a competent clerk, Capt. Brooks would take my place & I might before long apply for a leave. Situated as I now am the prospect is improbitious. I have heard nothing of Jamie's wound affecting his mind, & don't think it is so.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 15th, 1864. Contd.

You are becoming very proud of your boy Charlie.
What a loss to me is the budding forth of this young chap.
Seriously I feel very deeply the loss I am enduring of being
separated from these two youngest in the fresh bloom of infancy. All I can do for them is to pray earnestly for them.

I send you two papers by this mail.

You must exercise patience a while longer as to my
writing oftener. I am very busy - writing usually all day.

Love to all. Kisses to the little ones & heaven's
best blessings on all of you & the dear friends who have been
so kind to you.

Write often . Hoping to hear that you are better
when next you write,

Your devoted

Husband.

Hd. Qrs. Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 20th, 1864.

My dear Liz

I have two letters from you to acknowledge from you tonight but I fear I will not be able to write you more than a short reply & at best a poor return for your affectionate breathings. I feel tired. Did not get to bed until 2 A.M. last night & have been hard at work all day over my desk, so you must excuse all. But I can not leave you so long without some word from me & now without further excuses, for your letters seriatim.

It is very kind in Cousin John to offer you the syrup & providing that you can not get a barrel. Write to John Moffett & tell him to get you one. It will be worth all it costs to get it. Be sure to write to him. I am glad you sold your shoes but think you ought to have got more for them.

Be careful how you write to Mrs. Birnie that Hannah's wages do not pay her expenses. It will be a good argument for her to advance upon you.

I will expect the box on Sunday & will write you as soon as it arrives. Dont bother to send another. It is too much trouble situated as you are. I have the promise of a box from one of our officers who has gone home.

I am sorry to hear of Cousin Mary Thomlinson's ill health. I dreamed the other night I saw her & Aunt Hall both leaning out of the front window of their house in Spartanburg.

I am glad you keep up your pleasant correspondence with Miss Arsem. It will be a diversion which will do you good.

How many pleasant memories you started into exis-

Hd. Qrs. Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 20, 1864. Contd.

tence or rather revived by alluding to the incident in your little book course with our move to Judith St. That was a happy home & the only sad memory connected with it in my mind is when we left it. Oh that God in his mercy would so order events that we may soon return to one of similar quiet happiness. We did not deserve one so happy. We were not sufficiently grateful.

Dont allow your heart to despond. Cheer up & let hope make the future bright in spite of clouds & darkness.

You ask how I will rank as Major when taking Capt. Molony's place. Congress passed an act making the grade of A.A.G. Major instead of Captain but the President has refused to put it into execution owing to some defect in the bill.

This is a hasty reply to your affectionate letter. How did you take up the notion that I had an abhorrence for crossed letters? If I ever had such a feeling, notions of economy would have long ago have driven them away. Dont let it again interfere with your covering all the sheets. My recent letters will show you that I do not object to writing such & only wish I could spend time enough uninterrupted to cross all my letters to you.

Now for yours of 18th recd. today. You call mine of 9th a bitter pill. I wrote in haste & scarcely know what I wrote, but I know I felt & still feel that Sister M. should not have repeated what you wrote to her while Charlie was holding up hopes & by his letter tempering their minds for the blow which I think must surely fall upon them. I thought at the time that it would be best to let them know the worst at once & the little hope left would have prevented the crushing effects. I much prefer that my opinion be not brought in conflict with Charlie's in anything in

Hd.Qrs. Dunlop's Farm. Sept.20,1864. Contd.

which they are concerned & I thought you understood this.

A private named Zissett will take on Jamie's over coat. He starts tomorrow. I will instruct him to leave it at the book store formerly Bryan's. You can write to Anne & let her send Edward for it. That will be better than leaving it at the house. That would only revive unpleasantness. Write at once to Anne.

You must not yield to such gloomy forebodings. You commit sin by so doing. It is ingratitude. Rather praise God for the past. Let your mind dwell upon the mercies & love which have been measured out, until it overflows in grateful praise & produces faith & hope. Trust him for the future who has done so much & such wonderful things in the past. Has he not supplied our wants abundantly & provided for us in this day of universal want & in a way in which we knew not of & little dreamed of, hath not his hand done this ? Has he not in the midst of darkness & danger thus far prevented us from being entirely enveloped or overthrown & shall we not lean upon him for the future ? Oh let not distrust separate us from a close walk with him, but let us keep near & the darker the night & the heavier the clouds only draw nearer for only he is our light & salvation. He only can guide us. Let us not therefore lose sight of him by faith. Look up, even unto the hills from whence cometh our help. These are days for us to live in our moments. Take no thought for to morrow. To seek & to live upon our daily bread. To realise that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. To seek grace for each day & hour, leaving the next to him to whom it belongs. Try this. Do not allow your imagination to carry you into the dark uncertain tomorrow & there leave you alone with your fears. But when your mind will

Hd. Qrs. Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 20, 1864. Contd.

run into the future take hope with you. She is a pleasanter companion, but better than either is Patience. Stay at home with her & she will make each hour more happy than the last & sweet contentment will make the night short, but refreshing. Give us this day Oh Lord our daily bread, feed us with food convenient for us. The parable of the rich man teaches us two lessons. Not only to avoid covetousness, but to leave the future with God & use the present for his glory & in his praise. We must not build store houses & fill them with either hopes or fears, but rather employ the sane efforts of mind in doing what our hands find to do by exercising faith & cheerfulness, Patience & contentment. What we call the future looks gloomy indeed, but what do we know of it, & if it be gloomy why enter it with our minds. Why seek to see the interior of what presents so unpromising an exterior. But how often has so gloomy a cloud shut out the bright expanse beyond. 'Tis true our weak eyes could not penetrate & behold the perfect serenity of the clear ethereal atmosphere that dwelt beyond, but it nevertheless existed. Cheer up & rather let it be your part to dispell the clouds from my mind than for me to attempt it for you.

Love to all. Kisses to the children & heavens best blessings be with you, my dearest,

ever prays

Your devoted

Husband.

I enclose a letter from Charlie recd today.

This is a regular patch work letter. I expect to go to Richmond Friday on 24 hours leave to see about getting pay for my horse.)

,

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864.

Dear Liz

I returned from a 24^h hour visit to Richmond last evening & met your two letters of 21st with dear Bessie's little note enclosed. I recognized her hand in the direction of the letter & think I can see evident signs of improvement - which are gratifying.

Richmond seems to be out of the circle disturbed by the war. The streets are full of men who seem intent but upon personal interest & of women whose minds are occupied wholly by dress & gaiety. The stores seem abundantly supplied & the utmost extravagance prevails. The theatre & 4 other places of entertainment are in full blast & preparations are being made for the approaching season as though no disturbing cause could possibly interfere with these sources of healthy festivity. The whole tone of the place jarred upon my feelings & I can not resist a feeling of almost conviction that heavy judgments await a place so indifferent to the wail of sorrow which sounds over the land. The present state of things in the valley seems to disturb their rest somewhat as an uneasy dream. But it will require something more to rouse them to a proper realization of our circumstances. It really seems as though we were about to enter upon a crisis in our affairs. The recent successes of our enemies make them bouyant & confident. Their ranks are being swollen by reinforcements & they are gathering all their strength for a blow which they intend & believe will be decisive & final. Humanly speaking the case with us is desperate & the prospects not only without encouragement but gloomy. All

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

the advantages which numbers, skill, ingenuity, & human resources can afford is upon their side. The odds against us are fearful. If we are to depend upon similar means our cause is in a desperate condition. If the contest is to be decided by Horses & Chariots, we must flee to the mountains.

But in the words of our lesson of this morning if God the Lord be on our side we need not fear. What can our enemies with all their gigantic resources do unto us ? If God be for us who can prevail against us ? Oh that our people would be wise & turn unto God with penitence & seek his pardon & favor. If he withdraws his favor we are undone. If he lift not up his hand in our behalf we must be crushed before our enemies. From him alone cometh our help. Merciful Father withdraw thy judgments from us, deserving though we be of thy wrath for truly our sins, The sins of each one of us cry aloud for judgment, but in infinite mercy turn aside thy fierce anger which our iniquities have brought upon us & save us from the threatened storm. Defeat we beseech thee the purposes of our enemies & deliver us from our troubles. Who would lift the veil from off the future month ? It must be one full of terrible strife & bloodshed unless God in his infinite mercy prevent.

On every side events are culminating. The enemy are preparing with all their energy, stimulated by recent successes, political purposes, personal ambition & national pride & goaded on by deep seated hate & malice, increased by disasters in the past, to strike a mighty blow at our armies every where.

I do not write thus my dearest to increase the anxieties which already swell to overflowing your loving heart. Would

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

to God I could relieve thee of even the smallest ripple of painful thought. Sweeter far would be the employment to pour oil upon the troubled sea of care which for these many months have been rolling over your heart. I say I write not thus to increase your anxieties or to excite forebodings, but rather in view of all that as far as our weak human sight can take in is to be seen in the future, as it were hand in hand upon this sacred Sabbath day, to endeavor to realise how vain are all our human hopes & to strive to separate ourselves from them as well as from cares & fears, to look up to the heavens where dwelleth our God & overlooking all the sea of trouble, to put our trust in him. How appropriate is our lesson for today. Let us call upon the Lord. He will answer us & set us in a large place. We shall not be compassed about & shut in by cares & fears, but in the full enjoyment of that peace which he can impart, we shall soar aloft as on eagles' wings. The Lord shall be our strength & song & he shall be our salvation. It is better to trust in the Lord than in man or even in princes. Strengthened by these sublime thoughts how confidently the Psalmist exclaims - "I shall not die but live." Let us also enter in the open gates of righteousness & praise the Lord. In this day which he hath made let us rejoice & be glad in it & pray earnestly in behalf of our country. Save now I beseech thee O Lord. O Lord I beseech thee send now prosperity. Are we ready to bind the sacrifice with cords even unto the horns of the altar? Have we thrown down all our Idols & are we ready like Abraham to go forth willing to offer up whatever sacrifice God may select. O Lord subdue our hearts

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

into perfect conformity to thy will, enable us to follow thy guiding hand. Save us from boastful confidence & fill our hearts with childlike submission to thy will. Enable us to go forth in thy strength & trust in thy providence, looking not at the things which are seen & temporal, but to those things which are eternal, remembering always that this is not our abiding home, but that there is a city which hath a habitation whose foundations are eternal, prepared by God for those who love him & look for the second coming of him who hath gone to prepare a place for us in his Father's mansions. In that city there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall be any more pain. For the former things are passed away, and they that dwell therein shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them any more, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of them shall feed them, & shall lead them unto living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. Shall we fear what man can do against us? O Lord make us diligent to work out our salvation with fear & trembling, running with patience the race set before us in the gospel. Let us therefore fear lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest we should even seem to come short. If this hope be in us & abound, why should the future lessen our songs of praise or increase of fears beyond making us rely more entirely upon him to whom belongeth the issues of life & of death. Let our fears stimulate our prayers & increase our faith & dependence upon our Father's love & mercy. This will gild the darkest cloud & cheer the gloomiest hour. What an inheritance of ^{hope} is theirs whose trust is in the Lord. Nothing shall

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

hurt or make them afraid. God grant his grace to us in such measure that this shall be our portion in this life & when we come to the last dark hour may this same hope light our way through the dark valley.

The call for afternoon service has just blown. Mr. Morse is preaching for us. He gave an excellent sermon this morning contrasting the sorrows of this life with the joys of heaven. (I will return to my letter after service.) Mr. Morse gave us an excellent practical sermon, taking as his text the earnest persistent importunity of the woman of Samaria in behalf of her daughter, & urged^{to} like perseverance. Would we be kings in heaven we must be beggars on earth.

This has been a glorious day - cool & bracing, a cloudless sky & transparent atmosphere, & now the evening shades are gently falling as the sun in gorgeous majesty sinks to rest. It is a glorious sight & I gaze upon it this evening with peculiar feelings, as we are expecting to break up our camp here & return to duty in the Trenches tomorrow. If this is carried out, this is in all probability the last Sabbath afternoon I will spend here to enjoy the scene of grandeur. How peaceful is the scene. Our tent is on a high bluff projecting beyond the adjacent banks of the creek which winds below. The opposite bank of the creek is a sloping meadow left uncultivated & given up to cattle, who scattered among its luxuriant growth, - making a fine subject for the painter. Before & bounding this meadow runs the rail way & beyond thick woods. Standing at the point of our bluff & looking East at a distance of about a thousand yards where the creek makes another bend &

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

gives another projecting bluff stands a tastily built turreted villa, the residence of Mr. Dunlop. Lying between us and the villa winds the stream with its beautifully wooded bank - now rich with Autumnal hues. It is a lovely spot & to which the owner ought to be strongly attached. Just now the sky is all golden. I wish I could paint. I would like to paint the scene. It is so peaceful. Would to God peace reigned equally supreme in the hearts of men & they likewise declare the glory of God. The sky grows brighter & more brilliant as the shades thicken. So O Lord may our souls grow when the dark shades begin to close upon us & our departing hour be our brightest & most glorious. (I must wait until after supper to conclude my letter.) Oh if you could only be here & step with me a little apart to enjoy this view to show how poor I am in description. I was struck as I returned to gaze upon my favorite landscape by the peculiar beauty of the reflection of the trees in the stream. No mirror could reflect more perfectly the surrounding objects. The scene increased in splendor as the night drew on. The trees seemed fringed with gold.

I wish I could convey to your mind something of the impression produced on mine by the scene as it appeared this evening. If we would but open our minds how often could we hear sermons from creatures in the great temple of nature - more eloquent than the highest flights of human genius. There are in your neighborhood several commanding points from which you might enjoy the glorious sunsets of the season. It would

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

make a pleasant ride for yourself & the children & it would give a good direction to their minds & to know that the object of the ride was mainly to enjoy the setting sun would increase in them the pleasure & deepen the impression. I feel that I can say to you without the risk of being misunderstood that I wish you more frequently to undertake some such expeditions with the children alone. Billy has sufficiently established his reputation for gentleness to permit you to undertake the drive without the assistance of any one else.

You must not think that I misunderstood what you wrote about the over coat. I know that you regret as much as I do that any thing was said about it. I was wrong to keep the coat & am glad that my attention was called to it, although I did not relish the manner in which it was done. I hope now it will go safely. I will do very well when I get the one you will send me. I am not particular which of the two you may determine upon. Winter is coming upon us, & either of them will be acceptable, ere long.

We have just heard that Genl. Lee intends reviewing our division tomorrow. So we will have one more day out of the trenches.

I almost forgot to tell you that I saw our box in Richmond at the soldiers home. I wanted to bring it on with me but could not get it to the Depot. It will come to Petersburg Tuesday. I think I told you that I had all my undervests with me. They need repair however.

We had a startling rumor here this morning to the effect that Charleston had fallen. We are all anxious to hear

Dunlop's Farm. Sept.25th,1864. Contd.

from there. The last news we have is to the effect that the enemy is demonstrating at James Island. My own opinion however is that all other movements are made with a view to withdraw our attention from the only real movement which they intend to make viz. a grand move against our army.

Sept.26th,1864.

I hoped to have been able to add a line this morning, but the mail carrier has come & I can only say I am quite well on this splendid morning. God bless you. I will write soon again. It is quite cold. I have increased my under clothing. I wish I had the suit John was to have made for me.

Love- to all.

As ever yours,

George.

Dunlop's. Sept. 27th, 1864.

My dear Liz

I wish I had the time tonight to write you a long letter. I have three reasons for particularly wishing to do so. First to reply to yours of the 24, which came to me today. You need a change of some kind. Why so low-spirited? True all is not as bright as we would wish it & there is enough in the prospect of the future to make us unwilling to remove the veil. Then let us turn from it & live in the past & present. Do you remember those lines of Trench, beginning with- "We live not in our moments or our years. The present we fling from us like the rind of some sweet future which we ever find bitter to the taste"? I can not quote the rest, Look it up. There is much wisdom in it. I have often wished & tried to recall the words. The idea is:- The present affords us abundant sources of pleasurable enjoyment if we will but look for it, if only in birds & flowers & other numerous, yes numberless evidences of God's Mercy & goodness. He never means to cast us down utterly. There is much to cheer us if we but look at the whole instead the dark corner of the picture. Let us look up & beyond. Cheer up & cast off the dull cloud.

Another reason for wishing to write you, is to tell you in what perfect order the box opened & how acceptable was each & every item. Each one speaking to my heart volumes of love in my far off home. I pictured to myself the group around the box as the contents were being put in. God bless you & reward you for all your care & thoughtfulness. I am well provided for, for the coming winter. God grant me a contented, grateful heart to praise him for all his blessings & all the love with which

Dunlop's. Sept. 27th, 1864. Contd.

he has surrounded me. The grist will be a great treat. We trade bacon for butter. Tomorrow our breakfast will be hominy & butter. Today we had some of the fruit for dessert. I had a present of white sugar from a lot sent by Charley Mitchell to the 27th. The Genl. & I enjoyed a mess & I sent Joe Adger a mess also. The stockings are grand & in them I think I can bid defiance to cold feet.

Another reason for wishing to write tonight is because the long deferred order for us to return to the trenches has come & we march at 5 A.M. tomorrow. So this is my last letter to you from this camp & I wish it to be long & pleasant for the pleasant memories which cluster around it. The beauties of the place itself, the perfect rest we have enjoyed, the better opportunities I have here enjoyed of private devotion, but also much to regret about neglecting many I might have embraced. Many pleasant letters from you & to you. And there has been a cessation of those daily casualties which like the solemn tolling of a bell was continually sounding in our ears. Since we have been here we have not lost a man. God has been good to us. Praised be his name. We are about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours march from the position we are to occupy. I will not leave until about 7 oc after forming the Brigade. I will return to have my things packed up. You will be busy about the house little dreaming of the long faces which are leaving their late pleasant camping ground. I leave it with a sigh, but try to exercise gratitude for the past & seeking daily grace for the daily need & a more perfect trust & stronger faith for the future, to go forward in the path of duty. Hope casts a bright ^{halo} over the future, & no matter how dark

Dunlop's. Sept. 27th, 1864. Contd.

& heavy the clouds there is always one ray which penetrates through which I look homeward, & although many days must yet divide us, I nevertheless hope for the time as not too distant as it seems when we may be permitted to meet in your cottage home & lift up our hearts with overflowing gratitude & praise for the Goodness & Mercy which fill the vista which once looked so cheerless & dim. Then we will wonder and rejoice over the past. Why not trust for the unfinished future. Let the worst happen. Shall we not praise him who is our God & doeth all things wisely.

I am truly sorry to hear of your bodily ailments. What a time you have had, Can't you run away somewhere & change the scene? I wish I could nurse you a while.

I have fallen heir to some additional bedding. Quite acceptable. 2 blankets and a bed sack &c which I will tell you about at another time, It would take too much time tonight.

It is now nearly 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ & I have all my fixing to do. I must make room in my valise for the Winter shirts &c just recd., fix up my papers & leave as little to be done in the morning as possible.

I am glad at the prospect of a new hat. You would be ashamed to see me in my present rig. I don't think you would recognise me.

I wish John would hurry on that suit. I need it dreadfully. I have written him several letters but have no reply. I will write him in the first leisure hours after going into the trenches, but there will necessarily be some delay.

Dunlop's. Sept.27th,1864. Contd.

I dont understand why my letters take so long to reach you & wish it were otherwise. Any important matter I will telegraph to you.

Good night. God bless thee and all our dear ones. The comforting cheering influence of the blessed spirit surround & fill thy heart. The abiding love imparting presence of our Savior abide with thee, & peace & joy crown each day of thy life. These things and all others that God our Father out of his abundant treasury of Mercy & love seeth fit to bestow- I pray constantly as thy portion. Love to all. Kisses & blessings on our dear little ones & hoping & praying that the day of our reunion may not be very far, yet seeking submission & patience under all trials that now seemeth so greivous, may ere long be Joyous, working out for a far more abundant & eternal weight of glory.

Good night my dearest & best beloved

Your dear Husband.

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 3rd, 1864.

Dear Liz

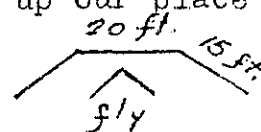
You must not expect from me for several days more than what must be called dispatches. We are hard at work erecting retrenchments. Having failed to dislodge the enemy from Fort Harrison, we are now building works called retrenchments to prevent any further success on his part. I will if I have time sketch off a plat of the position. We are on the James River about 6 miles from Richmond. The enemy having taken one of our salients, he has gone to work as hard as we & no doubt more vigorously to make his position impregnable. On this account, active operations have ceased during the last two days. The pickets & sharp shooters doing all the firing, even this is not severe. Yesterday we had one Officer & two men wounded & one killed - the latter was within 10 paces of me. Poor fellow, he spoke not a word & scarcely breathed. The ball entered the brain & life fled. The narrow stream was quickly crossed. And why not I? not because I am not exposed, not because I deserve exemption, but mercy thus far has overshadowed me & in tender compassion I am yet spared to pray & seek salvation. God grant that goodness may produce humility, penitence, love, & faith in a heart which has long been joined to its idols.

The impression today is that the enemy is returning to the south side. So we may leave here at any moment or we may remain here several days or weeks. Such is the uncertainty of our life. We literally know not what a moment may bring forth & while we have to work & arrange as though we were to remain permanently, we have at the same time to be prepared to move at a moment.

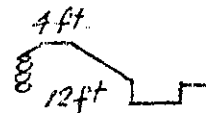
Chaffin's Farm Oct. 3rd, 1864. Contd.

I am constantly reminded of the force of the Scripture figure likening the Christian to a soldier. He must have his armor on ready either for defence or for attack. He must be prepared to go wherever his Captain orders & he must live in constant expectation of death.

We - that is the Genl. & staff - are fixing up our place for Hd. Qrs. We have a sort of redoubt shaped thus :
We build it by laying logs upon each other & secur-



ing them as they do in log houses. Then the earth is thrown against them, making a profile like the cut.



Behind this we have stretched a fly & on the ground pine straw. This makes good protection against rifle shot but artillery would make us leave our shelter for the stronger defences on the front lines. Our Waggon's are about a mile to the rear & our boys bring our meals to us three times a day.

My own impression is that the move in this direction is a feint. Grant can move much more rapidly than we can & my impression is he will make a dash somewhere else. The advantage we have is that our lines are so extended that the loss of any one part is not a very serious matter, but at the same time it makes many points liable to surprise & capture & these repeated successes of the enemy elates & encourages them while they depress & discourage our troops.

Dinner is announced & I will stop for the present.

Dinner over. Taken seated on the ground. Beef steak, & onions. Rice. Mashed potatoes. Biscuit. You see we are doing pretty well for poor soldiers, but how different it would be with even a more frugal meal around the family board. Oh I don't

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 3rd, 1864. Contd.

dare think about it. Patience, Hope, & Faith must build the bridge over the future, thru arches.

If all goes well I may be able to pay you a visit about Christmas. Recent movements seem to forbid your coming on, although Genl. Hagood still intends Mrs. H. to come. My judgment is even against her coming until things are more settled. He will of course be better able to provide for her movements in an emergency than I could & therefore your trip must be deferred for the present - great as is the disappointment to me.

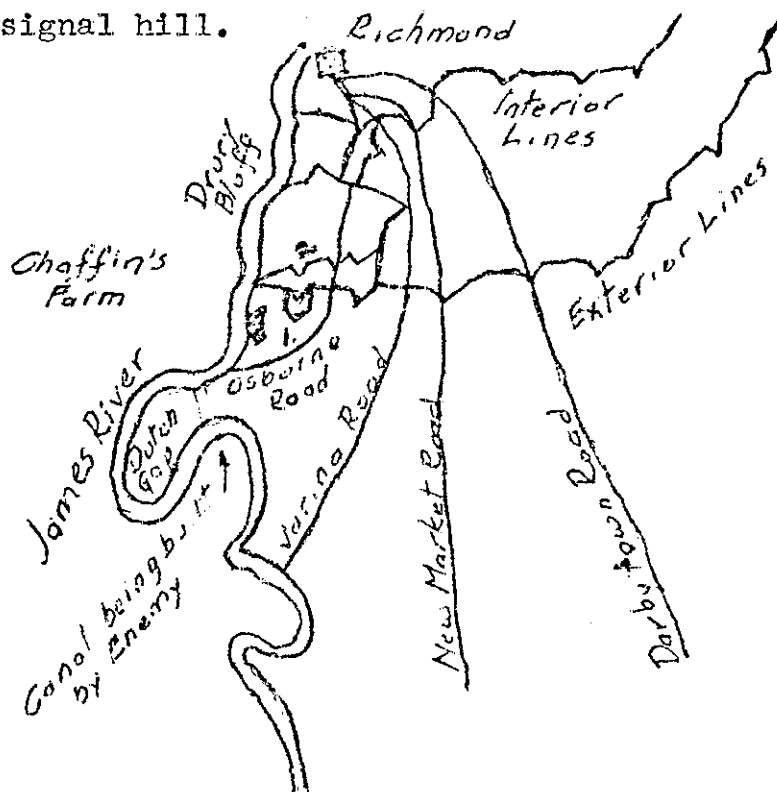
Can you tell me why I do not hear from John Moffett ? I am wretchedly in need of the things I wrote to him for, especially the Sack coat & my bear skin. Ella certainly could not have delayed forwarding the cloth after all I said to her about my need. Do write to him & urge him to hurry all he can. If he can not at once send the clothing &c do send me the sack I brought from Eng. It is homespun - only light. If you have enough of the homespun to make a full circular cape, I wish you would have it made up instead of a suit of clothes. It ought to measure a yard or (better) one and one eighth from the collar to the tip & form a perfect circle when spread out. Can you have such a thing cut out ? I would be very glad to have it. It ought to be heavily lined & with two inside pockets. I do hope John will not delay about my suit. I will suffer if he does. The winter season is approaching with rapid strides & if my life is spared, I must have the clothes. I will mention one other want which he may be able to supply - a few pearl buttons for shirts. By the way one of my calico shirts is in a bad way - except for rags.

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 3rd, 1864. Contd.

I will send you Charlie's letter by tomorrow's mail.

I have not heard from you for three days. Why ?

This is a rough sketch of the position. No. 1 is the redout taken by the enemy. 2 is our new line of retrenchment. 4 is signal hill.



The mail has come & I must close.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones & Heaven's best

Blessing on you all.

Yours

George.

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 5th, 1864

Dear Liz

Everything continues quiet today. Even the pickets have ceased their fire and only hostile spades are busy. We have done a great deal of work & much remains to be done to make our line perfect.

I am surprised, no I am not surprised, but a little annoyed that so many false reports have been circulated about Genl. Hagood & the affair of the 24th. He received orders from Maj. Genl. Mahone to press the enemy vigorously, and Genl. Mahone was on the spot himself & put the Brigade in motion not 200 yards from where they met the heavy fire, beside this both Genl. A.P. Hill & Genl. Mahone have repeatedly admitted that the fault was theirs & expressed their regrets. They both acknowledge that they were ignorant of the position of the enemy & in fact did not know that the works from which came the deadly fire existed. Genl. Mahone has publicly stated that if the other Brigades had obeyed their orders as perfectly as we did the attack would have been successful. Their failure to press forward brought the whole brunt of the battle upon our devoted band. It is but an act of simple justice to have these facts known. It is a shame to decry one who has acted with so much devotion to our cause by false statements.

No doubt if your husband's life is spared to be useful, you will hear similar stories about him. At present he occupies too insignificant a position to be a mark for slander, even envy.

Charlie's conduct has been misconstrued & some very hard things are said of him. The last story heard from So. Ca. is

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 5th, 1864. Contd.

that his men have lost all confidence 'in him.

The papers today have very encouraging accounts . The news from Georgia if only half true is splendid. In the West equally good. If we can only check Grant here I venture to predict that by the 1st of November we will be elated at the prospect. We are fighting against time. Lincoln & his Generals are doing their utmost to win great successes before the 4th Nov. If we can frustrate their designs, success is ours. The few advantages they have gained will go for naught & the spirit of the Northern people will give way under the failure to take either Petersburg or Richmond. By the 4th Nov. it will be known who is elected. Should Lincoln be successful he will have plenty of time to operate in & the great end for which he is laboring having been attained, viz his election. He will I think set to work to endeavour to accomplish a peaceable end to the conflict. If McClellan be elected Lincoln wont feel like working for him & so in either case we have much to hope for.

But there is a gap between now & then & every thing depends upon whatever God wills between now & then. Our lesson in Psalms this morning is full of deep comfort & encouragement.

Yours of the 28th just recd. Strange I recd one dated 30th yesterday. Have only time to say thanks.

Sorry to hear of Billy's lameness & your cold & Charlie's attack. Hannah More is very useful to me. God bless you for sending it. I heard from Calvin this P.M. He is well. So is Robt. Brice's son. But Simonton is missing. Some of the men hope he went to Richmond with other wounded, but the most fear he is wounded & in the hands of the enemy. God bless you all.

Your devoted Husband.

In the woods somewhere between the Darby-
town & Charles City Roads. Oct. 8th, 1864.

My dear Liz

You see I have so little hope of doing any thing more than write you a hasty line that I even start it upon a soiled sheet. But short as it may be, it recounts with feelings of deep gratitude an other instance of God's mercy & deliverance. Very soon after closing my letter of the 6th we recd preparatory orders for a movement which was shrouded with more than usual mystery. We marched out of the trenches we had labored night and day to throw up. At 9½ P.M. it was a peculiar sight by light of the camp fires to see the long strings of men moving noiselessly along. Arriving at the turnpike (Osborne) we saw all the evidence of busy preparation for some important movement. Artillery hurrying forward. Brigade after Brigade moving into position. At length the long column of Field's & Hooker's Div. formed - marched forward. We were on the march until 3 A.M. Slept until day dawn & advanced. The point of attack was the lines captured by the enemy from Gary's Brigade. Fields began the assault & soon the rattle & roar of battle swelled high. The cheers of our men told that thus far we were successful. Our Division was to continue the movement if it was deemed practicable. We were marched into a wood & formed line of battle. The shell & shrapnel fire was very severe, the most severe we have ever experienced in as much as the enemy had obtained perfect range. We had several casualties. It was a trying day, subject to shell all day until 3 & all the while expecting to be ordered to charge. Genl. Lee concluded to do nothing more that day & we moved away & bivouacked. We ^{captured} 12 pcs Artillery, 200 horses & a number of prisoners. Genl. Gregg was killed. Genl. Bratton

In the woods somewhere between the Darby-
town & Charles City Roads. Oct. 8th, 1864.
Contd.

wounded. Col. Haskill (James Col) badly wounded. His brother
Maj. Haskill wounded. An unfruitful day.

God be thanked it was not more disastrous. I lay
down with a grateful heart & slept sweetly & refreshed. I praise
my Maker for the mercies of the past & seek protection for the
future.

God bless you all.

In haste

Yours as ever

George.

Lines near Fort Gilmer

between Darbytown &

Charles City Roads.

Oct. 14th, 1864.

Dear John

I was very glad to receive your letter of the 6th. It relieved my mind in several respects & chiefly with regard to the accident to your little ones, of which I had heard a variety of rumors. Poor little Maggie. What a sufferer she must be. It is bad enough to think of men being wounded on the battle field but to think of women & innocent children being made the subject of the mad hate of our enemies makes ones blood boil. I sympathise with you with all my heart, & while I rejoice that it was no worse I am very sorry to hear of the painful wounds to which your little ones & Miss Margaret have been subjected.

We had a pretty severe fight yesterday - that is it lasted long. Our loss was very slight but we slaughtered them. They attacked our lines in front of Gary's Brigade ---- & Field's Division in four lines of battle & were handsomely repulsed. Negroes were mixed in with white troops & were piled together as they came up. We did not advance from our lines & therefore can not estimate their loss but it must have been very severe.

We are momentarily expecting another fight today. Every indication goes to show that the great final battle of the campaign is about to be fought & the impression seems to be that the battle field will be here. Grant is crossing troops

Oct. 14th, 1864. Contd.

over to this side of the river. Some how I feel that we will win. God with us, we certainly will. Grant is a tough colt. It is very hard to hold him in one place long enough to strike him, & he moves rapidly to points where we are vulnerable.

Would to God it were over & peace once more shining upon us.

My position on Genl. Hagood's is A.A.G. as my promotion has not yet been confirmed by the War Dept. owing to some defect in the last Staff bill. In consequence of which Old --- Jeff stuck the bill in his pocket, & there it will stay until Congress takes some action upon it. Genl. Hagood has seen the Dept. & he has no doubt about my appointment being confirmed. My position is as pleasant as if I had my full rank. General Hagood treats me with the utmost kindness & imposes as far as far as I can judge full confidence in me, leaving much to my judgement. If ever we get into a big open field fight, I will have every opportunity to distinguish myself. Genl. Hagood goes into the thickest of the fight, & I will be with him as long as it is God's will to spare me.

I am dreadfully home sick & as soon as the active work of the campaign is over I intend to apply for leave if my life is spared. But as long as the fighting continues I must stay to bear my part.

I am delighted to know that you have the cloth at last. Hope it will soon reach me in the shape of a good warm suit. I am suffering greatly for it, & never --- in all my life presented such a --- shabby appearance as at present

Oct. 14th, 1864. Contd.

I am literally in rags. Do hurry them on as fast as possible. Send them to Richmond by express if you have not already shipped them. I hope you secured the Cavalry boots. I will need them. If the hat Eliz. sent is not a good one, do exchange it with Steel or Williams. There is no economy in the lower priced ones. Dont forget the Cayen pepper, & if you can get a small " Increase Wilson " coffee mill into the box send it. But I hope that before this reaches you, the box will be on its way. I assure you I need its contents dreadfully.

As to the Bonds;- I think it will be best to wait until I get a furlough, which may be some time in December.

Be sure to send my bear skin.

Love to Georgie & the children. Kind remembrance to Mr. Burckmeyer & Miss Bennett, & all enquiring friends.

Tell Theo, Stoney he must come on & pay us a visit & if he will bring his rifle, I will promise him abundance of game.

Affectionately yours,

George.

Between Darbytown & New Market. 18th Oct. 1864.

Dear Liz

I owe you a longer letter than I will be able to write you this afternoon, for your affectionate one recd yesterday. I have been steadily employed all day or I would have fulfilled my promise given in my hasty note to Bessie yesterday, by writing you a "long letter". But really I have felt very stupid, as you no doubt have discovered during the last few days & am not yet in writing trim. My head is kept full by the ever recurring details of office duty. I am now however getting along very smoothly having at last obtained something like order in the office & got my papers arranged & classed.

Several of our officers captured on 21st Aug. have been paroled & paid us a visit. I made particular inquiry about poor Jamie, & the universal testimony is that he was Killed. I intend writing Charlie tomorrow. I think it is best for him to write to them & let them know that all possible hope is gone. I pity them from the bottom of my heart. I felt sure from the first that he was among the killed & that it would be best for them to know it at once. I fear it will be harder now than ever for them to submit to the trial. God sustain & comfort their hearts. The trial is a severe one & needs his sustaining & sanctifying hands.

Genl. Hagood had his horse to fall with him day before yesterday. His ankle was sprained & he has been sent to the rear by the surgeons. That is he is in Richmond with his wife. Opportune is it not.

Everything is very quiet here. We can hear the music of the enemy morning & evening. I cant imagine what will be the

Between Darbytown & New Market. 18th Oct. 1864.
Contd.

next move . We occupy a very strong position. Should Grant attack our front the slaughter will be very severe. Every effort is being made to increase the number of fighting men. Cooks, teamsters, Clerks &c are being sent to the front, & it is not unlikely that negroes will be employed as teamsters. Our Brigade is gradually increasing.

I do pray that we will not be engaged with the enemy again this campaign & may God hasten to close all its active operations. I do so long for a leave of absence. You will say we are not like the Clarks. I would have been in some lunatic asylum by this time. I try to keep up a contented spirit & look with hope to the future - perhaps the last of Dec. or 1st Jan. as the time when I may get off & pay you a visit.

I saw James on Sunday. He is quite well, although he tells me that he has not been well.

Charlie -- I have not heard from since the letter I sent you. I do not know how the defenses of Wilmington are arranged. He mentioned in one of his letters that they were very powerful.

I must close. God bless you my dearest with his constant presence & with you our dear little ones. Love to all.

Your devoted

Husband.

Lines near Richmond. Oct. 19th, 1864.

Dear Liz

I wrote you a very unsatisfactory note yesterday & I don't know that my effort today will be more successful, but with a heart willing to do its best, & a hand ready to do its bidding, I intend to make the effort to fill this sheet before the Mail man can hurry me, & therefore while the fresh & early rays of the sun are making the leaves sparkle as if covered with diamonds, & the cool bracing atmosphere of the early morning gives vigor to every purpose, I will make the start.

Oct. 20th. You see by this instance how uncertain is every thing in Army life. See with what a bright promise of success I started. I would not send it now but as an instance of the impossibility of calculating any distance of time ahead. It is now 5½ P.M. & I positively have not had the slightest opportunity of writing & now I am doing what I sought to avoid. I would postpone but Your dear affectionate letter just recd can not remain without acknowledgement however hasty it may be this P.M. Your last sentence has a full echo in my heart.

My Tweed overcoat is not sold or given away. I have it with me, but it will be very poor protection against the severe winter of Va.

I had a long talk with Genl. Lee this morning. I was presented by Genl. Kirkland & in the absence of Genl. Hagood went around our lines with him receiving his directions. He is anxious yet he says he is confident of success. All we want is men & these are coming in now.

As I wrote there is heavy firing going on on our right. A severe battle is going on there. We have not yet heard

Lines near Richmond. Oct. 19th, 1864. Contd.

what it is or where. It must be near Chaffin's Farm yet the firing sounds distant enough to be on the other side of the James

The clouds threaten rain. I had our tent pitched in anticipation of bad weather.

Your picture of Saturday eve at your dear home is as sweet to me - yes infinitely sweeter than Burns' picture. God bless you all & may it continue to be a home of peace & happiness. May no evil ever invade it. May no evil tidings check a constant flow of deepest gratitude from your heart.

I am glad at the encouragement that your letter gives me that John's box will soon come. And I hoped to hear of its arrival on Monday next at the farthest.

God bless you all & comfort & sustain your hearts by his presence. I hope to write you tomorrow. Love to all.

Your devoted Husband.

Hagood's Brigade. 13th November, 1864.

Dear Liz

Another Sabbath day without the privilege of public worship has passed away. It is sad to think how greatly this day is thus neglected. I miss the sacred privilege very much & it is impossible but these injurious ^{effects} must result. It is so in my experience I feel tonight that the day has not been spent as it should have been. I experience the want of those influences which are obtained in the congregation. I have at odd times enjoyed the Presbyterian you sent me. Both copies are excellent. There is a higher tone in the paper than formerly. You can form no idea how nearly impossible it is for me to spend the Sabbath as I should. Scarcely a moment of the day is at my command. I am not now trying to excuse myself for as each hurried day closes I review its hours. My own conscience condemns me & recalls lost moments of improvement & opportunities which might have been turned to better account, & if this conscience so blunted condemns, in how much more distinct a form must my wrong doing & not doing appear to the all seeing & holy God. Thanks be to his name. The mercy seat is near the throne. How awful would be our fate were it not for him who sitteth thereon. How many judgements due for our frequent daily transgressions & omissions has He averted. Blessed Advocate. How long suffering is his love. How patient & forbearing. Oh that my heart would love him as it should, but wandering, erring, unfaithful & perverse. Other objects lead it astray & engage it when all devotion should be fixed. There & only there & dead it too often grovels amid earthly objects. Lord help. Lord hold me up lest I stumble. lead me in the paths of righteousness-- should be my constant prayer. How soon we get to lean upon our selves when we cease to

Hagood's Brigade. 13th November, 1864. Contd.

lean upon Jesus & then we find not out our error until we have fallen so low that we loose sight of him & satan & our own blinded eyes keep us stumbling in the dark. Oh for a closer walk with God. There and only there are we safe from pitfalls of the world, the flesh and the devil. There and only there will we find the light we need to light us on the way. There & only there are we glad to cast away our selfrighteousness. Lord make me more watchful against the snares & temptations from within & without & keep me ever more under the shadow of thy wings.

I hope you have had a peaceful happy day. I long for a Sabbath at home once more,

Today has been very cold. Snow fell this afternoon but did not last long. Winter is coming upon us with slow & stately steps. His approach is not as rapid & remorseless as I had expected.

Last night we were on the alert. Genl. Lee having received news of the movements of the enemy indicating an attack in our, but the night passed off quietly. Again tonight we are ordered to be vigilant as the enemy have been provided with 5 days rations. It may be that we will have a busy week, perhaps active work. Perhaps I ought not to write you this without being able to tell you more, as it only excites fears & anxieties. Trust in him who stands ready to help you whatever be thy burden.

I send tomorrow by Cases a box of sundries.

Good night. Angels guard you & the dear ones at home.

Monday morning. 14th Nov./ 64.

The enemy are making better use of their 5 days rations than fighting over them. We had everything on the alert last night

Hagood's Brigade. 13th November, 1864. Contd.

expecting an attack. I was up at 5 or a little after. The dawn was glorious & day broke with a silver splendor. Everything was as quiet as the grave except the sighing of the bleak wind & the sound of Reveille as drum after drum along the line summoned the men to arms. It is a glorious day. Bright, clear & cold, very cold but bracing. The sun most brilliant.

We surmise that the 5 days rations may be for a march further south. May be that Grant may extend his lines southward into North Carolina. If so our Division will be the first to follow him. We are living at present being issued but corn meal & either of which is like Castor oil to me & in the present state of my bowels is trying. I don't think I ever told you this at home- chronic Dysentery. I have free from it since first attacked at Cold Harbor. It does not affect my general health at all & indeed I have been better in other respects. The only perceptible effect is that I am becoming a little corpulent. I hear that James Moffett starts for home today. I would like to have seen him, but will not be able.

I am sending to Richmond today for a lb. Butter 12¢ a lb. & a lb. sugar 12¢.

Personne is to take supper with us tonight. He wrote to Genl. H. inviting himself over. He may therefore write a letter to his paper from these Hd. Qrs. If he does cut it out & let me see what he has to say.

I hope you are enjoying this brilliant day at home. What a day for the children to romp in the yard. God Bless them.

I have sent in the box which left here this morning

Hagood's Brigade. 13th November, 1864. Contd.
the tweed cloak. Unless you need it at once for the children do
nothing with it until you hear from me.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones.

I have not had a letter for three days.

As ever your devoted

Husband.

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864.

Dear Liz

After four days silence, I heard from you by your very welcome letter of Nov. 11th only received today. I was a little anxious as your last letter spoke of dear Charlie's sickness, but I attributed your silence to preparations for your visit to Columbia. You have been so little of a traveler lately that I imagined you were putting yourself to a great deal of trouble getting ready providing against contingencies which might never arise. I am glad that you have not done so & suppose that now your visit is over & you are safely back home & cosily ensconced before a cheerful blazing fire this dark gloomy winter afternoon, engaged in thoughts of the coming Sabbath & perhaps thinking of the absent one far away amid scenes of possible strife & battle.

Guns are sounding their angry boomings & have been all day, but not in our neighborhood. Toward Bull Gap there is continual shelling from our batteries upon the working parties of the enemy, who are straining all their energies to complete their work.

Sunday Night,

My dear Liz:- I ought not & would not send you the above were it not some evidence of my good intentions & the purpose I had. I was hindered where I left off & intended to write you at night, but when the leisure time came, I felt so wearied that to have written would have been to me a task rather than a pleasure & to you a dull letter at best. I felt all over Saturday night weary in body & spirit & retired early. At about dawn we were roused by sharp musketry & artillery on the right. I was truly grateful that it was not near enough for me to get up.

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

ened by his strength in her heart so sustaining her that her tribulation may work out patience & hope. I trust your visit may do her good & that even Bessie with her talkativeness may conduce to withdraw her mind from her great grief. I think it would help them all to have one of you with one of the children to be in the house with them. If your Aunt should propose it I hope you may do so. Poor fellow, how different his fate from Robert's, & yet who would dare offer the difference as a source of comfort. Robert died at home in their sight, tenderly nursed & anxiously watched over with the daily expectation that he would be taken from them & yet how little consolation have they had in his end. Jamie died upon the battle field bravely - fell a martyr in a sacred cause & no nobler victim has bled. He died perhaps the death which beyond all others he would have preferred. He fell doing his duty to his country, to himself, & to his home. But all this will give but little consolation to those bleeding hearts. His memory is mingled with Robert who was very dear to me. He was possessed with many noble traits of character. He was brave & free from selfishness, possessed of a tender, loving heart. He was kind & affectionate, unobtrusive & sincere. My feeling to him was one of mingled friendship & brotherhood.

I hope you will have time to write me again from Columbia. I am anxious to hear more of your Aunt. Do remember me to them when you write.

Continue to draw what you need as heretofore. I do not know exactly how I stand on the books of J.E.A. & Co., but all must be right as I have not heard from Brown. I intend writing to him in a day or two for a statement. I wish you would make some

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

settlement
with Calvin for the corn we have been using from his crib for the
horse - fodder also.

I laughed heartily over your account of your adventure with Billy. If you had only thought of it you might have sent the Harness down & had it repaired in Cola. Cant you write to Mr. Bennet & have it attended to. I fear by this time it is a miserable affair. I dont hear anything about Andrew's riding nowadays. I hope he has not been demoralised by the fall you wrote about some time ago. I am very grateful that we will not be obliged yet to part with this great means of convenience & enjoyment. It is a great comfort to me that you have it & I will not part with it as long as we can honestly enjoy it.

I did get the little hymns you enquire about & thought them very sweet. It was a neglect on my part not to mention them.

You ask who is A.A.G. if I am A.A.A.G., why there is no A.A.G. & I am A.A.A.G. If I obtain my promotion I will be commissioned A.A.G. There is but one Adjutant General - who is Genl. Sam Cooper. He is the President's Adjutant. All others are Assistant Adjutant Generals. As I have not received my Commission on what is called the General Staff, I am known as Acting Assistant Adjutant General or A.A.A.G.

I am very glad Dr. Palmer has taken such high ground in our cause & hope his discourse will be published. I will be anxious to read it.

Mr. Boyce has I fear done us serious injury. We are now I think in our darkest hour. What we need is patience & endurance. It is now against these two qualities that the

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

enemy is directing all their efforts. They are trying to wear us out. If we can by God's help convince them that we can & will submit to anything but departure from the principles for which we are contending, even they will admire the grandure & sublimity of our position. God has his purpose to work out. I believe that he looks down with sorrow (if we can impute to him anything so human) upon our unfortunate strife & would say peace be still & no doubt will so soon as his purposes are accomplished. Whatever those purposes may be, we must believe that they are wise & merciful, and although we know not what he designs to accomplish, we do certainly know that we deserve his judgements for our sins, our sins as a nation, as individuals & our duty is to be circumspect in all our ways & thoughts, to walk humbly before him & seek pardon for ourselves & our fellows & in our prayers to emlore him to accomplish his purposes & grant us patience, humility & submission, to pardon our enemies who equally with ourselves have incurred his anger, remembering that they are but ^{instruments} in his hands to accomplish his designs. In my opinion when Christians become submissive, obedient, humble, faithful & penitent God will stay his anger. All his judgements are meant to work out his own glory & the Church is the instrument to accomplish this purpose on earth. Oh that his grace which he is ready to grant may soon be poured out & his inscrutable purpose be accomplished. One thing I think above all others we should avoid a spirit of rebellion against him. We should crush ever rising complaint. We should seek his face with a " what will you have me to do " spirit. Our worship, our daily life should be a waiting upon God. What more wouldst thou have me to do ? Thy

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

grace is sufficient for me, only thou my leader be. Let us avoid prying into his purposes. Let us cease wondering why we are called upon to suffer so long, but rather seek a spirit of meekness to endure all his righteous will & day by day look to him for the grace which he can provide for every necessity & trial. When we arrive as Christians to this state of heart it may be that God will stay his anger. Meanwhile let us not impeach his justice or his goodness. Let us not with unfaithful hearts complain against him.

We are looking anxiously for this campaign to close. Some think Grant will continue it through the winter & that he is now waiting for reinforcements to strike what he hopes will be a final & decisive blow. My hope is that there will be no more serious campaigning in the neighborhood & that the time is near at hand when I can feel that the campaign is sufficiently completed to justify in applying to Genl. Lee granting me a Leave of Absence. But the prospects are too uncertain for me to encourage you in any hope that I will be able to do so soon. Meanwhile let us cheer our hearts with past blessings & trust for the future, rejoicing in the present & with thanksgiving make known all our wants.

Genl. Lee's A.A.G. told Genl. Hagood a few days ago that the order for Charlie's return had been issued, So we are looking for him daily. I don't know whether to be sorry or glad. He will not like it but I am clearly of the opinion that it will be best for him. I am glad that it has been effected by Genl. Hoke's application rather than by Genl. Hagood's.

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

It is late & although I could chat away the entire night with you I must close. Love to all. Kiss the little ones for dear Papa. Be sure not to give your pet more than your share. I am very curious to see him. I hope he is quite well again.

God bless you all with choicest blessings, preserve you & keep you & ever surround you with his love & mercy restore us to each other to praise him for all his goodness.

Good night. You cant write too often.

God bless thee.

Your devoted

Husband.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 21st Nov. 1864. Contd.

Do the best you can with it.

As to the 4% bonds. I think it will be best to have them transferred as you propose, but I am not sure that it will be best to sell them. You say they are bringing 70. Do you mean that for this the interest is included? There is or will be on 1st Jan. due about \$200 interest. As well as I remember I have \$6,200 so invested & by 1st Jan. a month's interest or thereabouts (a little more) will be due, so that if an opportunity arises to improve the investment you can sell out & use the money. Meanwhile use the amt. you now have with the 4% in reserve. The two together will give you about \$8,000 to operate with & situated as you are I think you ought to be able to improve its bulk.

Send the certificates on at once , as our movements are very uncertain. Fill up the certificate of transfer so that I have nothing to do but sign my name. We have plenty of Magistrates here before whom I can sign it.

Try your luck now at bold speculation, on a small scale. You never have been bold enough in this way, or you might have been a rich man by this time. Small as the start may be you may by activity do something for both of us.

The rainy season seems to have set in We have had a continuous shower for the last two days & it is now falling with somewhat renewed vigor. I hope it may put an end to this campaign. On some portions of our line there is no reason why it should cease on account of the weather but if the roads become bad active movements must be necessarily suspended. Until the campaign closes no furloughs will be granted & I long to pay a visit

Lines near Darbytown Road. 21st Nov. 1864. Contd.

to my family. I hope when I do get a leave you will be able to run up & see me.

I had to get \$300 (three hundred dollars) from George H. McMaster the other day. You have no idea how much a man has to spend out here. I drew upon you as Agt. for J.E.A. & Co. for the amt.

If you can secure a pair of those cavalry boots, dont miss the chance. The few days rain we have had show how little use any thing like a shoe or light boot will be in this country. If possible get them as near my size as you can, say ^{larger} two sizes _^ than would fit you.

Genl. Hagood has promised me to let me have a supply of Bacon, lard & peas from his surplus for this year at the Govt. prices. The only difficulty in the way is packages & shipments. He thinks abt February they will be ready & he proposes for you to go to his place on G&C RR Chappels Depot with packages. Spend a week or so there packing them & attending to the shipment. Do you think you could manage it ? It is worth thinking about. Let me know.

I am sorry to hear that Georgie is suffering as you describe & hope the children continue to improve.

There is a probability that we may be ordered south when the campaign closes. Sherman's movements may hasten our departure.

What do the people in Charleston think about the war ? I hope Boyce's letter has not demoralised them. In my opinion if we are only true to ourselves & the cause , we can so thoroughly defeat the plans of the enemy that by Spring we

Lines near Darbytown Road. 21st Nov. 1864. Contd.

will have inflicted upon him such blows as will persuade him to a better mind on the subject of peace than is put forth by Button. Sherman's army ought to be entirely demolished & I see no reason why it should not be done. Grant can do nothing here until Spring. & by that time we ought to be thoroughly prepared for him.

I wish you would get from John Russel a copy of Genl. Jamison's book & send it to me by mail.

Love to Georgie & children. Remember me to Mr. Burckmyer & Miss Bennet. Write soon.

Yours affectionately

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 28th Nov. 1864

Dear Liz

I had no expectation of writing to you but cannot refrain expressing my anxiety on account of your long silence. It is now a week since I have heard from you. What can the matter be? I cannot satisfy myself with any other supposition than that you are too unwell to write, but it seems to me that you would have got some one to write the state of the case. I will be greatly worried if I do not hear from or of you tomorrow. I have imagined all sorts of possible hinderances without impeaching you- the mail, the R.R. & all other causes which might possibly have deprived me of this my greatest pleasure. I can not do more than scratch a line . I am being interrupted every minute.

Things remain very quiet in this neighborhood. The papers say we are to have a grand battle before the campaign closes. At present there are no indications of it, yet there is no reason why we should not. The weather is fine. Today is warm rather than otherwise. The roads are good & Richmond is yet in possession of the Confederates. It may be that Grant is waiting for Lee to send away a part of our Army against Sherman. This I dont think will be done for some time, if at all.

Now is a time to bring out all the skulkers & if they find that on all occasions the Army proper is to do their fighting they will continue to stay at home & reap their harvests of ill gotten gain. If their homes are worth fighting for, let them go forth and do something for their country.

I am confident that Sherman must fail.

Today we received a lot of papers. Referred to Genls. Hoke & Hagood -- very complimentary -- from both subordin-

Lines near Darbytown Road. 28th Nov. 1864. Contd.

ate & superior officers.

I dont know now whether he will return or not.
I have not heard from ^{him} since 10th. I will if possible take a copy
of the papers & send them to you.

I am deeply interested in the review I am making
of our campaign & will send you the first sheets with this.

I am having built for myself a nice apartment
of which I will give you a description when completed.

Love to all. Kisses to the children & Heavens
best blessings on thy head.

Yours as ever

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 29th Nov. 1864.

Dear Liz

Yours of 21st & 24th came to me only a few minutes ago with Bessie's dear little note & relieved me not a little beside being very acceptable in themselves. I infer although you do not say so that you have finished with the dentist & now I hope you have gotten over the soreness consequent upon the treatment & are able to enjoy some comfort in your visit, as much as circumstances will admit of.

I am just finishing an addition to the house we occupy - for my own private use & therefore will only write you a few lines to accompany two more sheets of my "review"

I am feeling very well & hope by the mercy of God to be able to pay you a visit. It will not be I suppose until after Grant makes one more desperate effort to take Richmond. We are looking for him to make a movement now nearly every day. The weather is fine & I see no excuse for his idleness unless he is waiting for the completion of the canal. His next effort will be a desperate one. The fighting will be very severe. God defend us.

I am becoming anxious about your obtaining supplies. Calvin's hints seem significant. Do notice carefully & don't press the kindness of your friends too far.

I hope to be able to write you very soon again.

I suppose by this time you are back at home. Oh how I long to get there.

God bless you all. Kiss the little ones.

Yours as ever

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 1st Dec. 1864.

Dear Liz

You must bear with my short hasty notes for a while. You see how I am engaged & although you may think it a dry record yet some of these days if our lives are spared it will be pleasant to go over the " review ".

I recd your affectionate letter of 25th only a few moments ago.

I am glad you are remaining so long in Cola. Hope your visit will be of mutual advantage.

Glad too that you wrote to Jim Connor. I will be curious to know his reply. I wish as you do that he would ----- but ----

I write chiefly today this first day of a new month & it the last of the twelve to congratulate you on all the goodness experienced in the past, to express praise to our God for mercies past & unite with you in prayers for the eventful days which remain in this eventful year. How much is wrapped in the days before us, how pregnant with events. Who but the all wise can tell what may be ? It behooves us to live near his throne, to walk with him. Oh that he may bless us. Oh that he may preserve us.

The dying year. We are near its close. Oh how solemn are the moments, How they fly. How soon its record will be complete

God be with you my dearest in these remaining days & bless you with his presence.

Poor Alex. I have nothing to say. God deliver him from the snares that beset him. My heart yearns over him. Would

Lines near Darbytown Road. 1st Dec. 1864. Contd.

that I could do him good.

Love to all.

Dont be weary with my review. Set it aside if you tire with it. If spared to visit you this winter, we will read it over together. Openput the sheets in some large book so that they may if possible lose the crease.

I am quite well .

We are expecting some move by the enemy. The weather is lovely- favorable for Grant if he designs an attack.

I have a letter from Charlie today. He is gloomy, & low spirited. Looks at the dark side. Ella is with him.

My room is finished. It is very snug. I wish you could peep into it. Not just now however as it is all in confusion.

God bless you all. Love to all & kisses to the dear little ones. May Heaven shine brightly over you & the peace of God fill your heart.

Yours


George.

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864.

Dear Liz

In the few hasty lines written just before leaving Hd. Qrs. enclosed with three more sheets of my review, I told you of my intention to come up to the City for the purpose of attending service, & here I am in the third story of what used to be the Ballard or Exchange Hotel. I started at about 1½ P.M. It is about 1½ hours light ride. I don't remember the date of my last visit here; only about a month ago I think, perhaps not so long ago. If I am not mistaken I mentioned in one of my letters how beautiful the country looked. The rich & somber robe of fall being over everything. I was much struck today by the great & rapid change; the bare & leafless trees standing like spectres, their glory all gone. One thing I saw which made me very sad. You remember I attempted a description of our bivouac on the night of the 7th Oct., just after the fight on the Darbytown Road, in which I spoke of a noble old oak which sheltered us. I must have spoke of it in glowing terms for I remember well how I lay upon my back & enjoyed ^{gazing} through its noble branches at the moonlight as it made its way through the thick foliage, & the stars as they twinkled in the far beyond. It was a grand old tree without one sign of decay. The frosts & storms of a century no doubt had passed over it & vigorous & strong in its age seemed to defy the coming years. Today as I rode by on my way to the City, My grand old tree lay a sad victim to the more ruthless hand of man. The axe had done what neither time or storms would do. The king of the forest lay shorn of those glorious branches, through which the moon & stars looked more beautiful. A lifeless shapeless trunk was all that was left. I really felt sad. Oh the havoc war commits.

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864. Contd.

Whole forests have been swept from this country since we moved here with the Army. A large amt. of wood is consumed for fuel, a still larger quantity for building, for fortifications & quarters. Only think of a street 9 miles long - houses constructed of logs. It is a queer sight to ride along this street & observe the various styles of architecture from the old fashioned Indian hut  to really respectable log houses - some of them of really respectable size. And you would be astonished how comfortable they are. But what destruction has been caused for this. In only the short space of 1 month I was amazed at the havoc. And on it goes. Oh Lord how long ?

I had a little while before dark to knock about & went to the Presbyterian publication rooms (what horrid paper). I wanted to get some reading for myself, but could find nothing. I then looked for something for the children, but they have nothing except " Our Father's Con " & that you have . What a touching story it is. I sent one by today's mail to Lizzie. I enquired about your paper. Your name had been scratched out by mistake for somebody else. They promise to send you the back numbers & I paid them for an other day's subscription. They promise it shall now go regularly. I got a child's first reader which I will send for Anna. For myself or for you (if I can get them to you) a set of the gospels & Psalms like what I sent the children but a size larger. They are very nice.

Then as I had forgot to bring a candle with me (for I intended to spend the evening with you & for this purpose brought pen, ink, & paper & intended to bring a candle too) I started out to buy one & by it I write . A very fair tallow for which I paid \$2.

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864. Contd.

I met Jim Carson here. He has just returned from his wound recd. 15th May. He shocked me very much by telling me that your Aunt Mary Henry was buried the day he left Cola. You mentioned her sickness but I had no idea it was serious & therefore was not at all prepared to hear of such a result. Your poor Aunt Ross. I grieve for her. God help & sustain her under this second stroke. May she be able to see the love which thus afflicts her. Were you still in the house ? You must have been. Her end must have come suddenly at the close. Give my love to Aunt Ross & tell her how my heart goes forth for her. I hope you will remain as long as you can do the good you may do in that house of mourning. God be with you all & sanctify to all concerned these mysterious providences. I hope that Mr. Bennet was not taken from them at this trying time. Oh troubles are on every hand. How we should tremble as we rejoice over the goodness & mercy which has been our portion in the past. How few are the houses into which death has not entered. Why are we passed over ? Oh God give us humility, holy trembling, holy fear, hearts & tongues to praise & pray. Teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. How constantly do we need this touching . How slow we are to walk in wisdoms ways. God be merciful to us & ever lead us in the paths of righteousness. We need often to be reminded of duty.

It would be very pleasant - my dear Liz - could you be here & join with me in commemorating the dying love of our risen Savior & mediator. I pray that I may find that it was good for me to go there. I shall think of you as there, & while the blessings I expect, visit me may your soul also be refreshed from on high. I go that this cold heart may grow warm, that these grov-

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864. Contd.

eling desires may become holy longings & that my whole soul shall be filled with that life giving presence which is able to make me rejoice with joy unspeakable & full of glory. I thank God that my heart has been inclined to seek this opportunity & that nothing has happened to prevent thus far.

I fear I have written you a dull letter. I have had a head ache all day & it has increased tonight. This must be my excuse. What a mass of written material I have sent you in the last week. It must have overwhelmed you as an avalanche. I hope they have all gone straight. The last sheet is numbered 14. Do when you write me let me know where I leave off. If you have patience to read them do correct any errors you may detect. I fear there are many. I often have to write under very unfavorable circumstances.

Sunday 3 P.M. Only a line, Dear Liz, to close my letter before returning to Quarters.

I attended service at St. Pauls. Dr. Minagarode. The service was very solemn. I trust I may have recd. grace & strength. Oh me. How hard it is to rise to the glorious privilege of children of God. When we should soar, we crawl & grovel. These services so well calculated to lift us up fail to do for us all they might for the want of that faith which should elevate the soul & exalt our whole natures.

I have suffered all day with head ache & last night got very little sleep on account of this, & a toothache, something new for me. I hope to be better tomorrow.

I will be disappointed if I do not meet a letter

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864, Contd.
at Quarters.

God bless you & all our dear ones. Kiss the children. You know how entirely I am thine.

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road .6th Dec.1864.

My dear Liz

The sad news contained in your last, 30th Nov., I had already heard as I told you in mine from Richmond, from Capt. Carson. It shocked me greatly & I sympathise deeply with that mourning household. It was well for you to remain. Without some one to be with them under their circumstances would have no doubt added greatly to the severity of their grief. Oh what a land of mourning is ours. How few who have not buried a loved one. I tremble sometimes at our exemption. God in mercy preserve us from ingratitude or improper use of his great mercy. I was particularly struck with the universal bereavement of our land in Church on Sunday last. St. Pauls is a very large church, its capacity greater than any of ours, & I dont think there were more than two ladies who were not in deep mourning. What a harvest the old reaper has had & the end is not yet,

Before the few days left in the fast declining year shall have passed away, great & fierce battles will doubtless be fought, and I fear that when next the clash of arms in Virginia is heard, the results will be bloody in the extreme. Grant's next effort will be in my opinion his most powerful & he will not begin until he is almost certain of success. On the other hand our armies will fight only as men can fight who have everything at stake. How great is the comfort that the battle is not to the strong.

What fountains of comfort are found in today's readings of the Psalms. May we so trust the Lord as to obtain the blessings which David found. I sent you a copy by mail. If you would like more for gifts, I can send them on to you. The gosp-

Lines near Darbytown Road. 6th Dec. 1864. Contd.

pels also of same size, as well as some of smaller size. They are low in price. The Presbyterian board have also "Blind Bartimeus" a series of discourses by Professor Hoge. I bought a copy & am now reading it & like it very much. The subject of the book will readily suggest its character. Would you like some of these also? I will send you my copy as soon as I finish it. I get very little time for reading.

I wrote John to secure me a copy of Genl. Jamison's "Bertrand du Gueschlin" which he has done & sent to me. That too I will send. How much better it would be to be the bearer. Oh me.

Yesterday I wrote out my application for leave intending to send it up this morning, but last night Col. Graham's application to attend the Legislature came back endorsed by General Lee that he could not be allowed to leave under existing circumstances. It was a wet blanket to me & therefore mine must be postponed. Genl. Lee evidently does not think the campaign at an end & the papers seem to be of the same opinion. In fact everybody here with but few exceptions believe that there will be a great battle fought in this neighborhood in a short while. Until Genl. Lee is satisfied that active operations are over no leave will be granted. I am enabled to feel patient & will not complain. God's will be done in this as in everything else, is the spirit I strive to maintain.

The President reviews us tomorrow & we expect to see a large number of ladies present on the occasion - unless they are frightened away by the reports in the papers of the expected fighting. The weather is charming.

Lines near Darbytown. 6th Dec. 1864. Contd.

I have written you a dull letter. I am not myself & have not been for several days. Sick headache & toothache. I woke at 3 this morning. Tossed restless until 4. Got up & did not return to bed. I think it is an attack of indigestion & hope to be over it in a few days.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones.

Heaven's best blessings attend you ever prays

Your devoted Husband

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade. 8th Dec. 1864.

Only a line this morning, Dear Liz, to relieve you of anxiety, which may disturb you when you hear of the movements now going on. For this reason I will at least send you short dispatches daily until the present excitement passes over. You ought really feel complimented. Here I am writing words to relieve which to most of your sex would produce the opposite effect. You see how much confidence I have in your stability & the trust you repose in him who over rules all events.

The enemy are from all appearances about to make their grand & final effort to take Richmond (at least for this campaign) Yesterday afternoon just at dark we received orders to move out of our present position. All was hurry & bustle & in half hour I was packed & ready. About 7 P.M. we started - where we knew not - except that we were to cross to the South side, the enemy being reported moving in that direction in strong force. Two Brigades of our Division crossed the river, but we were halted before going so far, & were marched a short distance back to obtain shelter in a wood for Bivouack.

Near by was a house which tempted us greatly. At first the proprietor refused to admit us (Genl. & Staff) saying his family were sick. We were about taking the wet ground, when the old fellow came to ^{me} & asked for a guard to protect his property. This I acceded to cheerfully & always do to such applications, as my heart sickens over the ruthless devastation which I witness in the track of troops. The old fellow seemed to appreciate the cheerfulness with which I supplied the guard & the strict orders I gave to them. He then told me he would arrange to give us one of the two rooms of his log house. The exterior did not

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade. 8th Dec. 1864. Contd.

promise much comfort. It was a common log shantie built in the usual style. But we no^sooner entered the house than our hearts warmed up (mine did). Everything was clean to perfection & an air of home comfort permeated everything. A clock upon the mantle. On either side old fashioned china candlesticks. A bright cheerful fire burning below. Old fashioned chairs. An old time crockery cupboard such as you only see now in the chambers of our maumas. And so everything told of how the good wife & daughter (who were in bed in the next room) (you wont blame my eyes if they did see more comfort in that chamber) were " stayers at home" not gadders abroad. A single picture on the wall told something more of their history, and I know they are Romish in faith from the highly colored picture of the siege of Limerick. And now I have saved the best for the last. In one corner was a very comfortable bed & in it I had five hours sweet sleep. The Genl. & myself occupied, the rest took the floor. We were roused about 5 A.M. & returned to these our old quarters. Here we are, but we can not tell how soon again we will have to move.

I am grateful, truly grateful, my dear one to be able to write for your comfort that there are no present indications of our being engaged. I thought last night that we were about to be engaged in bloody work & was able to look with comfort to Him who has blessed in the past & to feel that whatever might befall, I would trust him. Pray for me that His Spirit may never desert me.

I had deeply to my regret to tear up your affectionate letter, or I would have it before me now to reply to. I suppose by now you are back at Geneva. It almost amused me to read about how you missed the children. Poor little things, I have no

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade. 8th Dec. 1864. Contd.

doubt they missed you. It makes me sad to think how little they know of me. Another year & they will feel that I dont belong to them. As for poor Charlie - to him I am a myth. And Anna will not I fear soon forget papa's big hands. Andrew & Bessie seem to claim an ownership in me. May God over rule all for the best, as I have no doubt we will one day see clearly, it is. It may not be until we meet in our Father's home, where partings will be no more for ever - for ever.

John writes me that Alex says he will refund the amt. I advanced. I wish to write John to the effect that I want Alex to know that I will not receive repayment. The fact is I do not wish to add to his temptations. It causes me a bitter pain to feel so , but I know you will cheerfully yield to this loss, from your sympathy with me, & agree with me as to the propriety of this course.

I expect I am wrong when I say that the " Circular " should be a perfect circle. The Idea is to have it so full that when seated on Horse back it will cover the body completely. When standing it will reach just beyond the tips of the fingers -arms extended.

I prefer to settle with Calvin as soon as possible. Dont let them put you off yet I would not offend them by your urgency. I am feeling a little better today. I have taken cold. The mail man has come. Do write to John for me.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones for me.

Yours as ever

George.


Lines near Darbytown Road. 10th Dec. 1864.

My dear Liz

It was not for the want of a good & earnest purpose that I did not write you last night as I promised, on the contrary I had as I supposed but one thing to hinder me, and as you yourself created this, you can not exercise the weakness of your sex. Without fearing your jealousy therefore, I will proceed. Your affectionate letter gave me great pleasure & strengthened me in the purpose I announced in my last of writing you short daily dispatches during the continuance of active operations here. Only I felt sure that with that loving letter before me, mine would have spun itself out indefinitely. I was in the humor too. I never had a more perfect assurance that we would remain quiet for at least 4 or 5 days. At your suggestion therefore I sat down & first began a letter to Jim - before I would write to you. I had completed the most important part of my letter & was just about to indulge in some fancies which memories of old times had conjured in my brain, - when a courier arrived handing me the unwelcome order which broke off my letter to Jim & prevented yours being written.

We were ordered to move at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. with three day's rations. It was sleeting heavily - the ground already 2 in. deep & every prospect of the continuance of the shower or fall. It seemed from that moment to patter upon the roof with sharper spite & nothing could have been more venomous than the hissing that it made as with more blinding haste it fell. I hurried through my letter to Jim & set my hand to packing up. It was very late when I got through with all the arrangements to

Lines near Darbytown Road. 10th Dec. 1864. Contd.

be made. I thought I might write you a line but could say nothing but tell you we were to go out in all the sleet & mud with the expectation of remaining out for three days. It would have been a gloomy letter. But the fact is I am too tired even for this. I lay down at 1 P.M. & gave orders to wake me at $4\frac{1}{2}$. Our line was formed at $5\frac{1}{2}$ according to orders, but had to wait in the cold air & three inches of sleet until 7. It was bitter cold. The men suffered severely. I was well off, for the first time putting on a pair of the heavy drawers & my 2nd under shirt, & then with your heavy wool socks & my scarf upon me & my bear skin beneath me on the saddle & the gloves upon my hands, I scarcely felt the cold. At 1 we went over the Breast works & down the Darbytown Road to feel for the enemy. The movement was only to ascertain the strength & position of his works, to threaten him on this flank so that A.P. Hill might dispose of the raiders who had started out on our right. Some skirmishing took place on the extreme left. All was accomplished that was intended & we were notified that at dark we were to return. It was a relief to know that we would not have to lie down in all the ice & slush it created. The marching was awful. Our horses suffered terribly. I had to get down six or seven times to chop the ice from poor Barney's feet. It would collect in the hoof & then gather like a snow ball, to such an extent as to protrude below the hoof 3 inches. In other words his shoes would be 3 inches from the ground.  We had to hold the foot up & with our axes or stirrups chop it off. Sometimes it became so bad that the poor creatures could not stand upon their feet but would

Lines near Darbytown Road. 10th Dec. 1864. Contd.

slip & slide in every direction. It was really painful to ride them. I was in fear & trembling all the while that I would find myself wallowing in the mud, but we were rejoiced after a while to get to our homely home.

A few necessary preparations detained me & down I sat to tell you of the move & return & thank you for your affectionate letter. I did not get further than the 1st page however before I felt so weary that I had to stop. I resumed a little while ago. It is now 4 P.M. & only a few more minutes and the mail will close.

I wish you had been more inquisitive & pumped Jamie more. I am very curious to know what impression I have made on Johnson Hagood.

I don't know whether I am right to tell you or not but I suppose I may trust you. I have made my application for leave, which will go up tomorrow morning. I think it is very doubtful whether I succeed, but I will make the effort hoping for the best. I expect to hear from it in about five days, perhaps not so soon. The condition of the roads yesterday ought to convince any reasonable man that the campaign here is over. Genl. Lee however has a way of thinking on this subject peculiar to himself & he may not agree with the reasoning portion of the community. If my leave is granted, I will be the happiest man in the army & I imagine when my wife hears it she will be the happiest woman in the Confederacy. To air castle a little. If it be favorable say, I will leave here on the 19th. It will take under the most favorable circumstances say, about 33 hours. This should land me at Yonques at 3 P.M. of the 20th, just in time for Christmas. I may not hear

Lines near Darbytown Road. 10th Dec.1864. Contd.

from my application so soon- it may be 10 days. Say I start on 21st, I am then due on 22nd at 3 P.M.. So if you hear no unfavorable news in the meantime, dont be surprised,& tell me you have no turkey or minced Pies, plum pudding & etc. I am not hopeful of success so dont be too bouyant.

If I get my leave I will tell you^{all} about my letter to Jim. I have not heard from Charlie for a long time.

I must close. The ground is still covered with sleet & it threatens to rain or snow.

Love to all & kisses to the children.

Heaven's best blessings shine upon you.

Yours as ever,

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 13th Dec. 1864.

I would write you a long letter today but the prospect is not promising. A crowd is around me & all talking making my brain confused and trying my temper not a little. The day is bitter cold. To keep warm I am compelled to get so near the fire that my face is scorched, & my hands remain cold & cramped.

You know I wrote that I intended sending forward my application for leave. I did do, but it had a short trip. I send you copy of endorsement. Both that of Genl. Hagood & Genl. Hoke are flattering & worth preserving.

" Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade. 12th Dec. 1864.

Respt. forwd & recommended for favorable consideration.

The applicant has a record for gallant, efficient & faithful service in this campaign of which he may well be proud.

(signed) Johnson Hagood, B.G. "

Dec. 13th, 1864.

" General-- If this application goes forward now, I will have to disapprove it in the conscientious discharge of my duty, and feeling that a furlough is due to Lieut. Moffett as much as any officer of my command, I would be pleased to see him have it. In consideration of which I suggest that he withhold it for ten days.

Respectfully

(signed) R. Hoke

Maj. Genl. "

The usual form would have been to return it disapproved, but you see that Genl. Hoke goes to the trouble to explain why he does not send it forward, & at the same time pays me a slight compliment. He afterward spoke kindly of me to Genl. Hagood &

Lines near Darbytown Road. 13th Dec. 1864. Contd.

sent me a message by him to say that if I preferred forwarding it at once, he would do so.

These little things are a soldier's pay. They warm his heart & reconcile him more to the hardships & privations incident to his life of endurance than any other reward which can be offered him. In my position this is peculiarly the case. I am so frequently called upon to exercise discipline that I do not receive favors from those below me, & you know although I do not rank as high as Col., yet the usage of the army is such that Cols. have to pay deference to the A.A.G. It is therefore very pleasant to receive these tributes of esteem from superiors. Genl. Hagood has been peculiarly kind in this respect & has repeatedly expressed the kindest feelings toward me & by his whole conduct denotes his entire confidence in me. He is strongly recommended for promotion & his chances are good. He told me this morning that if he received it he would apply for me to go up with him. But to return you see by the endorsements upon my application that I am on probation for say 15 days. How long it seems. Patience oh my soul. Well, I will if nothing prevents, renew my application on 22nd. It will be about six days before I hear from it, & say 2 days to get home, so you may reasonably look for me about 30th, & we will have a happy new year together. My heart swells at the thought. It is worth waiting for & when it is realised all that has been endured will seem as nothing in comparison with the joys, the quiet joys we will then experience. I dreamed of you last night. We were in close embrace. The waking was a sad disappointment to a sweet dream. Oh well we can now look forward with some assurance of hope that by the 1st January we will once more be reunited.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 13th Dec. 1864. Contd.

I am now without a clerk & have a great deal to do.
Caldwell has not treated me well, but left me when I had my hands
full.

I felt sure I would get a letter from you today ,but
have been disappointed. I suppose it is owing to your return home.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones & Heaven bless thee
my dearest one, ever prays

Your devoted

Husband.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 14th Dec. 1864.

My dear Liz

With very little prospect of writing you a letter, I nevertheless will attempt(interrupted twice already) to say a word or two in reply to your affectionate letter of 8th. I am glad to know that you are at home once more. No doubt you received a hearty welcome. Charlie must be an affectionate little fellow. I have great fears that he will be spoiled by his good Aunts however. I envy you on account of all the enjoyment you have with these dear little ones & long even for the short period I may be allowed to share it with you.

You say nothing at all about receiving the numerous packages I sent you in rapid succession containing what I had written as a review of our campaign. I am frightened lest they have fallen into wrong hands. You surely would have acknowledged the recd. of them at least. I did not expect you to wade through them, but surely some of them must have gone right. I think I sent you as many as 14 sheets, each were numbered in regular sequence. 1, 2, 3, &c so you can tell if any are missing. Do write about this at the very first opportunity. They cost me some labor & may be of interest some of these days. I am still working upon record with the hope of bringing it up to date before I receive my leave of Absence-- which if all goes well I hope to obtain by 28th. If so you may look for me from 29th to 31st - possibly the 28th. My letter of yesterday will show you what my chances are as far as it goes, but Genl. Lee is the grave which may bury my hopes. The weather has greatly moderated this morning. This is not favorable so far as the closing of the campaign is concerned & of course leaves of absence will depend very much on that.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 14th Dec. 1864. Contd.

You must secure the Hogs alluded to in your letter. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. If the owner does not live too far from you, take some good day - the first that comes - & ride over yourself & fix the trade. Dont forget to look at the animals however. Buy all he will let you have. He must not charge more than government price & ought forpharity sake charge less, Do the best you can. You have succeeded very well in such matters heretofore. Try to out do yourself this time.

You close your letter in a very tantalizing way telling me you have a doz. letters & dont say if any are from me.

A man just from thirty days furlough is in the office & has just said that he advises every body to stay here & not go home at all. He also tells me it takes 4 or 5 days to get to Columbia. So there is no knowing when I will arrive even if so fortunate as to get my start.

I have today ordered Andrew Adger to report to me as clerk. Caldwell has left me, not acting well at all, leaving just when I had a great deal to do, and when he knew I was about to apply for a leave.

I sent my box to the Association with a note to Mc Master requesting him to direct it for me to Cola. or Yonquesville as might be best. I will make further inquiry about it.

Love to all. Kiss all the little ones & a Merry Christmas to you all. God bless you & cheer your heart under all the difficulties, trials and anxieties which press upon you by his ever abiding presence & keep your spirit in perfect peace. Hoping soon to be with you.

As ever with fondest love,

Your devoted Husband.

22nd Dec. Danville, Va.

My dear Liz

We left our camp at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.M. on 21st. It had been raining & sleeting hard for some hours. The roads were awful. It rained & sleeted on us until 9 A.M. I have never suffered so severely. We took the train at Richmond at 11 A.M. & arrived here at daylight. How I spent the night you may imagine when I tell you I literally poured the water out of my boots & my clothes froze hard & stiff upon me.

I have been very busy all day & in this breathing spell write to let you know that our present destination is Wilmington. It depends upon the movements of the enemy whether we remain there or not. I will write you as opportunities arise.

God bless & comfort you. And enable us both to submit with patience to this new dis-appointment. All will be well.

If we move beyond Wilmington we may possibly go down the Charlotte road. You will know by troops who will precede us our entire Div. is on the move.

It is bitter cold & the troops are suffering terribly.

Love to all. Kiss the dear little ones.

Yours as ever with increasing love,

George.

Somewhere on the Piedmont R.R. 23rd Dec. (1864)

Broke down. The coupling between the Engine & the train ^{pulled} out & we are unable to go forward. The Engine has gone on with the empty car, hoping to repair. Meanwhile we have built a fire in the woods & wait the result & resting & hoping some opportunity may offer to mail this. I scribble you a line, my dear Liz, to give you all the bits of information as to my whereabouts &c.

We left Danville this morning at daylight. It is very cold. I was up all night waiting for a train to send forward ^{more} some of our Brig.. The cars were promised me before dark & then every hour on during the night, I was made to hope that the train would be ready. All that bitter cold night I was kept waiting. I laid down under frozen blankets upon the frozen ground & got about an hour's refreshing sleep. Col Orr H.V. Johnson & a few other M.C. got on with us. It was refreshing to see how these law makers put up with the inconveniences which surrounded us.

We have two ladies with us too, whom we are making as comfortable as we can.

We are still as far as we know destined for Wilmington. We hear that B with 2,000 men have gone there. My own opinion is that their destination is Charleston, & that we will do our next fighting in So. Ca.

1:15 P.M. We have come to another halt Miserable transportation. Delayed 24 hours at Danville & 8 hours consumed in travelling 9 miles. 32 hours & only 9 miles passed. Off we go again.

Dec. 24th (A.M.) We made about 5 miles when the engine broke down again & again we were at a halt, but this time

Somewhere on the Piedmont R.R. 23rd Dec.1864.Contd.
the prospects were even worse than before. Telegraphed for engines & the promise given that they would be furnished, but here we are & the prospects not improved.

And Oh what a night in a box car with about 20 negroes & as many whites & filled with baggage & oh how cold. It was a

night.Thank God it did not rain or sleet or snow, but it was bitter, bitter cold. Fortunately for me a negro fellow lay half the night partly upon me. That gave some warmth.

If these delays continue I will have frequent opportunities to write to you on our way to Wilmington. I will certainly write you by every opportunity which offers, & do not be uneasy if there be delays.

We will be moving about a great deal for some time direct to Wilmington.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones.

May God bless you all.

Yours as ever,

George,

Near Wilmington. 2nd January 1865.

A happy new Year to you, My dear Liz, & to my dear little ones & all the loved ones at home. Christmas has come & gone without a greeting. New year day has passed too and only now on the 2nd day can I by this cold medium wish you the usual salutations of the season. We have much to make this a happy season. Great deliverances have been vouchsafed to us in the past & now hurried year. Life & health, exemption from many troubles, gifts of goodness & mercy have been & still are bestowed. Surely we should be happy & thankful. The very troubles which surround us, the trials which beset us & the gloom which over shadows the future - are not so great & disturbing, heavy & dark though they be, to hinder us from rejoicing this day over our portion. God grant us thankful hearts & forgive the ingratitude which shows itself in tones of complaint & acts of disobedience at the very time when our voices & hearts should be tuned to praise & our whole life & conduct regulated by love, obedience & gratitude.

On Christmas day we were on the cars until dark. Saturday the 31st we were ordered to march from the neighborhood of Fort Fisher to Wilmington. There was some delay in the issuing of rations, in consequence of which we did not start until 5 P.M. We marched 4 miles & bivouacked. It was cold & rainy & as night came on the sleet & snow began to fall greatly to our discomfort. There is no luxury in sleeping upon the wet ground & no shelter from wind & sleet & snow. Genl. Hagood had been quite unwell & remained behind leaving me or rather sending me in charge of the Brigade. It was some time after dark before I got the different Regiments located for the night. Cold & wet I set about finding quarters for myself & staff. Fortunately

Near Wilmington. 2nd January, 1865. Contd.

There was a house nearby, & I obtained the cheerful consent of the owner to occupy it for the night. It was late before my clothes were sufficiently dry for me to lie down & when I did thoughts of the past & future so occupied my mind that my sleep was disturbed. I had given orders that we would march precisely at 7 A.M. & directed the sentinel to call me at 6, but I woke at 5, & got up & ready for the days march. We had 13 miles before us. It was bright & clear but bitter cold. I suffered much from the cold in my feet. Riding at the head of a column of troops on a march is a slow & tedious business. Two miles an hour is the most that can be accomplished. It is a constant effort to prevent the column even at this slow pace being elongated & often after the leading Regiment has halted it will be 15 or 20 minutes before the rear has closed up. We reached Wilmington at 2 P.M. & there received directions to march two miles beyond & bivouack. Here we are with Hd. Qrs. in a negro house, the Genl. in one room & Lt. Ben Martin, Andrew, and myself in the other, & the Brigade in a neighboring wood. They are very well provided with what are called shelter tents which when pitched are about 4 ft. high but affording shelter for three men lying down. They make a pretty encampment. They consist of three pieces which button together to make the tent & are very portable when apart, each man transporting a part.

It seems strange to me however that this Division should be kept here idle when they might be employed in so many other places. It is to be hoped that our Generals have good reason for so doing.

We do not fare as well here as we did in Va. The rations are inferior & not so abundant. No coffee or sugar is

Near Wilmington. 2nd January, 1865. Contd.

issued. Corn meal & bacon (Nassau) is all we get. I will lose some of my flesh here.

I have not yet heard from my application for leave of absence, but hope to hear tomorrow from it. I am not very sanguine, yet it will be a severe disappointment to me if I am refused. If leave be granted I will start on Wednesday at 8.A.M. & hope to reach Yonques at 11 P.M. Thursday. It is so uncertain however that you must not send for me. If I get there I will be enough to foot it over. I think I can find the way. A sort of natural instinct will lead me to the spot where my heart dwells, & I will not weary on the way. Beside I will find it hard to pass so near Mother & Sisters without stopping. So I may run up there & spend a night with them.

Again Genl. Hagood has applied for leave & he wishes if possible that we start together. This may delay me a day or two. So you see the uncertainties are so great that it will not do for you to send for me. I don't mind the walk a bit.

I have been too busy to go to town & can't tell whether Ella is there or not. I have heard nothing from Charlie. I wrote to him but recd. no reply.

I have no letter from you later than the 16th & long to hear from you. When last here the letters used to come promptly. I look for one tomorrow.

My pen can not tell any good wishes for you in the beginning of this new year which your heart does not already know fills my breast, with prayerful hope for its accomplishment. Yea all that a loving heart can desire for the object of its deepest affections; blessings temporal and spiritual, peace of mind,

Near Wilmington. 2nd January, 1865 . Contd.

joy in God, fellowship & union with the blessed Son, communion with the Holy Spirit. May all of earthly good be added to Heavenly blessings & may your mind & heart be so stayed on God that you may not be afraid of evil tidings, but so balanced that in all things the will of thy Heavenly Father will be thine also. All that I do wish for thee^{my} wife, my precious - precious one is more than tongue can tell but which thy heart knows full well. All that mine can wish of good, of peace, of joy - is thine. May Heaven grant it to thee, & when this year has rolled away & has left upon the shore of the past eternity, may you have even greater cause for grateful praise than now. God grant that with winnowed hearts we may be all united & permitted in peace to dwell together for years to come nurturing the little ones he has given us. Good night. Again I say do not be too sanguine about my visit.

I do not know how long our Brigade will remain here, neither do, I know its destination. We all expect to move further south but have no information upon the subject. There is to me a certain charm in the uncertainties of this army life.

Good night & God bless you all. Hoping amid fears soon to be with you-

As ever

Your devoted Husband.

Hd. Qrs. Fort Ander on. 9th Feb. 1865.

Only a P.S. to tell you that our alarm last night was needless.
A scouting party from the enemy frightened our pickets. All very
quiet today.

Anxious for news from So. Ca.

Love to all.

George.

July 10th, 1865.

I have only a moment, my darling, to say to you that you had better return to Spartanburg taking Sisters &c with you . I would give anything to see you only to see you away but it is impossible. I am greatly jaded having been up all night long & been moving about ever since.

Thank God I can feel that your trip has not been without some benefit to our dear little one.

You had better draw from Brown about \$ 250.00.

God bless you my well & best beloved. Love to all. Remember us in your prayers. Kiss all the little ones.

Ever my darling,

Yours

George

Circumstances of the capture of Hagood's Brigade on the 20th Feby. at Cowan's Place on Town Creek near Wilmington, N.C.

About 10 A.M. being in command of Hagood's Brigade, I sent out 21st & 25th Regts S.C.V. under Maj. Wilds of the 21st, to relieve the 11th S.C.V. which had been placed on picket at Cowan's the night before. Within an hour after Capt. Wescoat commanding 11th came in & I saw him conversing with Genl. Hagood. He rode off in the direction of Cowan's & a short time afterward the Genl. called me to him & instructed me that the enemy were reported by Capt. W. to be landing at Cowan's and that I must send off the 27th S.C.V. to reinforce the pickets and go in person & take command of the troops there, retaining the 11th- That it would be best to attack them. I suggested that they would be under cover of the gunboats - he said that he knew that, but it would be best to attack them & at least get a few prisoners. I sent off the 27th & went with them. This was about 11 A.M. - Cowan's is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ from the place we were lying - at the old church on the Smith Road to Wilmington about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Town Creek Bridge. On reaching the picket reserve, I found that the enemy had driven in our pickets about 300 yards from Cowan's gate & I heard that they were in force in front. I put the 27th in line of battle on the right of the road leading from Cowan's & the 11th on the left of the road - I ordered the whole of the 21st & 25th on the picket line as skirmishers. Then visiting the skirmish line I saw that the enemy were in considerable in our front apparently extending to our left. They were very close so that their orders could be distinctly heard & they seemed to be advancing. On my return to the main body, I retired the line about

30 yards. placing a sort of pond in my front & putting in position to command the road a section of Artillery which in the mean time had reported under Lt. Raudin.

The Enemy not advancing immoderately I went out with Capt. Stoney on a personal reconnoissance on our left front and then found that the Enemy were advancing their right to the telegraph road, leading past ---- & McElhenny's to Wilmington. It seemed necessary to change my dispositions which had been made in anticipation of an advance from Cowan's - & to guard both roads & I had already sent off a dispatch to Genl. Hagood stating the necessity for guarding both roads & my inability to do so with my small forces. My plan was to withdraw --- to the fork of the Cowan & Telegraph Roads, so that my right could rest on one & my left on the other. Returning to the line I found that the Genl. had been there and had taken off the 11th & had changed the 27th from the right to the left of Cowan Road. Very soon after he returned --- 27th, told me that he had placed the 11th on the Telegraph Road, & calling up Capt. Allston, Comdg. 27th, ---- as instructing together. He ordered me to take special charge of the left - Allston of the right. That we were to hold on until we were driven back-- that we should fall back on each road until we met at the ford - if one reached there before the other, to wait for him, and to block the Telegraph Road as long as possible. If I was unable to hold the road, I was to retreat across it to a road cutting through the woods to the Smith Road - checking the Enemy as much as possible & in that event acting as his rear guard. He then took off a piece of artillery I had placed on the left. I committed a grave

error in not ascertaining from Genl. Hagood the precise position of the 11th, but supposing that they were on the continuation of the line of Allston, I went out on that line & to my surprise found that the left of my skirmish line had been driven in, & had run off & that they were to the rear of Allston. I stopped them & restored the line & went after Wescoat & the 11th. I found them on the Telegraph Road, below the ford & advanced them on the road toward the enemy, in order to prevent Allston from being flanked. He in the mean time had been compelled to fall back. As soon as he came to the line selected for the 11th retired the whole line a little and put out a strong skirmish line keeping up a connection between my two flanks with a small force of cavalry which reported to me just then. My orders to the skirmishers were to extend in front of the enemy & if they more than covered his front to form at right angles on each flank covering my flanks. They reported that the enemy were extending to the left. Observing closely this movement I began to fear that I would be flanked on the left & at once sent off a courier to Genl. Hagood informing him that the enemy were moving in force to my left, & that I could not hold either my present position or the Telegraph Road at all. The columns of the enemy were at some distance from me. The object of my message was to give the Genl. notice of my inability to stand between him & the enemy on the Telegraph Road, so that he might leave the position at the bridge & Church in time. The courier came back & said that he could not find the Genl. & that all the troops had left the bridge & the church & that he saw no one at all. I sent the Cavalry to the left to ascertain the position of the enemy &

get ready to move.

We had not reached the ford and not yet been seriously attacked. Just at this time Capt. Stoney came up with orders to move & whilst he was speaking the enemy advanced in force on my front. I told him to say to the Genl. that I could not move to the flank then as I was attacked in force, but that I had to draw the enemy back. I then went to the line of the 11th. This Regt. had made use of the short delay to dig a small trench, & cover themselves a little. On their front was burning woods. The enemy advanced in line. Not one of my skirmishers or cavalry came in. We opened with Artillery & rifles. His skirmish line was drawn back, but his line came on & by sheer force of numbers ran over & overpowered the left. My flank was thus turned. They surrounded & captured the most of my command. *

The 11th fought under my eye. They stood firm, holding their front without flinching & did not cease firing until the enemy were among them. My piece of Artillery was served with great gallantry & the gunner was cut down in the act of firing the piece. The attack was directly in front of my left & the enemy had - as Genl Casement (who commanded a division temporarily) informed me between 6,000 & 7,000 men. They came up in lines of battle. I was taken on the line of battle & surrendered to Maj. Genl. Cox in person.

The woods were so thick that I could not see the whole line, but have reason to think that the right behaved well also. The enemy held on our line & the columns which were on our left & which seemed to be attracted by our fire came up after we were captured & halted also.

The 21st Regt. left & but few were captured . As they

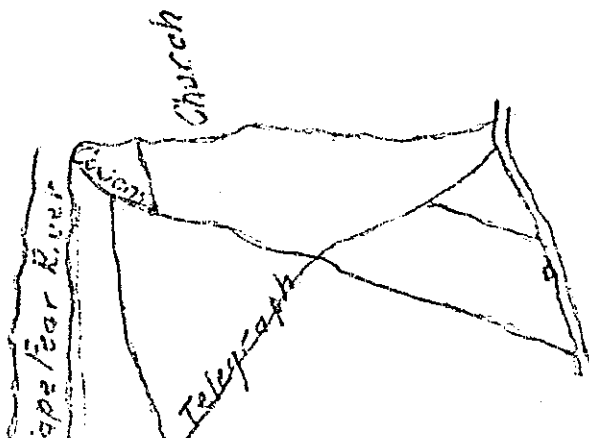
were on skirmish line & did not come to my main line at all.
I think that they behaved badly.

The whole capture consists of :-

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Officers | 27 |
| 11th S.C.V. | 90 |
| 25th S.C.V. | 45 |
| 27th S.C.V. | 150 |
| | ----- |
| | 312 |

I learned of the capture in conversation with General Casement & Col. Wilcox 177 --- that the enemy crossed the creek from Taylor's place to Cowan's on rice flats at --- & that they marched on the back road to Walus place. The troops that drove in our pickets in the early morning were Marines from the Navy who had landed from gunboats.

* Some of the officers & men actually engaged seeing that the enemy had broken the line, endeavored to save themselves by flight, but they were all captured, some at the bridge & some more at the Church & some between the Church & Wilmington on the Smith Road. The conduct of the skirmish line on the left - all of whom escaped - deprived me of any certain information of the advance of the army.



TO THE MEN OF HAGOOD'S BRIGADE

in South Carolina.

A large number of officers and men of the Brigade, captured at various times during its long and arduous service, are, or soon will be, in this State upon the usual parol furlough. A very considerable number of the command are, also, in the State absent without proper leave. A minority of the whole is in the field. In the present interrupted condition of communication, both within the State, and from the State to the army, Gen. Johnston has thought it necessary to adopt some other than the usual means to secure the prompt return of these men to their standard, and has ordered me to repair to South Carolina to give my personal efforts to this desirable end.

It will be seen by the orders annexed that a pardon is announced to those who avail themselves of this opportunity, and that General Lee solemnly declares that no general amnesty will be again granted.

My Headquarters will be at the terminus of travel on the Charlotte and Columbia Railroad. At present this is Blackstocks. Members of the Brigade absent without leave will report at once to me at that point to be forwarded to their commands, or will report, when more convenient, to the enrolling officers of their respective districts, to be by them forwarded to my Headquarters. They will bring with them all rifles and accoutrements in their possession.

Exchanged men will report as above as soon as they hear of their exchange, and if not exchanged at the termination of their parol furlough, will report to me instead of to the parol camp

at Richmond.

Our regiments have a sufficient number on the rolls to save each from consolidation. They are not for the present to be consolidated, and your speedy return will ensure the continuance of your service in the organizations to which you are used, and in which you naturally desire to serve. Among the absentees are some who, in a moment of weakness, oppressed with the toils of war, or perhaps influenced by exaggerated accounts of the sufferings and trials of the dear ones at home, have fallen off from their standard and sullied a glorious and hard won record. Let these men return and blot out the memory of their weakness by again standing shoulder to shoulder with their battle scarred comrades, under Johnston and Lee, on such fields as we have before, and will win again. The greater number of absentees without leave from the brigade are, however, those who, coming home on proper leave, have allowed a spirit of sloth to overcome them, and insignificant reasons to detain them from their duty. Let these men recall the spirit that animated them when almost single - handed they held the myrmidons of Butler at bay, at Waltham, until the arrival of Beauregard's avenging army. Think on your triumph at Drewry's; your services at Cold Harbor; at Bermuda Hundreds; the sixty seven days in the trenches on the Appomattox; the bloody but glorious Sunday on the Weldon road; the Richmond lines; Fisher, Anderson, Town Creek, Kinston, Bentonsville. Will you let such a history terminate ingloriously: and the verdict of posterity be, that the men who made the record perished in the making, and the degenerate survivors were unable even to sustain the weight of glory their more gallant comrades had already won?

To the returned prisoner I have nothing to say, but to name the rendezvous, The man whose captivity is oftenest owing to the very manhood which carried and kept him to the front on returning from the insults and indignities of a Northern prison, cannot sit patiently by the ashes of his desolated home, with the wail of outraged women and foodless children in his ear, while a fair blow may be struck for freedom and vengeance.

Soldiers of the Brigade -comrades of so many fields - you have never failed me before. Rally once more to your colors and let us again fling their tattered folds to the breeze, where they have so often floated, first and foremost in our country's battle.

April 6, 1865.

JOHNSON HAGOOD, Brig.General.

General Orders
No.2

Headquarters Armies of the Confederate
States.

February 11th, 1865.

By the authority of the President of the Confederate States, a pardon is announced to such deserters and men improperly absent, as shall return to the commands to which they belong within the shortest possible time, not exceeding twenty days from the publication of this order, at the headquarters of the department in which they may be,

Those who may be prevented by interruption of communications, may report within the time specified to the nearest enrolling officer or other officer on duty to be forwarded as practicable, and upon presenting a certificate from such officer showing compliance with this requirement will receive the pardon

Diary Notes of George H. Moffett,
Hagood's Brigade, S.C.V.

1865.

- Feb. 19. Evacuated Anderson. 3 A.M.
- Feb. 20. Evacuated Town Creek. 4 P.M.
- Feb. 21. Reinforced Genl. Hoke.
- Feb. 22. Evacuated Wilmington.
- Feb. 24. Left North East. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M.
- Feb. 24. Arrived at Rock Fish Creek. 5 P.M.
- Feb. 25. In status quo. Exchange of prisoners going on.
- Feb. 26. In status quo.
- Mch. 5. Marched to Teaches.
- Mch. 6. Taylor & Hendrick took cars for Kinston.
- Mch. 7. Rion with Genl. H. & Staff started for Kinston
at 10 P.M.
- Mch. 8. Arrived at Kinston at 7 A.M. & crossed the Neuse
River immediately & marched about-----.

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade.
Hoke's Division. 1 March 1865.

Genl. S. Cooper,

A. & I. G.

Gen.:-

I beg leave respectfully to ask for the promotion of Lt. George H. Moffett, Adj. of the 25th S.C. Regt. by apptmt to the position of Ast. Adj. Gen. and assignment to my Brigade.

Since the death on the field of my former A.A.G. Capt. Maloney on the 21st Aug. last, Lt. Moffett has discharged his duties, & is a most efficient officer.

Lt. Moffett is a native citizen of South Carolina, and was before the war a member of a large importing Firm in Charleston.

In the beginning of the war he closed his connection with it notwithstanding the allurements held out to merchantile men by the immense profits of blockade running, - and enlisted as a private. In that capacity and subsequently as Adj. of the 25th, and A.A.A.G. of this Brigade has served the country with a devotion and singleness of purpose that few men have exhibited. In addition to these claims, I ask his appointment for the uniform gallantry he has displayed in the numerous actions & affairs in which he has been engaged - multiplied instances of which I can give if desired. His Brigade has been literally used up by hard fighting since May last, & it has been engaged in no action in which ---- has been at his best doing well.

I have urged his case thus strongly in hopes that his case may be made an exception to any rule against the apptmt of

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade.
Hoke's Division. 1 March 1865.
Contd.

new A.A.G.'s

If his merits can not be recognized by promotion, in consequence of such a rule, I do not wish any A.A.G. assigned me, but prefer keeping Lt. Moffett in his acting capacity.

Very Resp.

(Sgd.) Johnson Hagood,

B.G.

Diary Notes of George H. Moffett
Hagood's Brigade, S.C.V.

1865.

- March 4. At 11 P.M. recd. orders to be ready to march at 8 A.M.
- 5 The R.R. was used to transport the troops & in consequence we were ordered to return to camp awaiting transportation. At 4 P.M. recd. orders to march to Tycher's Dep. Arrived there at 6 P.M. waiting transportation.
- 6 Hendrick's & Taylor's commands left during the afternoon.
- 7 No train arriving, Rion's command remained all night & the next day until 8 P.M. when a train arrived on which the bal. of the Brigade embarked leaving Teachey's at 10 $\frac{1}{4}$.
- 8 Arrived at Kinston at 6 A.M. & immediately marched to the front where we were kept in reserve, that is Rion's Comd. (Hendrick's & Taylor's were upon the line.)
- Tolerable stiff fighting began at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. Very soon after Maj. Parker of Genl. Bragg's Staff ordered us to move forward to participate in the pursuit of the enemy who were reported as utterly routed by Genl. Hoke. We reported to Maj. Genl.D.H.Hill who moved us across a small creek which skirted the woods. We were then marched about 4 miles in the direction of the right flank of the enemy with the purpose of attacking & so cooperating with the movement on our right. We met no enemy & the day being so far advanced, it was determined to return. We encamped upon our old ground.
- 9 The next morning we were put in position on the extr-

Diary Notes. Contd.

1865.

March 9 Some left of the line constructed on the ground from which the enemy were driven the day before. These lines were so constructed that an elbow was formed on the left & which was occupied by our Brig. It was a very weak position & the enemy soon discovered it & all day they were engaged with their skirmishers feeling the position.

At dark we were notified that we would be relieved by the 67 & 68 N.C.T. & ordered to march out & report to Genl. Hoke. We bivouacked about 700 yds. to the rear.

10 On the morning of the 10th at 4 A.M. started on a march to the left of the enemy. The road led through a thick swamp & marching was difficult. After penetrating about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, line of battle was formed by coming to the front. We then recd. orders to the effect that the Division would wheel to the left pivoting on our Brigade which occupied the left of the line. Soon after heavy musketry began on the right & we moved forward in line of battle. The order was not carried out, but instead the movement was made in echelon. Kirkland's Brigade charged a strongly constructed fort & failing to take it they met with heavy loss, chiefly in the 66th N.C. This failure defeated the purpose of the movement & after remaining in line of battle for about an hour, we returned by the road on which we marched & took

Diary Notes, Contd.

position on the extreme right. At dark we were ordered to march to the rear & bivouac.

March 11, 1865.

We returned to Kinston, halting in the suburbs until 2 P.M. when we marched out of the town following the R.R. for a distance of 8 miles when we diverged on County Road to the right & encamped.

March 12, 1865.

At 12 M. we received marching orders & proceeded to Mosely Hall. Remained there until 4 P.M. of the 13th.

March 13, 1865.

At 4 P.M. we were ordered to march toward Goldsboro. At 10 P.M. halted & camped.

March 14, 1865.

At 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. recd. orders to be ready to move promptly at 12 M. Continued marching in the direction of Smithfield by short marches.

March 17, 1865.

Arrived & marched through Smithfield & halted about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town & camped. Remained there until morning of 18.

March 18, 1865.

Marched about 13 miles to a little beyond Bentonville. Camped.

March 19, 1865.

Marched a short distance & formed line of battle. Colquitt on our right. Shortly after getting into position the enemy were discovered moving to the left with the intention of

Diary Notes. Contd.

striking our flank. Genl. Hagood advised Genl. Hoke of the movement & in consequence some Cavalry were thrown out & Kirkland's Brigade moved in upon our left. A few minutes after & before Kirkland was fairly in position the skirmishers were engaged & they were followed by a strong line of battle who charged Kirkland's front & our left. They were successfully repulsed & our skirmish line immediately reestablished. Skirmishing continued during the day & at 2 P.M. heavy firing of musketry opened on our right, seemingly at right angles to our line. Our troops in that direction had moved forward & forced the enemy from their position. In succession the Brigades on our right swung out to the left & joined the line of battle engaged in this movement. At about $4\frac{1}{2}$ P.M. our Brigade advanced & pressed forward, driving the enemy from their 1st line of works, but coming against a stronger line encountered a heavy fire. The Brigade on our right gave way & we returned to our lines.

Hd. Qrs. Shannon Scouts,
Apl. 2nd , '65.

Lt.

Your note of this morning with Adjutant G.H. Moffett's letter is before me. I will state that on the morning 23rd Feby., Gen. Wheeler ordered me out with a small scout, When at a Turn out (Cornerell's, I believe) we discovered two Yankees at a house. Charged and captured them. One of them had the insignia of a 1st Lt., and reported that he belonged to the 14th A.C., and was Adjutant of a Regt., that he had been sent out the day before with a detail of forty (40) men to forage. Other prisoners captured soon after corroborated this report. I did not learn his (the Adj't's) name nor do I remember his Regt.. He had the papers referred to in his possession. I sent them in without examining them. I will add that he (and others of his party) reported that they had been lost for several hours and could gain no information of the road taken by their Command. They had several small articles in their possession that had been taken from Citizens.

I am Lt. Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

A.M.Shannon, Capt.

Comdg. Spcl. Scouts.

Lt. M.G.Hudson,

A.D.C. and A.A.A.G.

hereby offered.

Those who have deserted to the service of the enemy, or have deserted after having been once pardoned for the same offence, and those who shall desert , or absent themselves without authority after the publication of this order, are excluded from its benefits. Nor does the offer of pardon extend to other offenses than desertion and absence without permission.

By the same authority, it is also declared that no general amnesty will again be granted, and those who refuse to accept the pardon now offered, or who shall desert or absent themselves without leave, shall suffer such punishment as the Courts may impose, and no application for clemency will be entertained.

R.E.LEE, General.

Headquarters, Hardee's Corps,
Near Smithfield, N.C. March 31st, 1865.

General Orders No.2, Headquarters Armies of the Confederate States, dated 11th February, 1865, not having been as yet published in the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, formerly commanded by Lieut. Gen. Hardee, its legal publication in that Department will be its publication by Brig. Gen. Hagood, who goes to South Carolina for the purpose of collecting and returning absentees to their commands.

By order of Lieut. Gen. Hardee ;

T.B.ROY, A.A.Genl.

Geneva. 17th April 1865.

My very dear Mother

I wrote you a long letter some time ago giving you a full account of our visit from the Yankees, &c. I hope this will reach you safely & I now write again hoping to have another opportunity of sending it.

You will be surprised to hear that George is with me. His horse fell upon his foot, disabling him for the time & he with Gen. Hagood & Capt. Brooks have been sent home to gather up the absentees from the command- who are very numerous. I am very glad to have him here, most thankful- tho he is in the saddle constantly. His foot is well & he is kept very busy. He wishes to go over to see you if he can accomplish it, & I am very anxious to accompany him, but I doubt if this can be managed. The country is in so unsettled a state & there are such rumors constantly of raids that at times much alarm is occasioned. One day this week there was almost a panic here. The party who burnt the cars near Camden (& what a loss they will be) were reported as having come on to Winnsboro & on their way up. Jane Yongue was packed to leave & sent over to see if we would go along. Mrs. Miller put double suits of clothes on herself & her children & there was a general ^{hiding} away of the few valuables left & some even drove off the stock. A few hours proved the news false & we breathed freely again & I hope as they have cut the R.R. in N.C. they may let us alone. This was said to be their object - to stop reinforcements going on to Lee & Johnston - of whom hundreds pass here almost daily. The R.R. is now completed to Yongue's & the work is going on quickly.

Yesterday we heard that Gen. Hampton had driven the

Geneva. 17th April 1865.

Raiders from Salisbury & was still pursuing. So for the present Charlotte is safe. Serious fears were entertained for its safety last week.

I have news of John, James & Andrew. The latter has written George since he left. He has been sent to the ranks, all details being revoked, & is with Augustine Smyth in Capt, Iz-lai's Co. & begs his uncle to get any autographs he can for him. So Sister will see he has thoughts for something else besides the war. I wrote him by a negro boy who passed here with some officers & who belongs to the Brig, giving him all the news from you. From James I heard just before the fall of Richmond. As it was an infantry fight then he no doubt escaped it all. I have written him also enclosing your letter to me. Those last fights at Richmond must have been fearful. George heard from one who was there. The enemy approached in nine lines of battle. Eight were repulsed. Genl. Lee estimates their loss at 50,000, ours at 9,000. He published an address to the Army saying - the brightest day of the Confederacy would soon be believed be upon us. The Evac. of Richmond was the turning point of the war.

If the news of French recognition is this time true & we can sustain ourselves for 6 mos. longer & who doubts this we may share his bright anticipations.

Kirby Smith too has sent dispatches to the Pres. offering nearly 70,000 of trans-Mississippi troops who have volunteered to come as soon as the river falls sufficiently to permit them to cross .

George saw John too. He is with McLaws supply train - Hardee's Army Corps. in this way of you write him. He

Geneva. 17th April 1865. Contd.

left everything in Charleston, even his clothes. I do not understand how. Mr. Warren spent last night with us. He attended our church years ago. Married a Miss Warren- a great friend of Miss Mayer, He gave us news of many of our friends of whom we had scarcely heard since the war. He is with the Medical Dr. Lining whose Hqrs. are now at Yonques. There is now a telegraph station there & it is the present terminus of the R.R. - an important point. Mr Warren's family are in the City. The fire that occurred at the N.E.R.R. on the Evac. of Charleston burned as far down as Calhoun & across a considerable distance. Our church is safe but St. Luke's was burnt with all of Charlotte St, above there. This is the report. The negroes in some families have remained faithful.

I heard from Aunt Ross a fortnight ago. She wrote quite cheerfully. Saved only a few of her clothes out of all the house contained, & Mrs. Kennedy was also burnt out & is very destitute. The girls are now in Cola. with Aunt R. & I expect next to hear that she has gone to Charleston.

The Yankees were at Aunt Jane's as well as Gov. Adams'. Cousin Jane saved her horses & carriage & Aunt Ross went down to see them. Aunt Jane's negroes behaved shamefully. Her house was set on fire three times & the negroes broke up almost all her things. She had a fall & can only walk a little on crutches. She is now eighty three. It must have been a painful visit there for Aunt Ross. Janie Gist, she said was looking very thin & badly.

James Moffett mentioned having seen Jamie Adger in Richmond. He suffers from his wound when exposed. George heard

Geneva. 17th April, 1865. Contd.

James was a special favorite with Gen. Young who had taken a wonderful fancy to him & favored him in every possible way. I am glad it is so. It is pleasant to see the spirit of the soldiers who are going on - all high & hopeful. We have been heavily taxed in this neighborhood - first the paroled prisoners coming on & next the absentees from the Army going to join their commands. Yet we cannot refuse to share the little we have with them. I bought a Pig to celebrate our wedding day & on Sat. had a present of some fine mutton. So I have been able to treat George to fresh meat.

we must do without any (of any kind) & we get no butter, but I hope by that time our vegetables will be ripe & the cows giving more milk. At all counts there will probably be an abundance of fruit & if the Yankees let us alone the Almighty has blessed us with a wonderfully favorable season for the crops. So we will not starve.

I take fresh courage & hope when I think of the manifest tokens of His goodness & love & feel if we believe & trust in Him, He will yet lead us as He did His people of old & deliver us by the strength of His own right arm. What glory with the result to him.

I was disgusted to hear the effect the fall of Charleston produced in London. Placards were set up about the streets " Babylon is fallen - that wicked city " & the papers published exulting pieces quoting from Revelation the curses pronounced upon Babylon "the smoke of her burnings &c ". Will not England have a share in the judgements that will yet follow the innocent blood poured out like water in this unholy war ? The putting forth of his hand would have stopped it. God will yet

Geneva. 17th April 1865. Contd.

avenge His own .

George has been to Wilmington twice but he did not call on Mrs. Clark, so I can give Sister no news of her except that she is living in a very small house in Winnsboro & Adger is better.

George met the Briggs' above Yongue's in their Landau travelling up from Sumter running from the Yankees. Adger Smyth was in the Militia fight with them. It was late & George did not ask many questions of our friends- then he was sorry for it afterwards.

Mr. J.M.Caldwell had gone up to Salem, N.C. for his daughters who are at school there just before the R.R. was cut.

Another of Calvin's little negroes - Lizzie - died last week. Consumption induced by Scrofula. It was a very rapid case.

Yesterday a paroled prisoner who has been three weeks at Mr. Miller's hoping to gather strength to get home died, also of Consumption. Many will thus perish on the way from the effects of their treatments.

I heard from Miss Aisme again of 4th April. Mrs. Wagner, she did not think would live out the day. Cousin Etty was well. Teddy Timberlin (?) was with them. He passed through the battles in Va. Was in C.L.D. to come home on furlough, & have one eye put out by the kick of a mule.

Charlie has been sent to Fort Delaware which I fear signifies a prolonged imprisonment. I have not heard from Ella, but a soldier from Anderson told us of them. Mr Ben Howl- and has been very kind to Charlie, supplying him with money &c.

Geneva. 17th April 1865. Contd.

All join me in love to you all. George & possibly
I may surprise you some day.

In warm love to each & all- dear Mother,

Yours,

Lizzie.

GEORGE HALL MOFFETT.

George Hall Moffett was the son of Andrew Moffett, II, of Dunse, Scotland, and Anna Reid. He was born in Charleston, S.C. on February 12th, 1829. He attended private schools in Charleston, and went for one year to Oglethorpe University in the State of Georgia. Then he entered the South Carolina College at Columbia. From there he graduated in the Class of 1849.

In 1854 he married Miss Elizabeth H. Simonton of Charleston, S.C.

When the State of South Carolina seceded from the Union, he enlisted as a private in the State service of South Carolina on December 26th, 1860. On February 24th, 1862 he entered the service of the Confederate States as a private in Company B, 25th South Carolina Volunteers.

Soon after the commencement of hostilities, he was sent by the Confederate States Government to Europe to purchase arms for the Confederacy. He returned to this country by running the blockade into Savannah, Ga.

On account of bravery displayed on the field of battle, he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant, and subsequently was appointed Adjutant General of Hagood's Brigade, which had as severe fighting in Virginia as any part of the Confederate Army.

GEORGE HALL MOFFETT.

Record of service rendered to the Army of the Confederate States of America.

George H. Moffett entered the service of the State of South Carolina on Dec. 26th, 1860, as a private in the Washington Light Infantry Regiment of Rifles. He entered the Confederate Services on 24th Feb. 1862 as a private in Company "B", 25th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant on April 30th, 1862.

He was present and engaged in the following battles :-
Sessessionville. June 16th, 1862. Attack on enemy's Camp on

James Island, July 16th, 1863.

Walthall Junction, Va. May 7th, 1864.

Swift Creek, Va., May 9th, 1864.

Drewry's Bluff, Va., May 16th, 1864.

Bermuda Hundreds, Va., May 18th, 1864.

Ware Bottom Church, Va., May 20, 21, & 22, 1864.

Cold Harbor, Va., June 3, & 5, 1864.

Petersburg, Va., June 16th, 1864.

Petersburg, Va., June 18th & 19th, 1864.

Trenches near Petersburg, Va. from June 18th to August 21st, 1864.

Attack on enemy's works on Appomatox, June 23rd, 1864.

Attack on enemy's works on Weldon R.R. August 31st, 1864.

Fort Harrison, Sept. 30th, 1864. (Present but not engaged)

Attack on enemy's position on Darbytown Road. Oct. 6th, 1864.

Attack of enemy upon our works near Darby-town Road. Oct. 6, 1864,

Darbytown Road. Oct. 29th, 1864.

Fort Anderson, N.C. Feb. 1865.

Town Creek, N.C., Feb. 20th, 1865

GEORGE HALL MOFFETT.

Service Record, Contd.

Bentonville, N.C. May, 19 20, 21, 1865.

Kingston, N.C, March, 1865.

Surrendered with Johnson's Army.

Detail Assignments :-

June 23rd, 1864, Acting Assistant Inspector General of
25th Infantry, Hagoods Brigade.

August 21st, 1864, appointed Acting Assistant Adjutant of
Hagood's Brigade in place of Capt.P.K.Malony, who was killed
on that day.

The above Record was duly verified by General Johnson
Hagood, and by Col. Chas. Simonton, and is taken from the
records of Camp Sumter.

To all those who read these letters

SALVATION EVERLASTING

in the Lord.

BE it known to you that the Trustees of the South Carolina College in their solemn academic assembly have granted to George H. Moffett, candidate for the first degree and approved by examination, the title and degree of Bachelor of Liberal Arts, and they have given to him to be enjoyed all the rights, privileges, and honors pertaining to this degree where-ever they are carried among mankind.

In testimony whereof, we have subscribed our names to these letters, supported by the seal of the College, given from the Academic Halls, the third day before the nones of December * in the year of the Lord the one thousand, eight Hundred and forty-ninth.

* Dec. 2, 1849.

President Gulielmo C. Preston, L.L.D.

Professors M. Lorbasde, Metaphysics & Lan. Prof.

Robertus Henry, S.T.P. Litt. Gov. Prof.

Mat. I. Williams, Math., Nat. Phil. & Asty. Prof.

R.T. Brumley, Chem. Hist. Nat. Prof.

Jacobus H. Thornwill, D.D., Sac. Litt. Prof.

Carolus P. Pelham, Lit. Rom. Prof.

Franciscus Lieber, Hi. Ph. P. Prof.

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R. W. Barnwell
E. Billington, Jr.
L. N. Dawkins
H. C. Goring
T. J. Withers
Robert W. Gibbes
John Bolton O'Neill

| | | |
|------|----------|---|
| 1860 | Dec.20 | South Carolina seceeded from Union. |
| 1861 | Feb.4 | Confederate Congress organized at Montgomery. |
| | Apr.12 | Confederates opened fire on Fort Sumter. |
| | Apr.14 | Fort Sumter falls. |
| 1862 | Aug,30 | Union Army defeated at 2nd Bull Run. |
| | Sept.17 | Confederate Army defeated at Antietam. |
| | Dec. 13 | Union Army defeated at Fredericksburg. |
| 1863 | Jan.1 | Emancipation Day. |
| | May 2-4 | Union Army defeated at Chancelorsville. |
| | July 1-3 | Confederate Army defeated at Gettysburg. |
| 1864 | Sept. 2 | Atlanta falls. |
| | Dec.21 | Savannah falls to Sherman. |
| 1865 | Apr.2 | Richmond abandoned by the Confederates. |
| | Apr.9 | Lee surrenders at Appomattox. |
| | Apr. 14 | Lincoln assasinated. |

To the Editor of the Sunday News:

THE STORY OF TWO DIARIES.

In January 1865, Hagood's Brigade was at Fort Anderson on the Cape Fear River, below Wilmington, N.C. An order from the War Department came to camp, to grant leaves of absence to all officers who had been for duty every day during 1864. Only one was to be allowed to go home at a time. Col. Rion examined my little 3" x 4" diary, which contained the original records for each day of that eventful year, and found that Lieut. E.B. Bell of Co.C of the 7th Battalion, and myself, the Adjutant, were the only ones who came within the scope of the order.

He sent for Lieut. Bell, and informed him of his opportunity to go home. Then came the question, who of us should go first? Col. Rion decided that as I had been in the front every day, and Lieut. Bell had, for a part of the time been in command of the pioneer corps and not then in the actual battles, I was entitled to go first. Lieut. Bell took me one side, and explained that his wife was sick at home, and if I would relinquish my right, he would return on time so that I should not be disappointed in taking the second turn. Thus it was he went home; and he kept his word with me by returning at the expiration of his leave of absence.

It was at Greensboro that Col. Rion gave me the necessary papers for my journey home. Upon doing so Col. Rion directed me to turn over my 3x4 diary to Lieut. Bell, who would act as Adjutant during my absence. I stood on the high steps of the Telegraph Station as my old comrades marched before me towards Averysboro and Bentonville. I uncovered my head in the presence

of such heroes, and they returned the salute. It was the last time I saw them, and that picture is in my mind's eye to this day.

But Bentonville came to them. They bore themselves nobly, and their new Adjutant did his full duty, until in extending an order a ball ended his gallant career. His body was not recovered, and my 3x4 diary went with it.

Upon another part of that field, occupied after the battle by the Confederates, there lay a dead Federal, and upon searching his knapsack the diary of Adjutant George H. Moffett of the 25th Regiment, Hagood's Brigade was found therein, and restored to their Adjutant. He had kept that diary from the 27th April 1864, when the Brigade was ordered to Virginia, until the 27th Nov., when he was wounded in a general attack on the lines below Richmond, near the Darbytown Road. The diary was very full of interesting facts, and dates. He after that sent it home to Mrs. Moffett, who was then refugeing near Winnsboro, S.C. When Sherman's raiders came through that section, they pillaged everything, and among their plunder took the diary.

My own diary was an original and official account of each day, only reduced in size for convenience in carrying it in the inside pocket of my uniform. It was thus complete in its fullness. I missed it very much after the War in referring to the dates, incidents, and numbers it contained, and was fearful that I would have to continue to rely upon memory.

Lieut. Green of the 25th Regiment lately told me that Adjutant Moffett's diary had been loaned to him by some one; and years ago he had loaned it to Maj. Julius Von Santen, and he was afraid it was lost, but that if I could get it, it would

be of service to me.

I asked Maj.Von Santen for it, and he told me he would look for it, but he was afraid it had been destroyed in the earthquake, eleven years ago.To my surprise he brought it to me, not a bit lost, but pale, and almost illegible from its eventful fortunes. I copied it; and made arrangements for its return to George H. Moffett, Jr., Esq.. It is a valuable heirloom to him and will furnish much information to those interested in Hagood's Brigade.

Thus it was, that, while Adjutant Moffett found his diary on a Federal at Bentonville, I lost mine at the same time and place, on my friend Lieut.Bell; and I may be said to have re-found Moffett's diary, and in it very much of what was in my own, in these latter days. I was more rejoiced to find it because I may once have been its custodian, and perhaps when it was first lost.

Upon leaving Goldsboro Adjutant Moffett had given me a package to take to his home for him, as my home-route lay in the direction of Winnsboro. We had lately fought two or three successful battles near Kingston and Newburn, N.C., and at the former place had encountered a real dudish New York Regiment. They had the softest of blankets, and the thickest and finest woolen socks in their Knapsacks I ever saw on a battlefield. Of course we despoiled the Egyptians. I had on a pair of these socks when I arrived at home. Adjutant Moffett's bundle contained some of this plunder, and his diary may have been in it. At any rate I could go from Charlotte down the Rail Road only so far as Chester; and then I left, with the Commandant of that

Post, the bundle for Mrs, Moffett. I was assured that it would be forwarded to her. She never received it; and some three years afterwards I learned , that, soon after I had left Chester, the place was raided, and that Adjutant Moffett's bundle was appropriated by the Federals. If it was so that the diary was in it, the bearer must have carried it right back to the owner; and I who lost it 32 years ago at Chester, must have found it again , for its then intended consignee.

Two or three years ago a monument was erected at Goldsboro to those who died at Bentonville and Averysboro. I saw published a request for the names of such gallant South Carolinians who fell in these battles, so that their names might be inscribed on the monument. Lieut. Bell had fallen in my place, while discharging my duties, and it moved my sympathy as a tribute to his gallantry and fidelity, to have his name so inscribed. Had I not swapped leaves of absence with him, he might have done the same for me, and my name would be inscribed where his is now.

Upon the death of the gallant Capt. P. K. Maloney on the 21st Aug. 1864, Adjutant Moffett became Acting Adjutant General of Hagood's Brigade. It is pleasant to recall his courtesies while he occupied that position. On one occasion Col. Rion sent forward a communication, which did not pass through my hands as his Adjutant, and Adj. Genl. Moffett seeing it was complimentary to me sent me a copy with Genl. Hagood's endorsement thereon.

He and I were seldom together while under fire. He was on the left, while I was on the right of the Brigade line. But on the 24th June 1864, the day Col. Nelson was killed, we were together and I can remember Moffett's calmness in action. He had orders from Gen. Hagood to remain in the trenches with a part of

the 25th Regiment, and the 7th Battalion, and so soon as the storming party carried the Federal works on our left, to march by the left flank towards the Federals in our front, and join with the storming party and their supports in sweeping the Federals from around Petersburg. The storming party failed, and we did not move out. But Moffett was ready, self controlled, and anxious for the onset.

I see by Moffett's diary the reports of Gens. Hagood, Hoke, and Beauregard of that day. Both Gen. Beauregard and Gen. Lee were spectators of Col. Nelson's charge. From these reports I find that Col. Nelson had 400 skirmishers as our first line of attack, and Gen. Hagood had the second line of 550 men. The Federals had three lines of intrenched defenses. Col. Nelson was to take their first line, which was then to be occupied by our second line; and then Col. Nelson was to charge the Federals' second line, and when it was taken it was to be occupied by our second line, and the first Federal line was to be occupied by Gen. Tige Anderson's Brigade ; and then Col. Nelson was to assail the last Federal Line. The plan was carried out, until Anderson failed to occupy the first Federal line. Col. Nelson swept the first and second lines, took 30 or 40 prisoners, and had reached the last line when he was killed. The enemy were shaken and some of their men were running from their works. Then Gen. Hagood on the second line, seeing Anderson's failure, fell back slowly, driving back the charging Federals into their own works. Then he ordered his men to lie down, and await Anderson's coming, and to go with Anderson in his advance. Some of our --- --- --- --- rifle pits and were allowed to remain with --- --- After-

wards Gen. Hagood withdrew his men in squads, until dark, when all were returned. The killed, wounded and missing were 306. Capt. Henry Buist was wounded twice and captured.

Gen. Beauregard reported; " It would have been successful" if supported. The success would have been most brilliant, if the skirmishers had been supported.". Gen. Hoke reported : "The first line gallantly entered the intrenchments of the enemy and did their duty nobly, and succeeded not only in breaking the enemy, but drove them from their works."

Adjutant Moffett upon seeing this chivalric charge (of the first line of skirmishers) writes in his diary, "I thought it would make us famous."

This manuscript is invaluable to the survivor of Hagood's Brigade; and I desire to give my testimony to the general correctness of my dead comrade's work. In many instances it is a replica of my own last book. Truly it comes to me - "as if from the grave" in memory of my friend Moffett , and of my own loss.

I will be glad to furnish any one interested with any of the interesting information it contains.

12th Nov. 1897.

(Sgd) Wm. M. Thomas,

92 Broad St.

Charleston, S.C.

D.B.Gilliland,
Standing Master.

Office of Standing Master,
United States Courts,
District of South Carolina.
Charleston, S.C. 15th August 1904.

Mr. Henry I. Greer,
Columbian Bank,
City.

My dear Henry;

I enclose Col. Simonton's account of "Circumstances of
The Capture of Hagood's Brigade on 20th Feby. 1865 at Cowan's
Place on Town Creek near Wilmington, N.C."

As this is an original in his own handwriting, Please
take good care of it & return it to me when you have read it,
as I have not had a copy of it made.

I have some other original documents which I would like
to show you, when you are down this way.

Yours truly,

D.B.Gilliland.

Copy of a letter written by Elizabeth Simonton Moffett to Anna Morris Moffett. The year is 1886.

Wednesday, 1st Sept.

How can I begin to tell you my dear child of last night's fearful experience. After tea Joe D. called & we sat talking all of us when at 9:00 a deep rumbling noise was heard & the house became violently shaken from side to side. The air filled with noises. We sat as if petrified.-only extending hands in a circle. All sat silent save for Daisy's cry- " Mama, mama ,what is it? " We lived hours it seemed, yet it was scarcely one minute! But oh the disaster following seems incredible. Our chimneys with most of those around shaved off to the roof. Houses cracked & precious lives lost. The Robson's piazzas torn off clean. Ainslie & his two sisters- Mary & Sallie buried in the ruins. They, surrounded by the timbers, but only bruised - he struck upon the head. His sister held out her hand to him & prayed with him. He was conscious when taken out but died in a few moments. His father had gone to the Depot to meet the mother & Frank, & came home to help to take him from the ruins .(this Ex . train has not yet come in.) I cannot begin to describe the night. We all went out to the open part of the yard , soon joined by the Carreres & Roaches. About 1 A.M. we adjourned to the basement piazza, several slight shocks driving us again to the yard - and so the wakeful anxious night was passed.(Joe & Dr. Hill came in, the former several times) Geordie & Janie made coffee for us at 4 A.M. God grant that we may never again pass through such an experience!- fearful beyond words to express - the appalling horror--those of us who were here can now forget it. I am thankful you are all away & would leave at once did means permit. Our nerves are so shaken. Warm love to all. Mother.

Copy of a letter written by Elizabeth Simonton Moffett to Anna Morris Moffett. The year is 1886.

Charleston, S.C.

Sept. 12,

My dear Anna:-

I will try to write more collectedly today, though my mind is in such a Whirl, & my nerves unstrung somewhat still, that I cannot give you all the news as I would wish. We seem to have lived weeks in the last few days. The night of the earthquake was spent in the yard, & in the basement piazza - the Roach and Carrere families with us until daylight. Yesterday we were sitting at breakfast when a slight shock came, & we all rushed to the yard, leaving the breakfast table, & so it remained until 2 P.M. We remained in the basement for the rest of the day, only going into the house when obliged. Jo has been devoted and kind - coming in about every few hours - trying to send our telegrams, & in every way showing such thoughtful kindness that we one and all - Geordie included, cannot say too much in his praise. Calm & collected, he has showed no fear but only thoughts for others. I thank God for his presence in the first awful convulsion, & the fire that followed, for though Geordie was perfectly collected, & acted promptly, Jo thought of the lamp upstairs. Geordie rushed up & poured on water, & Jo followed up his efforts, & with blankets (which I got out at once), the fire was extinguished. Young Chamberlain ran in to extinguish the fire, but it was out. Mrs. Mouzon had a son on

Sat.-& yesterday P.M. they brought him downstairs, as a second convulsion was expected last night. Yesterday Mrs. Mazyck & her Children spent time here, returning to their own home in the P.M., and spending the night in the stable, as they did the night before. Eliza came & cooked breakfast, but then returned home, & we had hot coffee, bread & butter, sardines etc. for lunch but no dinner. At sunset, the Roaches & the Carreres came in. A tent had been rigged up to protect us from the dew,- and there we spent the night. Jo was in and out as before. But save slight shocks (three or four) we passed a quiet night. We have hot coffee in the night, & at daylight, & then the neighbors return home. I cannot begin to tell you the desolation in the city. The papers will tell you this - tho the printers were too demoralised to print the paper today, fearing the building was unsafe. The parks, empty lots, & streets are filled with tents, & people camping out, or sitting on the sidewalks all night. Few are in their houses or will be for several days. I never before - except during the Yankees' visit in Fairfield - experienced such terror. I was thoroughly demoralized, though outwardly calm, but God grant that I may never again know such an experience. Today I feel better every way - but we will not sleep in the house for nights yet. Anna and I went to the Robsons. It seems miraculous that any of them escaped. They heard the noise, & rushed to the piazza which swayed under them, & as they were about leaping over the bannisters, the three (3) piazzas crushed in upon them. The two girls were enclosed in a sort of crib, and taken out with few bruises, but Ainslie was under a mass of timbers & bricks. When these

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were removed, & he was taken out, he was dead. His head no doubt was struck, & this saved him pain. But he spoke strongly & calmly when addressed by his father - begging his head might be relieved - & when Sallie first spoke to him she could feel him to his chest. Above was the mass of debris on the upper part of his person. She says the darkness was fearful. She spoke to him, telling him death was certain to them both, & they prayed together, & this calmness gives great comfort to the parents. The poor father crushed yet resigned. The mother and Frank were on the S.C. R.R. train, & the earthquake caught them above Summerville - shaking them up & from side to side - twisting the rails of the track. They remained at Summerville, & there John R. joined them & broke the news to his mother. Mr. R. had gone up for his wife to the Depot, & taken John & the little boy with him. She was to have come home on Monday but was detained. Mattie had remained on in Summerville where she was visiting Mrs. Seignious -- or they might have been all killed.

Susan C. came last eve. Mrs. M.A.S.'s house is wrecked. Strange to say the piazzas of the Robson House fell beside the house in a straight line & the debris scarce occupies more width of space than the piazzas did.

St. Michaels Church is ruined. St. Philip's ditto. All the Catholic Residences (religious). Few brickhouses are uninjured. Maggie Williams' house parted, & they went on board the Revenue cutter, - so did the Lamb Buist's family. Dr. Jenkins' house ruined. They are moving out of it today. Except the chimneys & cracked walls, we are intact. Very little hurt - so are most wooden houses, but our ridge

has suffered less than the lower part of the city. The Miss Gibbes' house in Legare St. caught fire- communicated with the Smyth girls & it was burned down also! I feel for them. They could not save much for all the family were away almost. The earthquake had demoralized everyone, & they will have lost all precious things associated with their mother & their past. Surely God's ways are past finding out! Who could have foreseen all this? I sent telegrams round yesterday. Feel anxious about Andrew. We heard today all the U.S. has suffered severely. Surely none worse than Charleston. In Summerville also few chimneys are left & many houses down. Water spouts from the earth -very cold or boiling hot. Fissures appeared in the earth. Holes like ant hills (but larger) which cast up mud, water & marl. Fish appeared in the wells.

" Old Arnnie " came to see me & ask how we were. He was thrown out of bed by the first shock, but has slept in his bed every night.

The scene in the streets after the earthquake was beyond description. Crowds rushed about. Negroes crying on God -singing, shrieking. Prayer meetings - some on the corners & on the Citadel Square. Last night the streets were deadly quiet, but the wild wierd singing on Washington Square (where many were gathered) was kept up all night. The scenes there, in the city Park, and all the open squares is touching indeed. So many sick sick on beds. Mothers with infants of a few days.

Fannie has been cool & collected - still expecting. Lizzie bears up, though we were all demoralized for the time.

All send love to you and all. I forgot to tell you that Dr. R. (as always kind) came up yesterday. Reported great

damage, loss of his buggy, carriage house, & chimneys. I
am too sorry. I hope he will get off today.

Always your loving ,

Mother.

P.S.

Alexander who was killed is the young Englishman
who attracted our attention at the Moody & Sankey Meeting.

Andrew Moffett I, to Andrew Moffett II.

Dunse, Scotland, Feby. 24, 1834.

Loving Son

Longe sought for has come at last. Yours of the 28 ---- reached us on the 4 instant. Your last was from New York when you said you would write us soon after you got home which caused me to put off day after day. But having heard from you WE ARE ALL very sorry that you have been so poorly and we are afraid that you were not then much better. But we fondly hope that ere this ----- God has restored you to your wonted health to attend to your labours for the support of your young Family. But if not what dare we say. Yes. We ought to say :- in humble submission to his will " It is the Lord. Let him do what seemeth best." Our Lord and Savior has told us that in this world --- --- "You shall have tribulation but be of good cheer. I have overcome the World" and "that through great tribulation you must enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Therefore it is our Unbounded duty as well as our Eternal interest to be diligent in the use of those means with --- --- are favoured so as to obtain the favour and Blessing of our Heavenly Father through the merites of our alone Savior Jesus Christ --- upon the aid of the Holy Spirit which is promised unto all who --- --- it in the way he has appointed.

My dear Son do not think for --- I have said that I consider you neglectful of your duty but we --- to be stirred up to the discharge of it. And I consider a short --- --- a father will not be out of ---.

We are all happy to know that Our Beloved Daughter with your Family is well and hope and pray that they will continue to grow as plants around your Table - that they may come forth as

Feb. 24, 1834, Contd.

Good Citizens - Useful members of Society, Ornaments in the Church below and at last be made Pillars in the Temple of our Lord never more to go out.

I think you are thinking that I am long in saying any thing about our selves. Now all that I think to say is that we have great reason to bless God for his goodness and long suffering patience to us for we have been Rebellious creatures through a long life of Rebellion against his Holy Law, but hitherto he has preserved us and in considerable good health more so than we could expect at our advanced time of life, and I must say that we are in much the same state as I described to you in my last. Jon and Agnes are in good health as also our friends as far as we know, and we have heard from them all lately. But there has been one death in one of the Familys of our friend since I wrote you last and that is your Aunt Nannie. You will perhaps not remember that she had Twins--- both girls . It is one of them - a fine young woman about 24 years of age. She died on the 5th inst. after a short but severe complaint in her bowels which produced mortification to the great grief of all concerned. But disease and death are all around us. The smallpox is very general but as yet not very mortal ; and the Scarlet fever is carrying off a great number of children - one, two, and in some cases three of a family. But what dare be said. It is the doing of the Lord, and we are assured he doeth all things well.

With respect to Business ** Although it is but a small one , yet we must not complain as we have been rather busy for a few months past than we have formerly been. A few families

Feb. 24, 1834, Contd.

having come to reside in the Neighborhood, we have got some of them to serve and they pay well - so we must jog on the best way we can.

We were sorry to learn by yours that we are not to have the pleasure to see you the coming summer, but disappointments must be expected and submitted to -- and wait in hope.

Pray do you receive the Berwick Advertiser ? It is regularly sent from here by Post every Sabbath to London in the faith that they forward it to you. I have had no letter from them for some weeks past, but heard on Saturday that they were all well.

Give our best love to Mrs. Hall and family, Mrs. Calder Green, and any who enquire for us.

Kiss all the Bairns for their Gran.

While we remain your affectionate Parents,

A. & B. Moffett.

Addressed as follows:-

Messrs Moffett & Calder,

Charleston, So. Ca.

Mr. Andrew Moffett,
Charleston.

Letter from George H. Moffett to

Mrs. William Adger, Charleston, S.C.

So. Ca. College, Jan. 21, 1849.

My Dear Sister:-

Your kind letter has been received and I am now about to comply with your request for a "speedy reply." I was sorry to learn that you were all suffering so much from colds. They are quite prevalent on the campus. By being very careful I am glad to say that mine has not returned.

Our new professor - Mr. Brumby - arrived with his family last evening. So that to our long and difficult list of studies another is added.

My mind is much occupied at present on what is to be my occupation after I leave these walls where pleasure joins in happy union with instruction. This year of my life is an eventful one, full of importance. If spared to see it close, it will be the last of my college life, as well as the last of my boyhood. On the next I must assume the "toga virilis". Manhood with all its hardships and responsibilities is just before me. Heretofore my bark has glided gently on within calm and placid waters. With changing winds her course has often altered, but land mark after land mark has shown that the smooth harbour is quickly verging in to a boisterous sea, - that there she is to be tossed from billow to billow, - her sides washed by angry waves, and day by day she must meet the chilling blasts of life. This year must decide and make preparation for the rest. My trust is on high. Yet to me is committed a talent to be improved. The method of improvement is the question with me as it must be with all others. With me are sixty five from this place who are to

enter upon our trial voyage, some are to become Doctors, some Lawyers, some Ministers, some Planters, others Adventurers. If my motive was self, the hoarding of treasures, a natural love for adventure- would open many channels of gain. But I thank my Maker that such is not my motive. Although self defense be natural with all as well as I, yet self aggrandizement is not my main spring of action (if I may so speak). To be sure, self must be provided for, duty demands this, but this is not the all of life. To be useful, to place our "talent" at interest, this is the purpose of life. If this duty be discharged conscientiously, then will we meet our reward. This I thank God is my desire. I wish to be useful, and to be respected only as I am useful. In what way am I to be useful? This is the question this year must decide. Is not then this year to me pregnant with importance. As regards one sphere of usefulness, you know my mind. That I was in that mistaken I grieve, but that I have been undeceived, that I have discovered the mistake, I rejoice. What then is to be the sphere of action in which I may be useful to myself as well as to all others? Pray to him in whose hands is the destiny of all men that this question may be revealed clearly & distinctly to my mind -and seeing the path of duty I may have the strength to pursue it even to its close.

I fear I have said too much. It harrasses me. I wish it to disturb none other. I have revealed un-intentionally the secret of many of my gloomy moments. I will not trespass longer. More anon.

With love to Brother W., Mother Father, Bs & Ss.

I remain with much love to you ,

Your Brother,

George H. Moffett.

Not forgetting the little ones.

Note written on the back of the letter;-

From Geo.
Col. College
Jan. 1849.

ans. Feb./49.

George will value this & I now give it to his
keeping & possession.

Feb. 24th 1888

1849

Treasured

39 years

Liverpool, May 10th, 1861.

My dear Liz

Today is but three weeks since I left you but it seems for me a great deal longer. A line from you might lessen the distance, but no tidings as yet have I heard from home except what the papers contain & they only make me more anxious to have letters. I am here waiting news. I can do nothing until I learn what turn affairs take on the other side & there is no other point from which I can better start upon my business than here or more readily receive intelligence from home. I can not describe & you can not imagine the anxiety I experience. It is almost torture. I have been out in the country through a portion of -----

(Section of the letter is missing.)

----- I enjoyed the trip exceedingly. One can not help enjoying a visit to such a country. It beggars description. From Liverpool to Chester, the first point I visited, on either side of the road was the most beautiful panoramic view at every glance. From the window of the cars you look out upon a scene which would of it self form the subject of a beautiful Landscape. Nothing but green fields surrounding beautiful cottages. Flocks of sheep & herds grazing on the sides of rolling hills spread out like the richest velvet. Indeed the whole country is like one garden divided by stone walls & Hedges into beds of living green. Not one moment of time from leaving Liverpool up to the arrival of the cars at Chester, but I could see something to admire & something I wished you were with me to enjoy. How many thousand times I have wished you were with me.

Chester you have heard described over & over again,

Liverpool, May 10th, 1861. Contd.

but you can never be able to realize its peculiarities until you visit it. Its old ivy covered walls, its battlements bearing the impress of Roman hands, Its turrets eloquent monuments of deeds they witnessed. The quaint old buildings pregnant with social enjoyments of the past & which they seem to labor to reveal. Its old cathedral, which according to tradition sheltered the Roman idolators in the year 61, with its pavements composed of the tombs of an age almost fabulous, inscribed in characters we scarcely recognize & in a language we can barely realize was our own. Its queer interior architecture with its screen of carved wood - a wonder of itself - its old truncheon at which monks sat, its old pulpit from which Catholic bishops & priests once spoke with oracular import. Its queerly painted walls & ceilings. Its massive doors of oak & every part of its structure are things more to be looked at than described, and can only be appreciated when seen & I might say felt. Altogether the only thing which the full enjoyment of the visit was that you were not with me to partake of the emotion.

I also visited Charles 1st tower from which he beheld the defeat of his forces in the adjoining fields.

From Chester I went by rail to visit the ruins of the wonderful & famous Castle of Conway. The picture at the head of Bessie's letter gives a tolerable fair view of this old ruin, but no picture can give any idea of the beauty of the surrounding scenery, or convey any conception of the emotion which an actual view of the scene produces. Here is the old Castle with its massive turrets, whose walls varying from 10 to

Liverpool, May 10th, 1861, Contd.

12 ft. in thickness seem even now in their delapidated condition to defy the attack of modern artillery. To have walked through its ancient court & banquet hall & beneath its noble arches, to have seen the mark of its ponderous draw-gates or portcullis - I esteem a treat well worth crossing the Atlantic for. There is the hall of Edward the first, the confessional & cloister of his queen, the tower in which the Noble Llewellyn fought, the marks of the cannonading by Cromwell, & hundreds other points of interest which have by the power of association sprung as from the grave to memory. The whole town is of the utmost possible interest. The queer looking people in their queer looking dresses, the antiquated houses - all enclosed within the wall which is defended by 27 old towers, its arched gates & peculiar shape - interesting beyond description. The scenery all round is peculiarly picturesque & beyond my powers of description.

From Conway I went over to Llandudno, a charming watering place 4 miles from Conway on the Welsh coast. 8 years ago the place was occupied by Welsh fishermen who dwelt in mud huts & lived half civilized. Now the pictures which give a fair--

(Section of the letter is missing.)

(In a letter dated May 26th, 1861 from Birmingham, George H. Moffett describes visits made by him to Warwick Castle, to Kenilworth, and to Stratford-on-Avon.)

Dec.31st, 1861.

My dear Liz

I have just heard that there will be an opportunity to write a line & though I can say little more than that I am quite well & most anxious to get to town to see you all for a few days. We have had it exceedingly cold. Fortunately night before last it was moderate & I being on guard did not suffer from the weather. The night before was one of the most severe nights I have ever passed. It was impossible to keep warm. I missed you ever so much. Last night was such an other but not quite so severe.

I wrote to John ordering a few articles for our mess, which consists of Budd, Adam, Gale, Burger & self. After a while we will be comfortable.

I hope to get to town by special requisition in a few days, perhaps tomorrow, but it is doubtful so do not be disappointed if I do not succeed. The Col. is very strict about permits & I have applied as often as I care to.

I hope the children are all better & behaving themselves like good children.

A happy New Year to you, my dearest. May the next find us all more united & under the influence of peace enjoying pleasant family reunions as of yore.

Love to Mother & all.

Yours as ever,

Most affectionately,

George.

(Location source, and date are missing)
(Probably - Birmingham, May 24, 1861.)
(See 9-10-61)

----- each of which are beautiful works of art. Along the whole front (which is about 400 yards) is a beautiful garden after the Italian style - this separated from the Park by a stone balustrade. In the center of the garden is a beautiful fountain. But I cannot attempt to enter into a detailed description. The whole view from this point alone is one peculiarly beautiful. All around is spread out the verdant carpet of nature. Here and there trees & shrubbery beautifully trimmed project themselves as it were with their darker foliage, & all charmingly relieved & contrasted with the pale yellow masonry, the chaste architecture, the white statuary, sparkling fountains, the rising hill tops in the back ground, & the beautiful little river in the fore-ground - all combined to remind me rather of Fairy Land than of the reality of Nature. So with every possible view which can be taken. It is utterly beyond the power of language to convey any idea of its beauty and splendor. I imagine it must be more beautiful than any other similar Palace because I can not conceive of a more beautiful location & what nature seemed to want art has supplied. There are immense piles of rocks which have been taken from neighboring mountains & replaced after being carefully separated in their native location - the original form being preserved so that the deception is perfect - so much so indeed that after I had been told the fact I could scarcely persuade myself of the reality. From the side of one of these from a height of about 80 feet falls a stream of water - the water being conducted from a great distance to produce the desired effect, - which is so perfect that it would be impossible to detect it. The conservatory is most beautiful. The building itself suggested the idea of the Chrystal Palace. It is indeed

(Probably - Birmingham, May 24, 1861. Contd.)

a palace. How I wished you could have seen the beautiful plants & flowers which have been collected from every climate in the globe. Everywhere are sparkling fountains of every conceivable device. One proceeding from the leaves & branches of a tree made of copper & throughout the grounds are colossal statues by Masters. You must bear in mind that this garden alone covers more than 1 square mile. It is useless for me to attempt a description of the interior - the mosaic floor, the great hall, the grand stair way, the State Room, the State Bed Room, the passage way. The wood carving on the walls which is amazing. The splendid ornaments. The ceilings painted by the greatest artists of the age. The picture gallery. The sculpture room containing more than 1 Hundred pieces of sculpture by the best artists of the age - many of them I will point out in the Art Journals. Each one of these would consume all of my sheet & then you would have no idea of their magnificence & beauty. I there saw the bed in which George III died. The coronation chairs of many of the Monarchs. Here Mary of Scots was also confined. The building was erected in 1537, but many additions & improvements have been made since, indeed each one of its princely owners must have lavished their wealth upon it. It has always been a favorite resort of the nobility & has entertained the Monarchs who have reigned since its erection. Victoria has twice been a guest within its walls. I assure you I could hardly tear myself away from the enchantment of the place, but after all I review with far more delight the visit to Haddon Hall.

Just from a visit to Mrs. Tenant who is in Birmingham with her husband. I am very much pleased with her. You will have

(Probably - Birmingham, May 24, 1861. Contd.)

to call upon her when she returns.

I dined with Mr. Van Wart, & after dinner visited the Birmingham Conservatory, - beautiful place but quite tame after Chatsworth (from there to Mrs. Tenant's).

And now again though quite late to finish my letter with you.

I am still greatly perplexed to know what to do about my business. Immense numbers of arms are being shipped from this country to the Northern States. The accounts received here are all favorable to them. Opinion here is divided, but I think growing in our favor. But I will not annoy you with my difficulties. I trust in a few days the way will be made clearer.

I intend spending tomorrow sight-seeing. I will leave here to visit Lemington, Warwick, Kenilworth, Guy's Cliff, Stratford-on-Avon, & Covington - the scene of the Legend of Lady Godiva. This will possibly occupy 2 days, & I hope on Monday to receive letters. If the news be favorable I will be over head & ears in business for three weeks as I have lost time up to the present. If however I can not decide about business, I do not know where I will go.

Do my dearest lose no opportunity to write me , give me all the particulars of news, & especially about yourself & our dear little ones. You cant tell how anxiously I look for letters from you.

I almost forgot to mention that while in Sheffield I visited the grave of James Montgomery, No tomb has yet been erected to his memory. Over his grave is a nicely kept circle of grass from which I plucked a sprig & two with flowers which I will enclose in this. I am keeping a good many souvenirs of

(Probably - Birmingham, May 24, 1861. Contd.)

my trip which which will be pleasant for us to review together when by the Providence of God I be permitted to meet you & our dear ones again.

I wrote Mother a few lines the other night & directed them to Bliven & Mead, N.Y. to whom I wrote requesting them to forward it by the best opportunity they knew of. I judge that it will be best for me to do the same with this. I hope ypu have received my previous letters. I cant tell now how many I have sent but I think every steamer should have taken two or more. Do say to Sister that I am grateful for her affectionate letter ,& will reply soon. Say the same also to Anna. Beg Annie to write me .I will try to write to her also, & I really must write a reply to dear Bessie's first attempt - the dear little soul. How the tendrils of my heart are entwined around her. I once feared I would love Andrew - my darling boy - the most, but the two affections have a something I cant tell what which distinguishes them, but neither one more than the other, yet both with all my heart & then in comes for an overflowing share our darling baby, bewitching little creature. Oh how I pray she is quite well again. And then first & last & over all yet not more than any one of the four is my own dear Liz. ^(the wife) Oh what wonderful machinery swells these hearts of ours. Is it not that in the capabilities of our hearts that we most resemble & become the image of our Maker, the God who is perfect love. May he keep, preserve, and bless you & all dear to us is the prayer of your ever loving

George.

July 11th, 1861.

----- I arrived at the famous grounds of Haw Clarendon Castle.

July 11th, 1861.

My dear Liz

It is almost a month since I wrote the above , when in pure desperation I gave up for I saw no possible chance of sending it & since then I have not attempted to write but have been relieving (not enjoying myself) my mind by travel.

Yesterday I received a dispatch from Mr. J.A. saying that he was in L'pool, & left London where I was staying to meet him and R.A.Clark. I am now writing in their company.

Since writing the above , I have been through the Trossacks, Loch Katrine, Loch Lomond, Glasgow, again to Edinburgh, York, London, Hampton Court, Windsor Castle, &c ; descriptions of which I will have to reserve until the happy day when we shall meet. I have not been able to do any business, and although I have had so much more time for sight seeing, yet I have not been able to enjoy it. Yet I have seen a great deal, & I hope profitably, & now that I have Mr. A. & Mr. C. to relieve me of some of my responsibility, I feel much easier on the score of business but I can not begin to express the longing I have to see you and our dear little ones. Oh how many anxious hours I spend on your accounts. I often spend the entire night without sleep thinking of you, & when I sleep I dream of you all . I am quite well & have I expect gained a little flesh.

I expect to start in company with R.A.Clark for the Continent via Paris in a few days. I will write you again from Paris.

I received letters from Sister & Anna & Mr.A. by

July 11th, 1861. Contd.

Mr. Adger. I hoped to hear from you, but I suppose you did not know of the opportunity. I cant tell you of the disappointment but I must --

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at the side with a border on either side of grass purposely cultivated as a border & in many places interspersed with daisies, Violets, Heartsease & other wild flowers & separating the road from the field on either side run in endless boundary neatly trimmed hedges of Hawthorn - at this season frosted over with their pure & fragrant blossoms & as far as the eye can reach field after field spread over the rolling country until the rising mountains shut out the view. Over such a road I went to visit first of all Dalkeith palace, the seat of the Duke of Buccleugh. Unfortunately I chose a day on which all these places against visitors. but after a little pleading & by the use of a little silver key, I overcame the scruples of the porters & House keepers, & by the enchantment of a coin the doors opened. Dalkeith is the residence of the most wealthy, most ancient, & most popular of the Scottish nobility. His ancestors were famous in the days of Bruce & Wallace & have at all periods of Scotch history held an honorable position. I can scarcely say more than that the grounds & apartments were worthy of such prestige. The former kept in perfect order & highest state of cultivation. The latter costly & elegant in its furniture with its walls decked with the portraits of a long line of ancestry & with paintings of the first artists who have flourished in each succeeding generation. There also were superb caskets and ornaments - presents from Sovereigns at home & abroad. Beds

& apartments in which Kings & Queens have slept while enjoying the hospitality of the proprietors. The mansion is large, spacious & well built but makes no pretension to architectural excellence.

Leaving Dalkeith and passing the old stronghold Craigmillar Castle - now in ruins --

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--- More pleasant by clouds ,& only when I most wished for sunshine did it appear & the rain did not begin to fall before I was within a few yards of the Hotel & being provided with talma& umbrella, I escaped without a drop. So that if I had been able to choose a day I could not have been more fortunate. It is needless for me to repeat what if you have received my letters you must be tired of reading viz. that the road over which I pass is beautiful & now once for all let me say that this whole country is like a garden & what with Hill & dale, rivulet & glen , mountain & valley, green fields & browsing cattle, it is impossible to ride through it without realizing how beautiful it is. With this as a preface therefore you must remember that when I speak of the road I mean not a macadamised way through the country but also a foot path --

- *****-

--- I wrote you last night, and then supposed that today I would be in Stirling. But it has rained incessantly, & as I could see nothing of the country in such weather, I determined to remain here spending the Sabbath hearing some of the famous Divines of Edinburgh. I learned with much regret that Dr. Guthrie was absent on his usual summer tour, therefore I will not be able to

hear him . There are others here however who will divide the favor of the Edinburgh people. I doubt not I shall hear as good a sermon as he would deliver . I can not recall the names of any except Dr Candler ---- but as I will not mail this until after service I will be able to weigh concerning the exercises of the day. I have spent the day almost entirely within the Hotel, chiefly in reading & now the remainder I will devote to you. I have wondered often today where you were , what doing & how our dear children -----

-*****-

---- visit this country , how little prepared I was to bear the separation it involved. The fact is it is an old wish that from boyhood has grown up within my heart, little dreaming as it strengthened how much of anxiety it would cause when realized. Perhaps I am being punished for an inordinate desire. If you and the children were only within visiting distance. I am quite sure I would enjoy to the full all my old anticipation. But I must trust in him who is able to restore us in peace once more & look forward to the renewal of joys - the memories of which are now both pleasant & mournful to my soul.

But to continue the account of my sight seeing. In an old fashioned Gig, I started out yesterday morning at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. The sun was struggling hard with the thick clouds which threatened rain. It was as it turned out quite fortunate for the day was made ----

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--- but I must hope for the best. It is no little relief for me to know that you are in Greenville. I hope the children are improving. God bless them. Oh how dear they are to me & it distresses me so much to think that I cannot recall dear little Anna's likeness. I would give a great deal to have her daguerotype. If any possible opportunity offers you must send them to me, - all of them with one of your dear self. You must try to feel that I am in the hands of a Merciful Providence & that in his own good time we will be reunited. God bless you and our dear ones. Kiss them for their dear Papa, and tell them to be good children. I have now to close. You know all the love my heart would express to my dearest - my own dear wife, you my dear, dear Liz. Oh what would I not give now to be with you, but I hope that by November -

Yours with all the love I can express,

George.

Jan. 6, 1862.

My dear Liz

We have orders this morning to march forward in Company with the Moultrie Guards towards Bear's Bluff where the enemy have been landing & destroying property & making depredations. We will no doubt have a small skirmish. I have great doubts of this. We are to remain for 3 or 4 days in that position. I trust if we have the opportunity our men will be able to show of what stuff they are made & thus retrieve their character, & may he who has heretofore watched over us protect us.

I have been doing my utmost to get to town, but have in every instance failed. I feel provoked & disappointed, but it is one of the fortunes of war & I yield to the necessity & will do my best to make what now seems a misfortune result in benefit.

The order is given to fall in & I must leave off.

Love to Mother & all. Kiss our dear ones over & over again for Papa.

I recd. the box. Many thanks my dearest & now with more love than I can express my dearest - for the present farewell & may God be with you & us all.

Yours as ever,

George.

James Island. April 16th, 1864.

How can I tell you my darling the emotions produced by your precious loving letter of the 13th- that dear birthday of our new mingled life. Never before have I found it harder to give expression to the feelings of my heart. This cold medium fails me altogether & I involuntarily shrink from the attempt with your warm breathing words of love & tenderness before me. Nothing but a close & loving embrace could convey the response my heart would utter. It would tell you how every one of your precious tender breathings penetrated & found a ready place in my inmost heart, & swelled to overflowing the already full fountains of love. It would tell as it only could tell the thanks and blessings which gushed forth as each line of your dear message of true womanly devotion reached the breast which longed for the words & tones of affection it bore. It would echo with a deep & strong affection the tender sweet & loving tones of thy woman heart & whisper back in its own breathing of utterances, the secrets of its inmost recesses. A heart full of ten years accumulated treasures of sweetest memories is thine & only thine. Ten years of companionship without one clouded memory, without one doubt to shake the perfect confidence in thy love, without one bitter drop in the cup of bliss. This is an experience which may well call forth a fullness of gratitude & over which we may well congratulate each other on the tenth anniversary of the day on which we started forth hand in hand on the then untried sea of married life. We have found it a pleasant voyage, & in rapture we have glided over its placid bosom thus far, and our pathway as we review it is like a silver ripple linking us to the past with naught but joyous associations. I thank my God for the dear companion thou has

James Island. April 16th, 1864. Contd.

been to me, his most precious gift. Thou hast chased away the clouds which threatened my some-time checkered path in business life. Thou hast cheered me when worldly cares pressed & weighed down a spirit never too bouyant. Thou hast warmed me when the cold spirit of the world breathed its chilling influences over me. Thou hast been to me comfort, consolation, Joy - thy heart my home. Thou art the centre of all my hopes, of all my fears, of all my cares,- my best beloved. Thou art my wife,- the Mother of my, of our children, as you well call them milestones on our journey. Blessings rich & pure upon thy head & heart. May all thy heart seeketh for be found and realized. May thy future be less alloyed than thy past, & when ten more years have joined themselves to those which have already flown away, may the retrospect be no less perfect & the future more blooming in the promises of fruition.

This letter, dear Liz, will not meet the fate of too many of your precious messages to me. I will keep it by me & read & dream over it. I wish I could send you a suitable one in return, but I have been so frequently interrupted that nothing short of the emotions produced by your warm breathings could have made me persevere thus far.

I must take a more quiet hour to finish, but will on second thought send you this much rather than disappoint you by this day's mail.

We had a little excitement yesterday, The enemy made a pretty severe demonstration on our front in the afternoon. A Gun boat ran up the river & shelled furiously. From an adjacent

James Island. April 6th, 1864. Contd.

Island the enemy threw at our pickets a new projectile. It is something like a rocket & vary in size from 18 to 26 inches in length & 3 to 4 inches in diameter. They ascend & pass through the air just as a sky rocket & are intended to explode. None of those thrown yesterday however exploded. During this cross fire a party of about 200 Of the enemy advanced to within about 50 yards of our out-posts & then retired.

I am at last obliged to stop. Love to Mother & all. Kiss our dear little ones. Your own heart will dictate what mine would say to thee & all that it comprehends in my prayer.

God bless thee my best beloved.

Yours

George.

First page missing. Point of origin not indicated. Not dated.

I am willing to do & if necessary to die in the cause.

On one of my scouting expeditions I secured a nice Sofa mohair cushion which make me a comfortable bed. I have secured a plenty of blankets. I lost some of my handkerchiefs which I had washed & were out to dry,

I hear this morning that we will be relieved in a day or two, & therefore it will be useless for you to send me any thing.

I spent Christmas scouting & all my peaceful thoughts were with you & the dear ones. I tried hard to get to town to spend the day with you all. If our lives are spared we will enjoy the next only the more if its peaceful enjoyment be bought by some sacrifices.

I am sorry to hear that Anna keeps you awake at night. I am afraid that your restlessness disturbs her. I am glad that Bessie is relieved of her pain. I hope Andrew is behaving himself as a good boy should do. Tell them both Merry Christmas for me & both to be good, obedient children.

You may see me during the next week, but I can not say when & do not be disappointed if you do not see me.

My heart is in this cause. I do not care for what I have lost & will not complain at any loss except such as may affect your comfort.

I am glad that Sister is with you all. I wish I was in town to pay her what I owe her.

I expect to propose to J.E.A. to withdraw from the concern. If he declines - all well. I only feel that it would be

right to make the offer

I dont know what to do about an overcoat. My black one is too good. I will have to use the tweed. I have ordered a new uniform from E.&R. but I dont know when I will get it.

You say nothing in your last abt. your visitor. I was in hopes that you had become more hospitable & would entertain strangers more regularly. If you are so do be careful.

Now with love to Mother & all & with more than I can express for you & our dear ones.

As ever your

George.

Brigade Hospital,
June 6, 1864.

My dear Liz;-

I feel better today. The disease is checked, and I am only suffering from weakness & prostration. I have no doubt but that I will be able to return to duty day after tomorrow, perhaps tomorrow. One of our men has just come from the front, & reports all going well. Very little firing. Last night the enemy made a feeble assault upon the lines to the right of our Regiment & were met by Collquitt's Brigade who drove them back with considerable slaughter. No casualties on our side that I know of but one of our Regiment who was killed by what is called a stray ball. How fond we are of using expressions which tend to ignore God's Providence. Since the 1st this month we have had 4 men killed & 13 wounded. Our list is swelling. Oh that God would interpose & turn back & dry up this stream of human blood. How long oh Lord, how long. Let us all earnestly pray that He would interpose & cause this war to cease, to cease at once. I spent a quiet peaceful happy Sabbath in company with Mr. Dickson, he reading & explaining the 8th Chapter of Romans. God is so good to me. This slight attack gave me this much desired opportunity. I hope you spent one free from anxious care & in sweet communion with Him who invites you to repose all your cares & fears upon Him. How very sweet to me was your letter which came to me just at the close of the day. How I long for the day when I can return to all & join our praises for all the past & renew our vows for the future. Your letters feed this hope. Their words are words of comfort. God bless you for all. I am sorry to hear that Andrew is again troubled & needs vermifuge. I hope you will

June 6, 1864 contd.

succeed by its use to relieve him entirely. I am glad you have found such pleasant & kind friends in the Mobleys. I am curious and anxious to meet them & to show how much I appreciate their goodness. How little kindness costs & how rich it makes the receiver. We must impress this upon our little ones. However pleasant it is to receive, that it is much more joyous to impart.

Our Hospital is located at one of the desolated Virginia Homes. What was once a pretty comfortable place has now its fences torn down, its gardens over-run & destroyed. Around the house grow fine old oaks whose shade make the green lawn beneath inviting. But land where no doubt once happy children played around & merrily gamboled, are stretched out weary & sick soldiers, and scattered everywhere are

(Thirteen lines of the original letter are illegible.)

When we seek mercy, we must exercise mercy. Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. I feel an assurance that God will answer such prayers. Our Enemies are his creatures as well as we, and although they are our Enemies we are for this very reason commanded to love them, that is to ask of God in their behalf all the good we want to ask for our own souls. Am I not right ?

I must now close wishing you good bye & again asking God's best blessing upon you all.

As ever my best beloved,

Your devoted Husband.

Camp Jackson Hospital. June 12th 1864.

---- of sending this scarcely warrants the undertaking
---- inclination to spend a portion of this
---- with you. Although I have to write under.
---- I am much better & hope to rejoin the Regiment
---- pen with which I have attempted to write & this one does
---- is a large community in which I am living. Camp
---- miles west of Richmond. Near it is Camp Winder, another
---- the Army of Northern Virginia. The main hospital consists
---- well ventilated, about 75 ft. long by 40 wide. Each contains
from 30 to thirty five cots. These buildings are arranged in rows
& are divided into divisions. Twelve buildings in a row giving
24 buildings or wards to a division. These are lettered from
right to left, A.B.C. & so on. I am in the 4th Div. Ward B, .
Officers Quarters. The main Camp you will see thus consists of
96 wards. In addition to these buildings at the head of each
street there are neat cottages for the matrons, & a little be-
yond is the dwelling of the surgeons in charge. Beside these
buildings and near by is a camp of tents for the convalescent,
The general arrangement & management is good. Some of the wards
are better conducted than others. Ours is said to be the best.
It certainly is better than could be expected. The fare is really
good & well cooked. Camp Winder is arranged upon the same general
plan as Jackson, but does not bear so good a reputation. Jackson
receives special attention from the central --- --- ---
State & they certainly are faithful. The Camp is --- --- ---
the view of the surrounding country is really --- --- ---
remind me very much of England & would lack --- --- ---
general improvement to equal in picturesque beauty --- --- ---

Camp Jackson Hospital. June 12th,
1864. Contd.

escape perfection. Richmond itself is really a very --- --- -
Many of the private residences are Handsome & the --- --- -
on inviting home like appearance. On my way --- --- ---
the city a little after candle light & gather at --- --- ---
& under the porches & in front piazzas were --- --- ---
the cool shades of evening. Oh how it kindled in --- --- ---
longing for my own circle far away in their quiet home in the
woods. Sick & weak I turned away from these cheerful scenes as
not then congenial to my spirit, & yet thanked the goodness &
mercy which had delivered me from worse evils & preserved me from
more apparent dangers.

Arriving at the Hospital after 9 P.M., I could not sleep
until after 12. The next morning I discovered some acquaintances.
Lt. Col. Jeffords (married Miss Mc Nellage), Lt. Warley, Capt. Bur-
gess & late in the day I found James Moffett. He does not seem
to suffer much from chills and fever, but has a boil on his hip.
There are not many from our Regt. here. Most have been sent home.

This morning in a beautiful grove we had service, which
was very acceptable to me. --- --- ---

--- June 13th. As an opportunity to get off my letter presents
itself, I must not lose it & therefore hastily close.

I feel much better & will join the Regt. tomorrow.

The enemy disappeared from our front last night and
our Division is moving to the right.

I will let you know as soon as possible where we are &
give you any news I may receive. The impression is that Grant is
nearly played out. God bless you, my darling. Love to all. Kisses
to the children. Yours in devoted love, G.H.M.

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade, S.C.V.

Hoke's Division. June 25, 1864.

Genl. S. Cooper,

Adjt & Inspec. Genl.,

General :

In accordance with the provisions of the Staff Act approved 14th June inst., I beg leave respectfully to nominate Lieut. G.H. Moffett, at present Adjutant of the 25th Regiment S.C.V. as Junior Asst. Adjt. Genl. with the rank of Major.

Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servt.

(Sgd.) Johnson Hagood,

B.G.

Endorsements.

Hagood's Brigade, Hoke's Division. June 25th, 1864. M 274
Johnson Hagood, B.G.

Request appointment of Lt. G.H. Moffett, Adjt. 25th S.C.V.
as Junior A.A.G. of his Brigade.

Head Quarters, Hoke's Division, June 25th, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded. Affirmed.

(Sgd.) R.L. Hoke,
Maj. Genl.

Hd. Qrs. Dept. N. Ca. & So. Va. June 25, '64.

Respy. forwd. Approved.

(Sgd.) G.T. Beauregard,
Genl.

Recd. A. & I. G. O. June 30, '64.

Bu. of A. & I. G., Appmt. Office. July 1, 1864.

Respy. returned this. Genl. R.E. Lee with the information that no appointments are to be made under the new Staff Act until further orders. The requirements of G.O. No. 44

current series, must be still complied with - and prompt attention is desireable.

By Command Sec of War,

(Sgd.) Ed. A. Palfrey,

Lt. Col. & A.A.G.

E.B. 262

Hoke.

Trenches near Petersburg.
July 8th, 1864.

My dear Liz:-

I have taken advantage of the recent opportunity to forward my letters by private hand, which I trust have proved succesful & have relieved your anxieties on my account. One I sent by a strange hand through J.E.A, one by Maj. J. Harleston Read & the third by someone unknown who expected to reach So.Ca. Day before I sent a few hasty lines by Col.Carlos Tracy to Mother. Today I write with the hope that the cars will run through tonight & I will trust that this will reach you in due course of mail, & that the interruption in the mail will not occur again . It is a great trial to be so completely separated. Letters exchanged frequently are golden links connecting us when thus parted. My anxiety for you to hear from me has been greater than that I should hear from you, This is an admission I would not make if I were not certain that you would thoroughly understand & appreciate the motive. I fear that you hear often startling rumors capable of alarming the most hopeful & such a state of mind is calculated to interfere with the firm trust & strong faith I would have you maintain. The mercies of the past have been so great & frequent that to doubt the future is to insult the hand which has shielded us & wrought such frequent deliverances. I will give you a few instances to encourage you, of the signal manner in which I have been shielded. A few days ago walking along a shell burst above and near me. I heard one of the fragments coming towards me & I hesitated whether to dodge backward or forward & so stood still. A step backward & I would have been struck as a large fragment fell immediately behind me, The next day I heard a rifle ball speed-

July 8th, 1864, contd.

ing at me & though it seemed to be coming direct for me, I stood still. The bullet struck about 6 inches in front of my foot & glanced by me. Last night a more signal instance occurred, in fact I may begin earlier. The enemy has been shelling our lines severely for several days with cohorn mortars. The Brigade on our right has suffered heavily. One day they had 40 casualties in one Regt. Their shells seldom fail to explode & the accuracy of their fire is astonishing. Yesterday they directed one of their mortars at our Hd. Qrs. which is a shallow pit about 2 feet deep, & about 12 ft. square with a bank of earth (loose) thrown up about 4 ft. high. Two of their shell fell about 10 feet from us & neither exploded. Last night as we stretched ourselves out for the night, the mortar opened again & the shell fell in a direct line along side & about 10 paces from us. Providentially it failed to explode. Then came a second & a third - neither exploding. I remarked to the Genl. that I thought the warning complete & advised him to move out of the line of fire. I felt that it would be tempting Providence to remain, particularly as it was so rare for their shell to fail to explode. My heart told me that prayer had been answered & that the deliverance had been signal and direct. We took our Blankets & took up a new position. We had not been there more than a few minutes when the flash of the mortar sent forth another. We could trace its course by the burning fuse, going directly in the course taken by the others. As it reached the proper distance it burst, scattering its fragments in every direction. And So with a number of others which succeeded. With

July 8th, 1864, contd.

an humble grateful heart I thanked God for the wonderful providence by which he had warned & directed our deliverance.

There can be no better evidence of the deadening influence of sin upon our hearts than the feebleness of our love & gratitude to God in view even of the daily care & protection which he bestows upon us- not to mention the matchless love displayed toward us in the gift of redemption.

Fresh from the experience of some new or signal mark of goodness or some fresh overflow of that never ceasing stream of loving kindness we feel that our God has been good to us, but how lamentably common is it for us to take our daily draught from this same stream without even reflecting from whence the stream proceeds. I appreciate the Psalms more than I have ever done before & make frequent readings from them during the day.

I have divided the whole into 31 parts for daily study & invite you to join me. Dating from the first for the reading of the 1st day of each month & so on. On the 30 of such as have but 30, the chapter for the 31st will be included, so to speak as a doxology for the goodness & mercy which has brought us safely to the close of another day. My division is as follows:-

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|----|-----|------|
| for the 1st | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| beginning 1 | to 9 | to 17 | to 20 | 26 | 32 | 36 | 39 | 45 | 50 | LVI | LXII |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | |
| LXVIII | LXXI | LXXIV | 78 | to 80 | to 86 | to 90 | to 96 | CIII | CV | 107 | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 30 | 31st | | | | | |
| 111 | 118 | 118 | 121 | 132 | 145 | | | | | | |
| | | 49th | verse | | | | | | | | |

I find upon a review that I have only divided into 30 lessons

July 8th, 1864, contd.

Select some portions for the 31st or else suggest some chapter suitable for thanksgiving. Let us when any suitable reflections suggest themselves communicate them to each other. I will expect much from you in this way. You will have the aid of our books to throw additional light upon obscure passages.

I cannot give you any news of interest from the army. the relative position has not changed for two weeks. Field fighting has ceased, neither party feeling disposed to attack the entrenchments of the other. Artillery duels shelling & sharpshooting is incessant.

Charlie is much better & I hope will be "for duty" in a few days. Andrew is quite well.

We have intensely hot days but pleasant cool nights.

I find so much difficulty in having my collars washed that I wish you to make me some calico collars (standing). Any small pattern, bright colors or to match my purple shirts will answer. You can send them one at a time by mail. Can't you?

When we get settled down to quarters you will have to get me up a box of Grist, Eggs & Syrup - a good big box.

I enclose two small green backs, left accidentally by a Captain of Art. from Wisconsin who with two other officers were captured. I searched them but respected all their private effects. These two specimens I found on the ground the next morning.

And now to close. My intention is to commune whenever I have the opportunity. For this reason whenever I can I will on the first Sunday of each month endeavor to attend the Episcopal service, as it is their custom to administer the sacrament on that day. You will in spirit join me in this

July 8th, 1864, contd.

privelege. Let us use every means of grace to strengthen our faith & increase our love.

Love to all. My prayers are ever with you. Love to all. Kisses to the little ones, & Heavens best blessings on you all.

Yours as ever,

George.

Trenches. Petersburg. July 18th, 1864.

After a period of long trial, I have at last tidings from you, my dear Liz. The relief was very great, & I thank God that during that month no harm or even sickness is to be recorded as disturbing your quiet home. I did not allow myself to be oppressed by anxious forebodings, yet the mystery of silence is like a dark room to a child. Your last dated the 11th came 1st, & a few hours later one dated 9th. Will you understand me when I tell you freely that yours of 11th produced a very queer sensation. In this way. You had already received a number of my letters relieving your anxieties about me & had replied expressing all you felt & had gone through as in the one dated 9th so affectionately expressed. But in the one I received after 1 month's silence & to which I looked for the utterance of all those emotions which I well know have occupied your mind & heart, there was scarcely an allusion to the long weeks of suspense & only indirectly could I tell whether you had read the letters I had forwarded by private hand. Can you understand, my dearest, how like a shower bath it came upon me ? You also understand

July 18th, 1864, contd.

my dearest I am not now uttering a complaint but only mentioning a phenomena. The letter itself most welcome & full of affection yet so different from my expectations & the circumstances. Your affectionate one of 9th is the one which I expected & ought to have recd. first. I hope that you have recd. all the letters I sent you during that interval of interrupted communication. You will then have a better idea of the kind of life we are leading, and can better comprehend me when I tell you that I scarcely have energy enough to write a line. Life in a ditch, hot days, no rain for more than a month. Incessant subjection to shell from mortars & bullets from sharpshooters. Scarcely a moment when the sharp of our rifles & the spiteful whiz of the enemy's bullets is not heard. Filth & vermin, no exercise & indifferent food - that is no variety. Oh for some hominy, a bowl of milk & little syrup - anything for a change. The life is very hard to endure & one has constantly to look above for aid to patience. I am not very well today. I have had sore throat for a week. I think it is from the dust. I fear I am inflicting a dull letter upon you today when I intended to send a bright of overflowing thanks that at last good tidings had come from thee and home. The fact is that I don't know what would be my condition this morning if I were still without your letters & I am looking hopefully to today's mail to bring me further intelligence from you. I am sorry to know that Andrew continues to show symptoms of worms. You say nothing in either letter of the others. You allude to several of your letters still on the way which have not yet come to hand & from which I hope to get much information about the household. You cannot be too minute in your accounts, - even the least incident will be of great

July 18th, 1864, contd.

value to me. Many weeks of painful separation are yet before us. Our only source of relief is in letter writing. I often feel like tearing up my sheets & am strongly tempted to do so with this one. You must take it as it is, remembering that all days are not alike.

Ella has been here several days. I don't know whether they have started back or not. I regret very much that Charlie should have taken a furlough at this time. It must affect his reputation, & added to the unfortunate circumstances as of his stay when we came on it must do him serious injury. My advice to him now would be to resign. I said all I could to him. He evidently was unwilling to converse with me on the subject, & when I saw him on Saturday last no allusion was made to the subject. He certainly is very much reduced, but he has not been dangerously sick at any time & I am sure would have regained his strength as rapidly in Richmond as in Oburg. Ella's arrival finished the business.

Andrew is at the Wagons with his Uncle, & is quite well. Poor fellow, His education has made him one of the most helpless youths I ever knew.

What about Jim Ross? I hear he has been very ill.

Remember me to all my friends. Love to all. Kisses to the little ones, and for yourself - my dearest - all that a loving praying heart can utter is yours.

As ever -

George.

No change in the military position.

61
Brigade Hospital, July 26th, 1864.

My dear Liz:-

In my letter to you yesterday I forgot at the close to make any allusion to what you said about the different divisions of the Psalms. I thought of it several times while writing but at last it escaped me. I prefer the division that I have adopted although your objection is a good one. Situated as I am there is scarcely a day but I can spend hours in this way, & I would like by frequent & regular reading to gain a certain familiarity with these songs, many of which are so appropriate to present circumstances. I habitually read each days lesson twice and frequently three & four times during the day. So with me the length of the lesson is no objection & as my pockets are not capacious I carry only my Psalms & St. John's Gospel which thus far is the only one of the gospels I have in this form. I am glad that you alluded to the objection of reading one portion of scripture to the exclusion of other. I am conscious off allowing this to be the case. I now have a moderately small Testament, & will carry that in place of St. John. How I long for the time when together under our own quiet roof we can read & study the will of God as revealed to us, & we should now pray that if permitted to behold a restoration of the longed for Peace that all our resolutions of this point shall be confirmed & strengthened lest when that day of exemption from care & trouble come we fall back into a state of indifference & careless performance of our duties. I would like to get hold of a good commentary of the Psalms. Fully to understand & appreciate their beauties it seems to be necessary to know something of the circumstances & place under which they were written & then many of the allusions require fuller infor-

Brigade Hospital, July 26th, 1864, contd.

mation than I have in sacred history. For Instance Mr. Dickson was explaining to me the real or supposed circumstances under which the 29th was written. David is standing upon one of the high hills on which his house was located From this eminence the Sea was visible. He has gone out to look upon the approaching storm. The heavens are covered with dark grandeur. The sea is raging under the mighty influence. So deeply is he impressed with the awful sublimity that he bursts forth with " Give unto the Lord O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory & strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." And as the storm gathers in its fury & spreading from the sea spreads over the shore, & by its mighty power breaketh the cedars, even the cedars of Lebanon, the Psalmist seemingly at first in soliloquy, & in deepest admiration. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (gazing upon the Sea) (the distant thunder reaches his ear) the God of glory thundereth, & etc. The voice of the Lord is powerful. The voice of the Lord is full of majesty, & etc. And as the lightnings flash across the sky, the voice of the Lord divideth the flame of fire, & etc. Then his words of exultation in the over-ruling providence of God. The Lord sitteth upon the flood; yea the Lord sitteth King forever. The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace. Could we know more of the motives & circumstances under which many others were written it would increase the interest we experience in reading them & fix them more firmly in our minds.

Yours of 22nd has just been handed to me. It has done me good. It has come through more promptly than any yet. What you say

Brigade Hospital, July 26th, 1864, Contd.

about my receiving a number of yours at one time & the fears you express at the burden they will be to me does not tell well for the infliction you had to endure under the accumulation of my scribbling. I am sorry for you, but now that you are safely through it all, you must not attribute any design in it all. Put all the blame upon the Yankees who cut the roads & accumulated the mail. Do not allow any such anticipation of imposition to interfere with the shortest note it may be in your heart to send me. A letter from you is the longed for object of every day & becomes the crowning joy of the day on which it arrives.

Charlie had a severe attack - more than mine, but he was not seriously sick at any time. Both Dr. Logan & Dr. Porcher assured me of this. I was particular in my inquiries with a view of writing to Ella. I tried to persuade him to write E. telling him that if he did not she would come on. The fact is that he wished her to come from the very first & knew exactly how to arrange her, for I heard him admit that he knew that the first & only letter he wrote would bring her. Charlie is very weak on that point. His sickness has been exaggerated at home, but for him to go home under the circumstances would be very prejudicial to his reputation. You need not hope to have him stop with you on his way should he conclude to go. Ella has no notion of it. I spoke to her on the subject.

I have heard from John by today's mail. He sent me a check for 200\$ which is very acceptable. I have had no pay since Dec. last. I will look anxiously now for the box. What would I not give for some okra soup. I think it would cure this miserable

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864.

My dear Liz

I read my attempt at a letter to which I referred in my last as one started while I was enjoying the quiet of the evening & during which I was interrupted by the order to march. I half way promised to complete that projected letter but upon a review of it I find myself in so different a mood as to be incapable of catching up with its style or temper, and beside the arrival of your dear letter of 25 so full of a wife's tender anxiety mingled with the tormenting cares which surround you in the present condition of your household - while it warns me that the day has glided by more rapidly than I had supposed, summonses me to address myself more particularly to the contents of your letter, leaving still unanswered several of your former letters - which I have sealed up & laid aside for another reading & a leisure day in which I can reply.

Thank God by this time your anxieties in my behalf have been relieved & we are again permitted to magnify the loving kindness & mercy of our God, who has been my shield & defense. Take care lest in your great anxiety you fail to exercise the proper faith or rather trust in God. Try to repose in him. He will lead you into the green pastures. He will set your feet upon a rock. Today's reading in Crumbs says "Faith views all in Christ. Hope expects all from Christ. Love gives up all for Christ. The nourishment of faith, hope & love is the word of Christ. Let the word of Christ dwell richly in you." I humbly trust that the hopes which sustain me in the dangers I am called on to pass through are not delusive & that I am

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864. Contd.

not presumptuous in appropriating the precious promises which seem to occur for the occasion. Oh let us believe all that he has told us to encourage us in this vale of tears. Let us not abuse his exceeding goodness, but believing cast all thy burdens upon him, & love & praise his holy name. As thy days so shall thy strength be. Are we his - then he is ours, & all that he puts upon us is for our good. It is in love that he tries us. Let us not murmur. Are we on our journey home, we can not expect all the road to be smooth, but he will help us over the rough places. Let us live more as pilgrims. Let us think more of the beautiful land to which we are journeying. We may be separated on the way but if we persevere and endure unto the end we will meet again - meet never to part. Let not your soul be cast down, but trusting, praising, loving Hope will conquer fear & the peace of God which all understanding will fill your heart & mind.

I must tell you how fortunate I have been. Going into a deserted house offered to us for Hd. Qrs. I found a copy the Crumbs, despised by its former owner & left under his table. I have it now - so the lost is found.

We are having more rest now than we have had since we have been in Va. - too good to last long I fear. Our Hd. Qrs. are pleasantly situated & we are almost comfortable.

Yesterday I heard that Bratton's Brigade was near us. So in the P.M. I started out to find them, & spent some hour with our dear friend Calvin & the two boys. They had heard

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864. Contd.

that I was killed in the late fight & were glad to see me. I hope to see them again. They were all looking well. Their Brigade has not been worked as hard as ours.

And now I want to say something about the next box. All depends upon the packing. The only things spoiled or that did mischief in the last one was the Catsup & the Eggs. The former only needed to have the cork well secured. The latter were packed too close. Well the reason most of the boxes which are sent are spoiled is because our friends in the country dont understand packing. Just be careful to see that each parcel put in is itself secure & then when you put it in see that it is secure from its neighbors, & you can pack silks with oil, Lard & tar. Now as to a few suggestions as to contents. First of all will be the winter shirts, then if I have my heavier draws, 3prs. 2prs. stockings (or 3) will be a plenty. You need not send my over-coat. I will keep poor Jim Ross'. Gloves if you can get some from the neighbors, a muffler. Now as to eatables, - Grist, Butter, Pickles, Sorgum, Catsup, Ginger Nuts, Beets (if you have any). Those sent were very acceptable. Can you send me one more Hdkerchief. I have lost one of the new ones already. Am I not unfortunate or careless ? I need one all the time. My nose wont stay blowed. Now I have named I think all my wants, & I wont be disappointed if you find it impracticable to supply them. The last box is not yet exhausted & the Hominy is a great treat. Genl. H. & myself now mess together. (

I have heard nothing definite from Charlie for a day or two, but I hear he is better. I am much better.

If you can get a few sweet potatoes - they will be accep-

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864. Contd.

table -very. Onions also, but cork them up tight. A sprig of garden herbs also - if convenient.

Day before yesterday our troops attacked the enemy at Reams station & gained some advantage. Captured 2,100 prisoners & 9 guns. Our loss about 800. Jim Connor, Comdg Lane's brigade was in the fight. Returning from it, a tree fell upon him, but I believe did not injure him seriously.

What do you think about the peace movements at the North? The bouyant are hopefull. I think it is all a Yankee trick & see no hope for an end yet. That is nothing now exists on which to build a hope, other than the only hope we ought to encourage- as the only power able to bring the war to a close, viz. hope in God. The only glimmer that I can discover in the recent move at the north is that if they make a proposition, it may be submitted for arbitration to the Foreign powers. God grant that the way may soon be opened up & this stream of human blood be stemmed. Only think of the numbers of victims in this campaign. Grant's losses in the last 20 days must reach 10,000 & ours 3,000. How long Oh Lord. How long.

What you write about the children interests me greatly. Andrew's case is one which needs a firm but gentle hand. Dont lose patience with him but show him that his listlessness will not be allowed. Dont tax him too long. If you find him in-attentive send him off to play at something & then bring him suddenly back to his book & hurry him. I think some such course the best to keep up excitement & to keep down laziness.

I am truly sorry to hear of Hannah's case added to your other troubles. I can only pray for God to help you & this if

Lines South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 27th, 1864. Contd.

granted is abundant.

If you have such a thing as a stout piece of cloth & can make me a haversack, I will be glad, - but I am thoughtless in the midst of so many cares to add to them. Dont bother about the box until you have leisure.

My letter bears evidence of the haste with which I have had to write.

God bless you & all ours & relieve you from all the troubles which surround you & cause even the least of them to work out a peaceable fruit of righteousness & what seems now greivous to beccome Joyous -- prays your devoted

Husband.

South West from Petersburg, Va.
Aug.29th,1864.

My dearest

I have but a moment to write to you. I have been & still am very busy. Overhauling books & papers, preparing monthly reports, Muster & pay rolls, signing commutation of rations &c,&c. The mail man has come. I am detaining him for a few minutes to let you know that by the blessing of our kind Father I am well & still permitted to enjoy the partial rest & great relief afforded by our present position & to acknowledge the rect. of yours of the 26th. Thank God your mind is relieved. My deliverance was signal. To God be the praise.

Yesterday I saw Charlie & Ella. Charlie is still unwell. I dare say Ella will give you an amusing account of a dinner I ate with her. My appetite is enormous when I have anything good to eat.

I rejoice that your sick are recovering.

There has been no fighting since Thursday, but there is no telling what a day may bring forth. The enemy have been shelling the city furiously.

Genl. Hagood has recd.the highest compliments for his & the gallantry of his Brigade. Genl.Lee's Inspector Genl. pronounces the whole affair as the most gallant act of the war. But what a ghastly record. How many bleeding hearts. Oh that God would interpose.

I hope to commune next Sabbath. Try to be with me in spirit. I will if possible write again this P.M.

Love to all. Kisses to the little ones. Tell Anna

South West from Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 29th. 1864. Contd.

she must soon be well & I am glad she has been so patient.

God be with you & bless you.

Yours,

George.

South West of Petersburg, Aug.30th,1864.

My dear Liz

The promise of a few quiet hours this morning tempts me to indulge myself in what has been denied me for several days. I really feel mortified on account of the hasty incoherent letters I have been compelled to send you recently & in reviewing my experience of the last ten days the feeling that some dear & habitual delight has been wanting is owing to my missing what has for some time been my chief daily pleasure. I really feel badly too that during this very period I have received from you just such letters as would have given me inspiration to reply. But the fact is now I can not call any hour my own. My Office hours are from sunrise to sunset & am liable to be called upon at any moment in the interval. I am mastering the back work of the office & I hope in a day or two if we are still permitted to remain where we are to have leisure sufficient to enable me to withdraw my mind from business & indulge in the sweet intercourse which even this cold medium permits. Long separation has made letter writing a pleasure. The mechanical effort assists the mind in being in the dear object while with perfect freedom the pen runs on with the same theme as the tongue would around the hearth or in the chamber. I dont know what would become of me if deprived this medium. To dwell in thought upon the loved ones is pleasant, but it has also a sadness with it. They are thoughts which reach not the object & bring back no reply. And beginning however sprightly, they soon gather a gloom which fills the heart with sadness & dejection. With a pen in my hand I find that hope always grows brighter & I seem to approach quite near the object of my wishes & my spirits grow high & a

South West of Petersburg,
Aug. 30th, 1864. Contd.

feeling of relief takes the place of any depression which may have existed. But I am running on, giving you no account of these last ten almost barren days as far as letters are concerned.

After our disasters of the 21st & immediately succeeding the fall of Capt. Molony, Genl. Hagood assigned me to discharge of the duties of his office. Unfortunately he carried upon his person the satchel containing late important papers & reports, the loss of which have hindered me materially in my work & added greatly to my labors. The duties of the office have thus kept me very closely employed. Fortunately however & in this I have indeed been favored, we are located at the most pleasant place we have occupied since our arrival in Va.- indeed the only place worthy to be called a rest. Here we can pitch our tents or rather stretch our flies & pull off our shoes & lay aside our swords & pistols. You cant imagine how great the relief is.

I trust I am truly grateful for this as for the unnumbered overflowing mercies which My Father has bestowed on me with lavish hand. Has he not been my shield and defense, my high tower & house of refuge, and shall I not praise him. But greater things than these has he done for me. Not only has he preserved my life, but he has given me a new life. He has set me upon a rock even Christ Jesus who is my life & light. He has delivered me from the enemy but a greater deliverance has he wrought out for me, in that he

South West of Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 30th, 1864. Contd.

has put down Satan under his foot & daily delivers me from his power. Teach me Oh Lord more and more to realise the height & depth & length & breadth of the love of God in Christ, that I may make better returns of love & experience stronger desires and inclinations after thee, and may love all other things, even life itself, in comparison as if I loved them not.

I feel very grateful to Ella for writing to you when she did. I wrote as soon as possible to relieve you.

How sad about Jamie Ross. I would write to his mother if I thought it would do her any good, but I feel so sure that he is no more that I dare not, as Charlie has not told her the worst. I feel no hope that he is merely wounded. The last man who passed him describes him as lying upon his face- his right arm extended & his pistol which he had been shooting lying on the ground about 2 feet in front of him. From this description I feel sure that he was killed instantly. Oh how I wish I could hope that it were otherwise. My heart would be lighter & I could write to the dear old Lady what perhaps would cheer her, but how cold & useless are words of consolation under such bereavements. I dread to hear of the result of the news upon them all. I realise what a crushing blow it will be to them. God be with them & pour into their wound the only balm which can heal or relieve. May the consolation of his grace be so abundant that what now seems so grievous may grow & produce the peaceful fruits of righteousness wherein is joy. When you write to them say to them that had I known when or where he was I would have

South West of Petersburg, Va.
Aug.30,1864. Contd.

stuck to him & that as soon as I heard he was missing, I used every effort in my power , exposing myself, to have him found.

Our Brigade now does not number "For Duty" as many men as the smallest Regt. brought out to Va. I pray it may never go into action again & if it does it may be under the most favorable circumstances. We have gained great credit in Military circles for good conduct but this will not assuage the grief of one bleeding heart.

Genl. Hagood has again paid me the compliment of applying for me as his A.A.G. Genl. Hoke-our Major General-went to Richmond this morning for the purpose of securing the appointment of certain officers on his staff & Genl. Hagood sent on by him who will urge it , the application for my promotion. I am not sanguine even now, so guard yourself against a second disappointment. Perhaps I am not wise so to raise your hopes.

We are having cool nights & mornings now.

I am so disappointed about the suit I want made up. Ella says no one can get the cloth but herself. I am out at elbows & seat & will be most shabby.

We ate the last of the grist yesterday & I missed it this morning. The potatoes are not all gone yet & the dried fruit continues to furnish us with dessert.

I sincerely trust my dearest that all your sick are better & that you are enjoying relief from the weary & anxious nights you have recently endured.

I wrote to James yesterday to apply for a transfer to our brigade that I may have him detached as my head clerk. I

South West of Petersburg, Va.
Aug.30,1864. Contd.

hope he may succeed. He will be very valuable to me in the position.

Love to all. Remember me particularly to Uncle Billy & Cousins John, Nancy & Jane Younge . Kiss the little ones & may heavens best blessings be with thee my dear wife ever prays

Your devoted

Husband.

South West Petersburg.
Aug. 31, 1864.

My dearest

I have been over head & ears busy since the peep of day & only steal a moment to acknowledge recd. of box with knife, fork, spoons & papers & letters- none of which I have yet had time to examine.

We are under marching orders to return to our old place & we will start in a short while

Many thanks for securing these little conveniences for me.

I feel quite well this morning.

Another month of mercies closes today. God be praised for all he has done for us.

I hope to hear from you tomorrow. Thought I would hear today. Did not get any yesterday.

Love to all & blessings rich & free upon you all.

Yours as ever,

George.

Dunlop's Farm, Sept. 5th, 1864.

Dear Liz

No doubt you have wondered & have been anxious on account of my silence for the last three days. I am surprised at it myself. Have you been very severe upon me ? I hope not & I trust that the knowledge of the fact that we are in reserve has prevented any the least anxiety, knowing too as you ought to know by this time that in times of danger & exposure I am prompt in writing. I wrote you just before starting for this most delightful spot, really it is a beautiful place; the ruthless desolating hand of war has rested lightly upon it. Here & there a broken fence, paint needed there, undergrowth wild in some places - show that some calamity has prevented the evident care which the proprietor was wont to employ. We have been most fortunate & blessed during the last 16 days. You will naturally think that during such a rest I would have abundant time to write. It has been quite otherwise. I have never been more busily employed. I very rarely sleep as late as $5\frac{1}{2}$ & am as closely engaged as possible. A change in the mail too makes it necessary to be ready by 8 A.M. This morning rather than allow an other day to pass, I am postponing my work to send you a few hasty lines.

Your late letters so full of anxiety have distressed me not a little. Poor soul you have had a trying time in those days of anxious care. Is not our Father teaching you to cast thy burden upon him who careth for thee ?

I wrote at the earliest opportunity & I knew that Ella who had before promised me would write immediately. By this time you understand it all, & so will not now use

Dunlop's Farm, Sept. 5th, 1864. Contd.

my few moments in further explanation.

We have been resting here for three days. I have much back work to bring up & the condition of the Brigade requires daily work which is more than ordinary.

I was disappointed in not being able to go up to the city to church & so missed the Communion service I had expected. I needed its holy influences. This absorption in work has not been good for me. There is much to annoy & irritate & other causes of natural corruption have prevented me in duty & I have had to mourn the hiding of peace & comfort. Pray continually for me that I may be delivered from temptation & kept by the power & grace of God in the way of his commandments.

Hearing that Ella was to start home this day, I rode over to say good bye to her, but Charlie and herself had gone to Petersburg to church & my long ride was for nothing.

Dr. Porcher told me a piece of news which makes me anxious to see Charlie today. He says Genl. Beauregard has assigned Charlie to the command of some Forts in the neighborhood of Wilmington & that he will start for that place in a few days. You will be glad to hear of this & may wish that a certain Adjut. would also be ordered to report there also. I do not think favorably of it & think it a misfortune for Charlie & regret it very much on his account. It will be pleasant but added to the unfortunate connection he has had with this campaign, I regard it as a misfortune.

The mail man has come & I must close. God bless you & all.

Yours as ever,

George.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864.

Dear Liz

It is quite late - too late for me to hope to do more than write you a few lines, knowing as I do how utterly impossible for me to do even so little in the morning in time for the mail and as I have not written since Sunday except a few very hasty lines I must if I do no more answer your affectionate letter of 11th.

You say nothing about yourself. How is your lameness ? I fear you are suffering more than you are willing to tell me. By saying nothing you cause me more uneasiness than if you told me all unless I could feel that your silence was favorable. But I know how obstinate such cases have been with you heretofore & I am anxious to hear that you are relieved.

My former letters will have told you ere this reaches you how & why I did not as I had hoped enjoy the privilege of communion on the 4th. I have missed it very much & will if God spares my life make greater efforts to partake of this sacred & healthy ordinance whenever & wherever the opportunity to do so presents itself & may God bless it under all circumstances & by whomsoever administered to my growth in grace & especially in humility & penitence that I may more & more feel my need of my Savior & so love him more & more. Pride & selfrighteousness have a rank growth in my heart & I have constant need to be reminded that I can do nothing but fall down in utter helplessness before that cross on which hangs the sacrifice. Blessed Lord may I never cease ^{to feel} that there & only there can I get rid of the burden & by & through it only win the crown.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864. Contd.

I do not misunderstand you in your anxiety about my attendance upon the services of the Episcopal Church. I know how strong your preferences are, that you will never be other than thoroughly Presbyterian in your heart & faith. Let this give you no more care than it does me. I have not attended the Presbyterian Church or the Methodist, first because I have felt a preference for the Episcopal, but although I have enquired I don't even now know where the church is & am told that their services are infrequent. I have not so much as seen Mr. Girardeau since I have been in Va. & have never heard of his preaching until too late to go. I happen to know that I will certainly hear preaching & a style that I think benefits me if I go to the Episcopal & as I barely get the opportunity to go, I do accordingly. I am now making the effort to secure Mr. Girardeau as our Brigade Chaplain & have secured Genl. Hagood's consent & have taken the initiatory step to have his acceptance accomplished. And you know that I was among the few who were not extravagant admirers of his style of preaching. If you will recall some of our discussions you will remember that I had some objections to him. I hope I have abused your mind of any impressions of the possibility of future differences which might grow up upon this point & so little am I affected by my preferences that I will say nothing in defense of them, or attempt to account for them. There is no danger of our worshiping but at the same church, no danger of our children being taught but one doctrine. Grant merciful Father that we both may be spared to nurture them in the fear & admonition of the Lord & by lives of constant godliness set

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864. Contd.

such an example before their eyes that the religion we profess may be attractive and lovely in their sight. Let this be our effort so to practice the doctrines we profess that they may regard them as realities & seek too to enjoy them & the influences they exercise. Let us so walk with God that his image will be reflected in our lives & they beholding the sweet & gentle & happy effects may be led within the fold & made partakers of all the blessings which as sons of God we are entitled to. Let us be more in earnest to make good use of our heritage. If we are Christ's then he is ours & all his promises are for us. Let us therefore be careful that all the blessings which thus are provided for us be not only secured but enjoyed & so enjoyed that they will shine forth in our lives & conversation. Oh blessed Master, brother, friend, so reveal thyself to us that we may so love thee as to rejoice in thee & so obey thee, as in the most trivial events of life we shall submit with a meek & cheerful spirit to all thy holy will, and when thou callest us to pass through the deep waters may we rest on thee and be not fearful but believing, or when in the fiery furnace of trial may we not only realise thy presence with us but may others see thee at our side surrounding us so that they may be made to believe in thee, Let not the cares of the world overwhelm us. Let not the law which we daily discover in our members overcome the law which thou hast written in our hearts. Let not Satan prevail against us. Be thou the captain of our salvation, our Prophet, Priest, & King. So guided & upheld we shall not only teach our dear little ones, but lead them to the Way, the Truth, the Light & the Life.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864

I am sorry after what you say that I kept Jamie's over-coat. I hesitated at the time but after consultation with Charlie felt none whatever. I am mortified at what Ella has told & my recollection is that she was present during my conversation with Charlie & if she did not agree with us she certainly expressed no contrary views. I cant understand why she was called on to speak of it at all. I will send it over by the first opportunity. Had I recd. your letter yesterday I could have sent it by Adger Smyth, but other chances will offer in a few days. Do get Anne if the subject is ever introduced during her visit to say that I regret very much having kept it & would not have done so had I thought a little more about it. If Ella sent to me for it I never received her message & in fact on no occasion during her visit did I receive any word from her. I will write to Charlie about it & ask him to explain the matter the best he can & indeed he must do so. I feel wounded by Ella's allusion to the subject.

It is very natural for people at home to conclude that Genl. Hagood is "rash" &c. I do not intend now to combat this impression, but will only say that he only obeyed orders & if other Brigade Commanders had done the same it is the opinion of everyone here that the affair of the 21st, and as well as that of the 24th June would have resulted in the happiest final results. I am surprised at the flagrant disobedience of orders constantly occurring in this army & still more so that they are allowed to go unpunished. One Brigade goes into a fight as they are ordered & are cut to pieces sim-

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864.
Contd.

ply because those who were ordered to move forward with them fail to obey. Of course the Commander who obeys under such circumstances must be "rash" . Napoleon or Wellington would have shot four Brigade Commanders had either of them been in command of our army on the 21st Aug. & then with the same troops have gone in & won the fight. The spirit of our people is indeed declining if they prefer surrender to the gallant recovery of even one of our battle flags. There was a time when our State would have risen as one man & called loudly for this tattered & riddled flag & placed it with feelings of enthusiasm in their most conspicuous place of assembly as a trophy & sign that Carolinians never surrender. There was a time when he who dared such a deed of devotion to the flag of his country would have had his name emblazoned near the honored spot where it ought to hang. May the day yet come when among a better & nobler generation my son shall tell that his Father was at the battle where this deed was done. Oh shame upon those who taking their ease at home can not appreciate such a deed. Still greater shame upon those who are cold blooded enough to censure him whoever he is who displays such a spirit under such circumstances. You can tell those at home that in the Brigade & in this poor worn out army, the men who surrendered themselves on that day- if they ever return- will have to fight hard to regain the confidence of their comrades & they who fell upon it are enshrined as martyrs, who fell in as gallant a fight as had been made in the war. That this is not properly viewed at home is a sad evidence of the waning spirit of our people.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864. Contd.

Although your recent letters warn me by their silence on the subject that you had postponed sending a box by the car of the 5th as you first proposed to do, I nevertheless made search for it among the parcels which arrived today. Do not think I felt disappointed for I felt almost sure it would not come. I dare say the winter cloth if it leaves on 15th will get here in good time. We have had some cool nights already & fall is evidently approaching. Do not undertake to send anything after this box.

Let Ella know that I will return the overcoat. It may remind her to hasten forwarding my cloth to John for I need the sack coat he is to have made for me very much. I hope she has not delayed to forward it. I am now compelled to wear my best coat in common & I do not know when I will be able to pay for another.

I am sorry to see that your troubles with the servants are not yet over. God reward our kind friends for all the help they have given you. May it be returned to them ten fold in their crops & cattle & above these in the sweet pleasure imparted and promised to cheerful givers.

It is impossible for me to tell you any fixed amount that you can draw against. Just exercise prudence in view of the future & continue to draw upon John.

It is now nearly 1 O.C. & I must prepare for bed. It is a lovely night. Bright moon. Floating fleecy clouds. A sighing wind. But the distant booming of shell & incessant fire of sharpshooters are mingled with the mourning of the

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 14th, 1864. Contd.

wind among the trees. No wonder. The night is robed of its otherwise peaceful, pleasant features. How long, Oh Lord? How long? The shelling this morning all along the lines was very heavy. Terrible. Thank God we are yet permitted to enjoy this rest.

My bowels have been quite bad the last two days. If I don't improve I think I will try if the Medical Board will recommend a furlough. Don't build even a faint hope on this poor foundation.

I must say good night. God bless you & all our dear ones this night & every succeeding night that no disturbing thoughts by day may rob you of quiet peaceful rest. God grant thee all the desires of thy heart & fill thy soul with blessing only he can bestow.

Good Night.

Sept. 15th

Good Morning.

You alluded to the appropriateness and sweet comfort afforded in our readings for the 11th. I felt them so at the time. How precious also was the lesson for yesterday. The oftener I read these sweet songs the more I enjoy them.

I heard from James a few days ago. He was about to obtain a furlough. I am very anxious to have him in my office & have written to Barker to assist me in obtaining his transfer. If I had a competent clerk, Capt. Brooks would take my place & I might before long apply for a leave. Situated as I now am the prospect is improbitious. I have heard nothing of Jamie's wound affecting his mind, & don't think it is so.

Dunlop's Park, Sept. 15th, 1864. Contd.

You are becoming very proud of your boy Charlie.
What a loss to me is the budding forth of this young chap.
Seriously I feel very deeply the loss I am enduring of being
separated from these two youngest in the fresh bloom of infancy. All I can do for them is to pray earnestly for them.

I send you two papers by this mail.

You must exercise patience a while longer as to my
writing oftener. I am very busy - writing usually all day.

Love to all. Kisses to the little ones & heaven's
best blessings on all of you & the dear friends who have been
so kind to you.

Write often . Hoping to hear that you are better
when next you write,

Your devoted

Husband.

Hd. Qrs. Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 20th, 1864.

My dear Liz

I have two letters from you to acknowledge from you tonight but I fear I will not be able to write you more than a short reply & at best a poor return for your affectionate breathings. I feel tired. Did not get to bed until 2 A.M. last night & have been hard at work all day over my desk, so you must excuse all. But I can not leave you so long without some word from me & now without further excuses, for your letters seriatim.

It is very kind in Cousin John to offer you the syrup & providing that you can not get a barrel. Write to John Moffett & tell him to get you one. It will be worth all it costs to get it. Be sure to write to him. I am glad you sold your shoes but think you ought to have got more for them.

Be careful how you write to Mrs. Birnie that Hannah's wages do not pay her expenses. It will be a good argument for her to advance upon you.

I will expect the box on Sunday & will write you as soon as it arrives. Don't bother to send another. It is too much trouble situated as you are. I have the promise of a box from one of our officers who has gone home.

I am sorry to hear of Cousin Mary Thomlinson's ill health. I dreamed the other night I saw her & Aunt Hall both leaning out of the front window of their house in Spartanburg.

I am glad you keep up your pleasant correspondence with Miss Arsem. It will be a diversion which will do you good.

How many pleasant memories you started into exis-

Hd. Qrs. Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 20, 1864. Contd.

tence or rather revived by alluding to the incident in your little book course with our move to Judith St. That was a happy home & the only sad memory connected with it in my mind is when we left it. Oh that God in his mercy would so order events that we may soon return to one of similar quiet happiness. We did not deserve one so happy. We were not sufficiently grateful.

Dont allow your heart to despond. Cheer up & let hope make the future bright in spite of clouds & darkness.

You ask how I will rank as Major when taking Capt. Molony's place. Congress passed an act making the grade of A.A.G. Major instead of Captain but the President has refused to put it into execution owing to some defect in the bill.

This is a hasty reply to your affectionate letter. How did you take up the notion that I had an abhorrence for crossed letters? If I ever had such a feeling, notions of economy would have long ago have driven them away. Dont let it again interfere with your covering all the sheets. My recent letters will show you that I do not object to writing such & only wish I could spend time enough uninterrupted to cross all my letters to you.

Now for yours of 18th recd. today. You call mine of 9th a bitter pill. I wrote in haste & scarcely know what I wrote, but I know I felt & still feel that Sister M. should not have repeated what you wrote to her while Charlie was holding up hopes & by his letter tempering their minds for the blow which I think must surely fall upon them. I thought at the time that it would be best to let them know the worst at once & the little hope left would have prevented the crushing effects. I much prefer that my opinion be not brought in conflict with Charlie's in anything in

Hd.Qrs. Dunlop's Farm. Sept.20,1864. Contd.

which they are concerned & I thought you understood this.

A private named Zissett will take on Jamie's over coat. He starts tomorrow. I will instruct him to leave it at the book store formerly Bryan's. You can write to Anne & let her send Edward for it. That will be better than leaving it at the house. That would only revive unpleasantness. Write at once to Anne.

You must not yield to such gloomy forebodings. You commit sin by so doing. It is ingratitude. Rather praise God for the past. Let your mind dwell upon the mercies & love which have been measured out, until it overflows in grateful praise & produces faith & hope. Trust him for the future who has done so much & such wonderful things in the past. Has he not supplied our wants abundantly & provided for us in this day of universal want & in a way in which we knew not of & little dreamed of, hath not his hand done this ? Has he not in the midst of darkness & danger thus far prevented us from being entirely enveloped or overthrown & shall we not lean upon him for the future ? Oh let not distrust separate us from a close walk with him, but let us keep near & the darker the night & the heavier the clouds only draw nearer for only he is our light & salvation. He only can guide us. Let us not therefore lose sight of him by faith. Look up, even unto the hills from whence cometh our help. These are days for us to live in our moments. Take no thought for to morrow. To seek & to live upon our daily bread. To realise that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. To seek grace for each day & hour, leaving the next to him to whom it belongs. Try this. Do not allow your imagination to carry you into the dark uncertain tomorrow & there leave you alone with your fears. But when your mind will

Hd. Qrs. Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 20, 1864. Contd.

run into the future take hope with you. She is a pleasanter companion, but better than either is Patience. Stay at home with her & she will make each hour more happy than the last & sweet contentment will make the night short, but refreshing. Give us this day Oh Lord our daily bread, feed us with food convenient for us. The parable of the rich man teaches us two lessons. Not only to avoid covetousness, but to leave the future with God & use the present for his glory & in his praise. We must not build store houses & fill them with either hopes or fears, but rather employ the sane efforts of mind in doing what our hands find to do by exercising faith & cheerfulness, Patience & contentment. What we call the future looks gloomy indeed, but what do we know of it, & if it be gloomy why enter it with our minds. Why seek to see the interior of what presents so unpromising an exterior. But how often has so gloomy a cloud shut out the bright expanse beyond. 'Tis true our weak eyes could not penetrate & behold the perfect serenity of the clear ethereal atmosphere that dwelt beyond, but it nevertheless existed. Cheer up & rather let it be your part to dispell the clouds from my mind than for me to attempt it for you.

Love to all. Kisses to the children & heavens best blessings be with you, my dearest,

ever prays

Your devoted

Husband.

I enclose a letter from Charlie recd today.

This is a regular patch work letter. I expect to go to Richmond Friday on 24 hours leave to see about getting pay for my horse.)

,

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864.

Dear Liz

I returned from a 24^h hour visit to Richmond last evening & met your two letters of 21st with dear Bessie's little note enclosed. I recognized her hand in the direction of the letter & think I can see evident signs of improvement - which are gratifying.

Richmond seems to be out of the circle disturbed by the war. The streets are full of men who seem intent but upon personal interest & of women whose minds are occupied wholly by dress & gaiety. The stores seem abundantly supplied & the utmost extravagance prevails. The theatre & 4 other places of entertainment are in full blast & preparations are being made for the approaching season as though no disturbing cause could possibly interfere with these sources of healthy festivity. The whole tone of the place jarred upon my feelings & I can not resist a feeling of almost conviction that heavy judgments await a place so indifferent to the wail of sorrow which sounds over the land. The present state of things in the valley seems to disturb their rest somewhat as an uneasy dream. But it will require something more to rouse them to a proper realization of our circumstances. It really seems as though we were about to enter upon a crisis in our affairs. The recent successes of our enemies make them bouyant & confident. Their ranks are being swollen by reinforcements & they are gathering all their strength for a blow which they intend & believe will be decisive & final. Humanly speaking the case with us is desperate & the prospects not only without encouragement but gloomy. All

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

the advantages which numbers, skill, ingenuity, & human resources can afford is upon their side. The odds against us are fearful. If we are to depend upon similar means our cause is in a desperate condition. If the contest is to be decided by Horses & Chariots, we must flee to the mountains.

But in the words of our lesson of this morning if God the Lord be on our side we need not fear. What can our enemies with all their gigantic resources do unto us ? If God be for us who can prevail against us ? Oh that our people would be wise & turn unto God with penitence & seek his pardon & favor. If he withdraws his favor we are undone. If he lift not up his hand in our behalf we must be crushed before our enemies. From him alone cometh our help. Merciful Father withdraw thy judgments from us, deserving though we be of thy wrath for truly our sins, The sins of each one of us cry aloud for judgment, but in infinite mercy turn aside thy fierce anger which our iniquities have brought upon us & save us from the threatened storm. Defeat we beseech thee the purposes of our enemies & deliver us from our troubles. Who would lift the veil from off the future month ? It must be one full of terrible strife & bloodshed unless God in his infinite mercy prevent.

On every side events are culminating. The enemy are preparing with all their energy, stimulated by recent successes, political purposes, personal ambition & national pride & goaded on by deep seated hate & malice, increased by disasters in the past, to strike a mighty blow at our armies every where.

I do not write thus my dearest to increase the anxieties which already swell to overflowing your loving heart. Would

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

to God I could relieve thee of even the smallest ripple of painful thought. Sweeter far would be the employment to pour oil upon the troubled sea of care which for these many months have been rolling over your heart. I say I write not thus to increase your anxieties or to excite forebodings, but rather in view of all that as far as our weak human sight can take in is to be seen in the future, as it were hand in hand upon this sacred Sabbath day, to endeavor to realise how vain are all our human hopes & to strive to separate ourselves from them as well as from cares & fears, to look up to the heavens where dwelleth our God & overlooking all the sea of trouble, to put our trust in him. How appropriate is our lesson for today. Let us call upon the Lord. He will answer us & set us in a large place. We shall not be compassed about & shut in by cares & fears, but in the full enjoyment of that peace which he can impart, we shall soar aloft as on eagles' wings. The Lord shall be our strength & song & he shall be our salvation. It is better to trust in the Lord than in man or even in princes. Strengthened by these sublime thoughts how confidently the Psalmist exclaims - "I shall not die but live." Let us also enter in the open gates of righteousness & praise the Lord. In this day which he hath made let us rejoice & be glad in it & pray earnestly in behalf of our country. Save now I beseech thee O Lord. O Lord I beseech thee send now prosperity. Are we ready to bind the sacrifice with cords even unto the horns of the altar? Have we thrown down all our Idols & are we ready like Abraham to go forth willing to offer up whatever sacrifice God may select. O Lord subdue our hearts

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

into perfect conformity to thy will, enable us to follow thy guiding hand. Save us from boastful confidence & fill our hearts with childlike submission to thy will. Enable us to go forth in thy strength & trust in thy providence, looking not at the things which are seen & temporal, but to those things which are eternal, remembering always that this is not our abiding home, but that there is a city which hath a habitation whose foundations are eternal, prepared by God for those who love him & look for the second coming of him who hath gone to prepare a place for us in his Father's mansions. In that city there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall be any more pain. For the former things are passed away, and they that dwell therein shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them any more, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of them shall feed them, & shall lead them unto living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. Shall we fear what man can do against us? O Lord make us diligent to work out our salvation with fear & trembling, running with patience the race set before us in the gospel. Let us therefore fear lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest we should even seem to come short. If this hope be in us & abound, why should the future lessen our songs of praise or increase of fears beyond making us rely more entirely upon him to whom belongeth the issues of life & of death. Let our fears stimulate our prayers & increase our faith & dependence upon our Father's love & mercy. This will gild the darkest cloud & cheer the gloomiest hour. What an inheritance of ^{hope} is theirs whose trust is in the Lord. Nothing shall

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

hurt or make them afraid. God grant his grace to us in such measure that this shall be our portion in this life & when we come to the last dark hour may this same hope light our way through the dark valley.

The call for afternoon service has just blown. Mr. Morse is preaching for us. He gave an excellent sermon this morning contrasting the sorrows of this life with the joys of heaven. (I will return to my letter after service.) Mr. Morse gave us an excellent practical sermon, taking as his text the earnest persistent importunity of the woman of Samaria in behalf of her daughter, & urged^{to} like perseverance. Would we be kings in heaven we must be beggars on earth.

This has been a glorious day - cool & bracing, a cloudless sky & transparent atmosphere, & now the evening shades are gently falling as the sun in gorgeous majesty sinks to rest. It is a glorious sight & I gaze upon it this evening with peculiar feelings, as we are expecting to break up our camp here & return to duty in the Trenches tomorrow. If this is carried out, this is in all probability the last Sabbath afternoon I will spend here to enjoy the scene of grandeur. How peaceful is the scene. Our tent is on a high bluff projecting beyond the adjacent banks of the creek which winds below. The opposite bank of the creek is a sloping meadow left uncultivated & given up to cattle, who scattered among its luxuriant growth, - making a fine subject for the painter. Before & bounding this meadow runs the rail way & beyond thick woods. Standing at the point of our bluff & looking East at a distance of about a thousand yards where the creek makes another bend &

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

gives another projecting bluff stands a tastily built turreted villa, the residence of Mr. Dunlop. Lying between us and the villa winds the stream with its beautifully wooded bank - now rich with Autumnal hues. It is a lovely spot & to which the owner ought to be strongly attached. Just now the sky is all golden. I wish I could paint. I would like to paint the scene. It is so peaceful. Would to God peace reigned equally supreme in the hearts of men & they likewise declare the glory of God. The sky grows brighter & more brilliant as the shades thicken. So O Lord may our souls grow when the dark shades begin to close upon us & our departing hour be our brightest & most glorious. (I must wait until after supper to conclude my letter.) Oh if you could only be here & step with me a little apart to enjoy this view to show how poor I am in description. I was struck as I returned to gaze upon my favorite landscape by the peculiar beauty of the reflection of the trees in the stream. No mirror could reflect more perfectly the surrounding objects. The scene increased in splendor as the night drew on. The trees seemed fringed with gold.

I wish I could convey to your mind something of the impression produced on mine by the scene as it appeared this evening. If we would but open our minds how often could we hear sermons from creatures in the great temple of nature - more eloquent than the highest flights of human genius. There are in your neighborhood several commanding points from which you might enjoy the glorious sunsets of the season. It would

Dunlop's Farm. Sept. 25th, 1864. Contd.

make a pleasant ride for yourself & the children & it would give a good direction to their minds & to know that the object of the ride was mainly to enjoy the setting sun would increase in them the pleasure & deepen the impression. I feel that I can say to you without the risk of being misunderstood that I wish you more frequently to undertake some such expeditions with the children alone. Billy has sufficiently established his reputation for gentleness to permit you to undertake the drive without the assistance of any one else.

You must not think that I misunderstood what you wrote about the over coat. I know that you regret as much as I do that any thing was said about it. I was wrong to keep the coat & am glad that my attention was called to it, although I did not relish the manner in which it was done. I hope now it will go safely. I will do very well when I get the one you will send me. I am not particular which of the two you may determine upon. Winter is coming upon us, & either of them will be acceptable, ere long.

We have just heard that Genl. Lee intends reviewing our division tomorrow. So we will have one more day out of the trenches.

I almost forgot to tell you that I saw our box in Richmond at the soldiers home. I wanted to bring it on with me but could not get it to the Depot. It will come to Petersburg Tuesday. I think I told you that I had all my undervests with me. They need repair however.

We had a startling rumor here this morning to the effect that Charleston had fallen. We are all anxious to hear

Dunlop's Farm. Sept.25th,1864. Contd.

from there. The last news we have is to the effect that the enemy is demonstrating at James Island. My own opinion however is that all other movements are made with a view to withdraw our attention from the only real movement which they intend to make viz. a grand move against our army.

Sept.26th,1864.

I hoped to have been able to add a line this morning, but the mail carrier has come & I can only say I am quite well on this splendid morning. God bless you. I will write soon again. It is quite cold. I have increased my under clothing. I wish I had the suit John was to have made for me.

Love- to all.

As ever yours,

George.

Dunlop's. Sept.27th, 1864.

My dear Liz

I wish I had the time tonight to write you a long letter. I have three reasons for particularly wishing to do so. First to reply to yours of the 24, which came to me today. You need a change of some kind. Why so low-spirited ? True all is not as bright as we would wish it & there is enough in the prospect of the future to make us unwilling to remove the veil. Then let us turn from it & live in the past & present. Do you remember those lines of Trench, beginning with- " We live not in our moments or our years. The present we fling from us like the rind of some sweet future which we ever find bitter to the taste" ? I can not quote the rest, Look it up. There is much wisdom in it. I have often wished & tried to recall the words. The idea is:- The present affords us abundant sources of pleasurable enjoyment if we will but look for it, if only in birds & flowers & other numerous, yes numberless evidences of God's Mercy & goodness. He never means to cast us down utterly. There is much to cheer us if we but look at the whole instead the dark corner of the picture. Let us look up & beyond. Cheer up & cast off the dull cloud.

Another reason for wishing to write you, is to tell you in what perfect order the box opened & how acceptable was each & every item. Each one speaking to my heart volumes of love in my far off home. I pictured to myself the group around the box as the contents were being put in. God bless you & reward you for all your care & thoughtfulness. I am well provided for, for the coming winter. God grant me a contented, grateful heart to praise him for all his blessings & all the love with which

Dunlop's. Sept. 27th, 1864. Contd.

he has surrounded me. The grist will be a great treat. We trade bacon for butter. Tomorrow our breakfast will be hominy & butter. Today we had some of the fruit for dessert. I had a present of white sugar from a lot sent by Charley Mitchell to the 27th. The Genl. & I enjoyed a mess & I sent Joe Adger a mess also. The stockings are grand & in them I think I can bid defiance to cold feet.

Another reason for wishing to write tonight is because the long deferred order for us to return to the trenches has come & we march at 5 A.M. tomorrow. So this is my last letter to you from this camp & I wish it to be long & pleasant for the pleasant memories which cluster around it. The beauties of the place itself, the perfect rest we have enjoyed, the better opportunities I have here enjoyed of private devotion, but also much to regret about neglecting many I might have embraced. Many pleasant letters from you & to you. And there has been a cessation of those daily casualties which like the solemn tolling of a bell was continually sounding in our ears. Since we have been here we have not lost a man. God has been good to us. Praised be his name. We are about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours march from the position we are to occupy. I will not leave until about 7 oc after forming the Brigade. I will return to have my things packed up. You will be busy about the house little dreaming of the long faces which are leaving their late pleasant camping ground. I leave it with a sigh, but try to exercise gratitude for the past & seeking daily grace for the daily need & a more perfect trust & stronger faith for the future, to go forward in the path of duty. Hope casts a bright ^{halo} over the future, & no matter how dark

Dunlop's. Sept. 27th, 1864. Contd.

& heavy the clouds there is always one ray which penetrates through which I look homeward, & although many days must yet divide us, I nevertheless hope for the time as not too distant as it seems when we may be permitted to meet in your cottage home & lift up our hearts with overflowing gratitude & praise for the Goodness & Mercy which fill the vista which once looked so cheerless & dim. Then we will wonder and rejoice over the past. Why not trust for the unfinished future. Let the worst happen. Shall we not praise him who is our God & doeth all things wisely.

I am truly sorry to hear of your bodily ailments. What a time you have had, Can't you run away somewhere & change the scene? I wish I could nurse you a while.

I have fallen heir to some additional bedding. Quite acceptable. 2 blankets and a bed sack &c which I will tell you about at another time, It would take too much time tonight.

It is now nearly 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ & I have all my fixing to do. I must make room in my valise for the Winter shirts &c just recd., fix up my papers & leave as little to be done in the morning as possible.

I am glad at the prospect of a new hat. You would be ashamed to see me in my present rig. I don't think you would recognise me.

I wish John would hurry on that suit. I need it dreadfully. I have written him several letters but have no reply. I will write him in the first leisure hours after going into the trenches, but there will necessarily be some delay.

Dunlop's. Sept.27th,1864. Contd.

I dont understand why my letters take so long to reach you & wish it were otherwise. Any important matter I will telegraph to you.

Good night. God bless thee and all our dear ones. The comforting cheering influence of the blessed spirit surround & fill thy heart. The abiding love imparting presence of our Savior abide with thee, & peace & joy crown each day of thy life. These things and all others that God our Father out of his abundant treasury of Mercy & love seeth fit to bestow- I pray constantly as thy portion. Love to all. Kisses & blessings on our dear little ones & hoping & praying that the day of our reunion may not be very far, yet seeking submission & patience under all trials that now seemeth so greivous, may ere long be Joyous, working out for a far more abundant & eternal weight of glory.

Good night my dearest & best beloved

Your dear Husband.

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 3rd, 1864.

Dear Liz

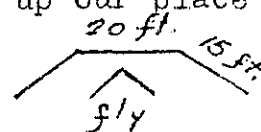
You must not expect from me for several days more than what must be called dispatches. We are hard at work erecting retrenchments. Having failed to dislodge the enemy from Fort Harrison, we are now building works called retrenchments to prevent any further success on his part. I will if I have time sketch off a plat of the position. We are on the James River about 6 miles from Richmond. The enemy having taken one of our salients, he has gone to work as hard as we & no doubt more vigorously to make his position impregnable. On this account, active operations have ceased during the last two days. The pickets & sharp shooters doing all the firing, even this is not severe. Yesterday we had one Officer & two men wounded & one killed - the latter was within 10 paces of me. Poor fellow, he spoke not a word & scarcely breathed. The ball entered the brain & life fled. The narrow stream was quickly crossed. And why not I? not because I am not exposed, not because I deserve exemption, but mercy thus far has overshadowed me & in tender compassion I am yet spared to pray & seek salvation. God grant that goodness may produce humility, penitence, love, & faith in a heart which has long been joined to its idols.

The impression today is that the enemy is returning to the south side. So we may leave here at any moment or we may remain here several days or weeks. Such is the uncertainty of our life. We literally know not what a moment may bring forth & while we have to work & arrange as though we were to remain permanently, we have at the same time to be prepared to move at a moment.

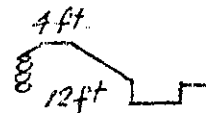
Chaffin's Farm Oct. 3rd, 1864. Contd.

I am constantly reminded of the force of the Scripture figure likening the Christian to a soldier. He must have his armor on ready either for defence or for attack. He must be prepared to go wherever his Captain orders & he must live in constant expectation of death.

We - that is the Genl. & staff - are fixing up our place for Hd. Qrs. We have a sort of redoubt shaped thus :
We build it by laying logs upon each other & secur-



ing them as they do in log houses. Then the earth is thrown against them, making a profile like the cut.



Behind this we have stretched a fly & on the ground pine straw. This makes good protection against rifle shot but artillery would make us leave our shelter for the stronger defences on the front lines. Our Waggon's are about a mile to the rear & our boys bring our meals to us three times a day.

My own impression is that the move in this direction is a feint. Grant can move much more rapidly than we can & my impression is he will make a dash somewhere else. The advantage we have is that our lines are so extended that the loss of any one part is not a very serious matter, but at the same time it makes many points liable to surprise & capture & these repeated successes of the enemy elates & encourages them while they depress & discourage our troops.

Dinner is announced & I will stop for the present.

Dinner over. Taken seated on the ground. Beef steak, & onions. Rice. Mashed potatoes. Biscuit. You see we are doing pretty well for poor soldiers, but how different it would be with even a more frugal meal around the family board. Oh I don't

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 3rd, 1864. Contd.

dare think about it. Patience, Hope, & Faith must build the bridge over the future, thru arches.

If all goes well I may be able to pay you a visit about Christmas. Recent movements seem to forbid your coming on, although Genl. Hagood still intends Mrs. H. to come. My judgment is even against her coming until things are more settled. He will of course be better able to provide for her movements in an emergency than I could & therefore your trip must be deferred for the present - great as is the disappointment to me.

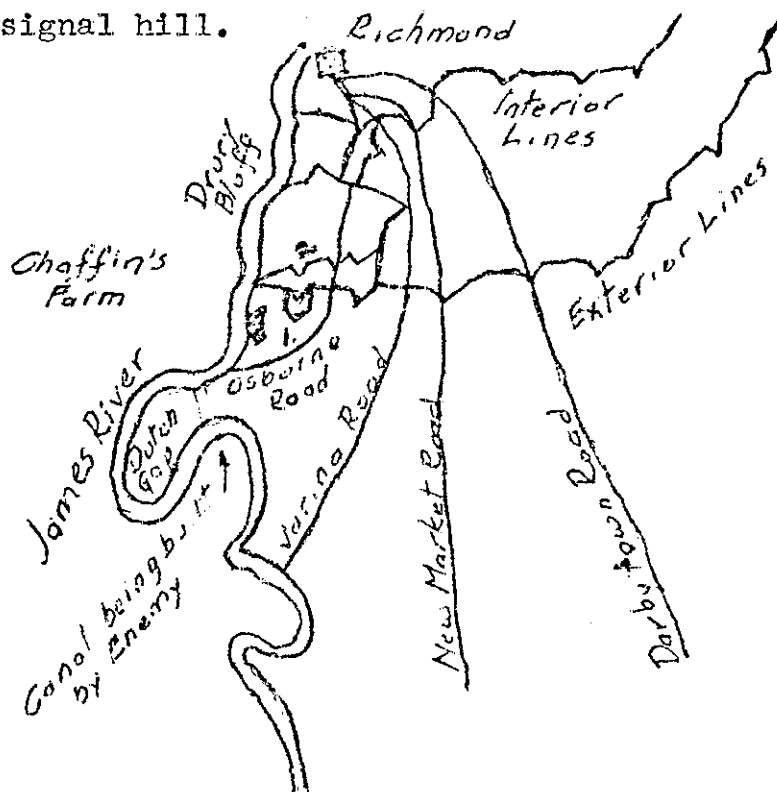
Can you tell me why I do not hear from John Moffett ? I am wretchedly in need of the things I wrote to him for, especially the Sack coat & my bear skin. Ella certainly could not have delayed forwarding the cloth after all I said to her about my need. Do write to him & urge him to hurry all he can. If he can not at once send the clothing &c do send me the sack I brought from Eng. It is homespun - only light. If you have enough of the homespun to make a full circular cape, I wish you would have it made up instead of a suit of clothes. It ought to measure a yard or (better) one and one eighth from the collar to the tip & form a perfect circle when spread out. Can you have such a thing cut out ? I would be very glad to have it. It ought to be heavily lined & with two inside pockets. I do hope John will not delay about my suit. I will suffer if he does. The winter season is approaching with rapid strides & if my life is spared, I must have the clothes. I will mention one other want which he may be able to supply - a few pearl buttons for shirts. By the way one of my calico shirts is in a bad way - except for rags.

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 3rd, 1864. Contd.

I will send you Charlie's letter by tomorrow's mail.

I have not heard from you for three days. Why ?

This is a rough sketch of the position. No. 1 is the redout taken by the enemy. 2 is our new line of retrenchment. 4 is signal hill.



The mail has come & I must close.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones & Heaven's best

Blessing on you all.

Yours

George.

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 5th, 1864

Dear Liz

Everything continues quiet today. Even the pickets have ceased their fire and only hostile spades are busy. We have done a great deal of work & much remains to be done to make our line perfect.

I am surprised, no I am not surprised, but a little annoyed that so many false reports have been circulated about Genl. Hagood & the affair of the 24th. He received orders from Maj. Genl. Mahone to press the enemy vigorously, and Genl. Mahone was on the spot himself & put the Brigade in motion not 200 yards from where they met the heavy fire, beside this both Genl. A.P. Hill & Genl. Mahone have repeatedly admitted that the fault was theirs & expressed their regrets. They both acknowledge that they were ignorant of the position of the enemy & in fact did not know that the works from which came the deadly fire existed. Genl. Mahone has publicly stated that if the other Brigades had obeyed their orders as perfectly as we did the attack would have been successful. Their failure to press forward brought the whole brunt of the battle upon our devoted band. It is but an act of simple justice to have these facts known. It is a shame to decry one who has acted with so much devotion to our cause by false statements.

No doubt if your husband's life is spared to be useful, you will hear similar stories about him. At present he occupies too insignificant a position to be a mark for slander, even envy.

Charlie's conduct has been misconstrued & some very hard things are said of him. The last story heard from So. Ca. is

Chaffin's Farm. Oct. 5th, 1864. Contd.

that his men have lost all confidence 'in him.

The papers today have very encouraging accounts . The news from Georgia if only half true is splendid. In the West equally good. If we can only check Grant here I venture to predict that by the 1st of November we will be elated at the prospect. We are fighting against time. Lincoln & his Generals are doing their utmost to win great successes before the 4th Nov. If we can frustrate their designs, success is ours. The few advantages they have gained will go for naught & the spirit of the Northern people will give way under the failure to take either Petersburg or Richmond. By the 4th Nov. it will be known who is elected. Should Lincoln be successful he will have plenty of time to operate in & the great end for which he is laboring having been attained, viz his election. He will I think set to work to endeavour to accomplish a peaceable end to the conflict. If McClellan be elected Lincoln wont feel like working for him & so in either case we have much to hope for.

But there is a gap between now & then & every thing depends upon whatever God wills between now & than. Our lesson in Psalms this morning is full of deep comfort & encouragement.

Yours of the 28th just recd. Strange I recd one dated 30th yesterday. Have only time to say thanks.

Sorry to hear of Billy's lameness & your cold & Charlie's attack. Hannah More is very useful to me. God bless you for sending it. I heard from Calvin this P.M. He is well. So is Robt. Brice's son. But Simonton is missing. Some of the men hope he went to Richmond with other wounded, but the most fear he is wounded & in the hands of the enemy. God bless you all.

Your devoted Husband.

In the woods somewhere between the Darby-
town & Charles City Roads. Oct. 8th, 1864.

My dear Liz

You see I have so little hope of doing any thing more than write you a hasty line that I even start it upon a soiled sheet. But short as it may be, it recounts with feelings of deep gratitude an other instance of God's mercy & deliverance. Very soon after closing my letter of the 6th we recd preparatory orders for a movement which was shrouded with more than usual mystery. We marched out of the trenches we had labored night and day to throw up. At 9½ P.M. it was a peculiar sight by light of the camp fires to see the long strings of men moving noiselessly along. Arriving at the turnpike (Osborne) we saw all the evidence of busy preparation for some important movement. Artillery hurrying forward. Brigade after Brigade moving into position. At length the long column of Field's & Hooker's Div. formed - marched forward. We were on the march until 3 A.M. Slept until day dawn & advanced. The point of attack was the lines captured by the enemy from Gary's Brigade. Fields began the assault & soon the rattle & roar of battle swelled high. The cheers of our men told that thus far we were successful. Our Division was to continue the movement if it was deemed practicable. We were marched into a wood & formed line of battle. The shell & shrapnel fire was very severe, the most severe we have ever experienced in as much as the enemy had obtained perfect range. We had several casualties. It was a trying day, subject to shell all day until 3 & all the while expecting to be ordered to charge. Genl. Lee concluded to do nothing more that day & we moved away & bivouacked. We ^{captured} 12 pcs Artillery, 200 horses & a number of prisoners. Genl. Gregg was killed. Genl. Bratton

In the woods somewhere between the Darby-
town & Charles City Roads. Oct. 8th, 1864.
Contd.

wounded. Col. Haskill (James Col) badly wounded. His brother
Maj. Haskill wounded. An unfruitful day.

God be thanked it was not more disastrous. I lay
down with a grateful heart & slept sweetly & refreshed. I praise
my Maker for the mercies of the past & seek protection for the
future.

God bless you all.

In haste

Yours as ever

George.

Lines near Fort Gilmer

between Darbytown &

Charles City Roads.

Oct. 14th, 1864.

Dear John

I was very glad to receive your letter of the 6th. It relieved my mind in several respects & chiefly with regard to the accident to your little ones, of which I had heard a variety of rumors. Poor little Maggie. What a sufferer she must be. It is bad enough to think of men being wounded on the battle field but to think of women & innocent children being made the subject of the mad hate of our enemies makes ones blood boil. I sympathise with you with all my heart, & while I rejoice that it was no worse I am very sorry to hear of the painful wounds to which your little ones & Miss Margaret have been subjected.

We had a pretty severe fight yesterday - that is it lasted long. Our loss was very slight but we slaughtered them. They attacked our lines in front of Gary's Brigade ---- & Field's Division in four lines of battle & were handsomely repulsed. Negroes were mixed in with white troops & were piled together as they came up. We did not advance from our lines & therefore can not estimate their loss but it must have been very severe.

We are momentarily expecting another fight today. Every indication goes to show that the great final battle of the campaign is about to be fought & the impression seems to be that the battle field will be here. Grant is crossing troops

Oct. 14th, 1864. Contd.

over to this side of the river. Some how I feel that we will win. God with us, we certainly will. Grant is a tough colt. It is very hard to hold him in one place long enough to strike him, & he moves rapidly to points where we are vulnerable.

Would to God it were over & peace once more shining upon us.

My position on Genl. Hagood's is A.A.G. as my promotion has not yet been confirmed by the War Dept. owing to some defect in the last Staff bill. In consequence of which Old --- Jeff stuck the bill in his pocket, & there it will stay until Congress takes some action upon it. Genl. Hagood has seen the Dept. & he has no doubt about my appointment being confirmed. My position is as pleasant as if I had my full rank. General Hagood treats me with the utmost kindness & imposes as far as far as I can judge full confidence in me, leaving much to my judgement. If ever we get into a big open field fight, I will have every opportunity to distinguish myself. Genl. Hagood goes into the thickest of the fight, & I will be with him as long as it is God's will to spare me.

I am dreadfully home sick & as soon as the active work of the campaign is over I intend to apply for leave if my life is spared. But as long as the fighting continues I must stay to bear my part.

I am delighted to know that you have the cloth at last. Hope it will soon reach me in the shape of a good warm suit. I am suffering greatly for it, & never --- in all my life presented such a --- shabby appearance as at present

Oct. 14th, 1864. Contd.

I am literally in rags. Do hurry them on as fast as possible. Send them to Richmond by express if you have not already shipped them. I hope you secured the Cavalry boots. I will need them. If the hat Eliz. sent is not a good one, do exchange it with Steel or Williams. There is no economy in the lower priced ones. Dont forget the Cayen pepper, & if you can get a small " Increase Wilson " coffee mill into the box send it. But I hope that before this reaches you, the box will be on its way. I assure you I need its contents dreadfully.

As to the Bonds;- I think it will be best to wait until I get a furlough, which may be some time in December.

Be sure to send my bear skin.

Love to Georgie & the children. Kind remembrance to Mr. Burckmeyer & Miss Bennett, & all enquiring friends.

Tell Theo, Stoney he must come on & pay us a visit & if he will bring his rifle, I will promise him abundance of game.

Affectionately yours,

George.

Between Darbytown & New Market. 18th Oct. 1864.

Dear Liz

I owe you a longer letter than I will be able to write you this afternoon, for your affectionate one recd yesterday. I have been steadily employed all day or I would have fulfilled my promise given in my hasty note to Bessie yesterday, by writing you a "long letter". But really I have felt very stupid, as you no doubt have discovered during the last few days & am not yet in writing trim. My head is kept full by the ever recurring details of office duty. I am now however getting along very smoothly having at last obtained something like order in the office & got my papers arranged & classed.

Several of our officers captured on 21st Aug. have been paroled & paid us a visit. I made particular inquiry about poor Jamie, & the universal testimony is that he was Killed. I intend writing Charlie tomorrow. I think it is best for him to write to them & let them know that all possible hope is gone. I pity them from the bottom of my heart. I felt sure from the first that he was among the killed & that it would be best for them to know it at once. I fear it will be harder now than ever for them to submit to the trial. God sustain & comfort their hearts. The trial is a severe one & needs his sustaining & sanctifying hands.

Genl. Hagood had his horse to fall with him day before yesterday. His ankle was sprained & he has been sent to the rear by the surgeons. That is he is in Richmond with his wife. Opportune is it not.

Everything is very quiet here. We can hear the music of the enemy morning & evening. I cant imagine what will be the

Between Darbytown & New Market. 18th Oct. 1864.
Contd.

next move . We occupy a very strong position. Should Grant attack our front the slaughter will be very severe. Every effort is being made to increase the number of fighting men. Cooks, teamsters, Clerks &c are being sent to the front, & it is not unlikely that negroes will be employed as teamsters. Our Brigade is gradually increasing.

I do pray that we will not be engaged with the enemy again this campaign & may God hasten to close all its active operations. I do so long for a leave of absence. You will say we are not like the Clarks. I would have been in some lunatic asylum by this time. I try to keep up a contented spirit & look with hope to the future - perhaps the last of Dec. or 1st Jan. as the time when I may get off & pay you a visit.

I saw James on Sunday. He is quite well, although he tells me that he has not been well.

Charlie -- I have not heard from since the letter I sent you. I do not know how the defenses of Wilmington are arranged. He mentioned in one of his letters that they were very powerful.

I must close. God bless you my dearest with his constant presence & with you our dear little ones. Love to all.

Your devoted

Husband.

Lines near Richmond. Oct. 19th, 1864.

Dear Liz

I wrote you a very unsatisfactory note yesterday & I don't know that my effort today will be more successful, but with a heart willing to do its best, & a hand ready to do its bidding, I intend to make the effort to fill this sheet before the Mail man can hurry me, & therefore while the fresh & early rays of the sun are making the leaves sparkle as if covered with diamonds, & the cool bracing atmosphere of the early morning gives vigor to every purpose, I will make the start.

Oct. 20th. You see by this instance how uncertain is every thing in Army life. See with what a bright promise of success I started. I would not send it now but as an instance of the impossibility of calculating any distance of time ahead. It is now 5½ P.M. & I positively have not had the slightest opportunity of writing & now I am doing what I sought to avoid. I would postpone but Your dear affectionate letter just recd can not remain without acknowledgement however hasty it may be this P.M. Your last sentence has a full echo in my heart.

My Tweed overcoat is not sold or given away. I have it with me, but it will be very poor protection against the severe winter of Va.

I had a long talk with Genl. Lee this morning. I was presented by Genl. Kirkland & in the absence of Genl. Hagood went around our lines with him receiving his directions. He is anxious yet he says he is confident of success. All we want is men & these are coming in now.

As I wrote there is heavy firing going on on our right. A severe battle is going on there. We have not yet heard

Lines near Richmond. Oct. 19th, 1864. Contd.

what it is or where. It must be near Chaffin's Farm yet the firing sounds distant enough to be on the other side of the James

The clouds threaten rain. I had our tent pitched in anticipation of bad weather.

Your picture of Saturday eve at your dear home is as sweet to me - yes infinitely sweeter than Burns' picture. God bless you all & may it continue to be a home of peace & happiness. May no evil ever invade it. May no evil tidings check a constant flow of deepest gratitude from your heart.

I am glad at the encouragement that your letter gives me that John's box will soon come. And I hoped to hear of its arrival on Monday next at the farthest.

God bless you all & comfort & sustain your hearts by his presence. I hope to write you tomorrow. Love to all.

Your devoted Husband.

Hagood's Brigade. 13th November, 1864.

Dear Liz

Another Sabbath day without the privilege of public worship has passed away. It is sad to think how greatly this day is thus neglected. I miss the sacred privilege very much & it is impossible but these injurious ^{effects} must result. It is so in my experience I feel tonight that the day has not been spent as it should have been. I experience the want of those influences which are obtained in the congregation. I have at odd times enjoyed the Presbyterian you sent me. Both copies are excellent. There is a higher tone in the paper than formerly. You can form no idea how nearly impossible it is for me to spend the Sabbath as I should. Scarcely a moment of the day is at my command. I am not now trying to excuse myself for as each hurried day closes I review its hours. My own conscience condemns me & recalls lost moments of improvement & opportunities which might have been turned to better account, & if this conscience so blunted condemns, in how much more distinct a form must my wrong doing & not doing appear to the all seeing & holy God. Thanks be to his name. The mercy seat is near the throne. How awful would be our fate were it not for him who sitteth thereon. How many judgements due for our frequent daily transgressions & omissions has He averted. Blessed Advocate. How long suffering is his love. How patient & forbearing. Oh that my heart would love him as it should, but wandering, erring, unfaithful & perverse. Other objects lead it astray & engage it when all devotion should be fixed. There & only there & dead it too often grovels amid earthly objects. Lord help. Lord hold me up lest I stumble. lead me in the paths of righteousness-- should be my constant prayer. How soon we get to lean upon our selves when we cease to

Hagood's Brigade. 13th November, 1864. Contd.

lean upon Jesus & then we find not out our error until we have fallen so low that we loose sight of him & satan & our own blinded eyes keep us stumbling in the dark. Oh for a closer walk with God. There and only there are we safe from pitfalls of the world, the flesh and the devil. There and only there will we find the light we need to light us on the way. There & only there are we glad to cast away our selfrighteousness. Lord make me more watchful against the snares & temptations from within & without & keep me ever more under the shadow of thy wings.

I hope you have had a peaceful happy day. I long for a Sabbath at home once more,

Today has been very cold. Snow fell this afternoon but did not last long. Winter is coming upon us with slow & stately steps. His approach is not as rapid & remorseless as I had expected.

Last night we were on the alert. Genl. Lee having received news of the movements of the enemy indicating an attack in our, but the night passed off quietly. Again tonight we are ordered to be vigilant as the enemy have been provided with 5 days rations. It may be that we will have a busy week, perhaps active work. Perhaps I ought not to write you this without being able to tell you more, as it only excites fears & anxieties. Trust in him who stands ready to help you whatever be thy burden.

I send tomorrow by Cases a box of sundries.

Good night. Angels guard you & the dear ones at home.

Monday morning. 14th Nov./ 64.

The enemy are making better use of their 5 days rations than fighting over them. We had everything on the alert last night

Hagood's Brigade. 13th November, 1864. Contd.

expecting an attack. I was up at 5 or a little after. The dawn was glorious & day broke with a silver splendor. Everything was as quiet as the grave except the sighing of the bleak wind & the sound of Reveille as drum after drum along the line summoned the men to arms. It is a glorious day. Bright, clear & cold, very cold but bracing. The sun most brilliant.

We surmise that the 5 days rations may be for a march further south. May be that Grant may extend his lines southward into North Carolina. If so our Division will be the first to follow him. We are living at present being issued but corn meal & either of which is like Castor oil to me & in the present state of my bowels is trying. I don't think I ever told you this at home- chronic Dysentery. I have free from it since first attacked at Cold Harbor. It does not affect my general health at all & indeed I have been better in other respects. The only perceptible effect is that I am becoming a little corpulent. I hear that James Moffett starts for home today. I would like to have seen him, but will not be able.

I am sending to Richmond today for a lb. Butter 12¢ a lb. & a lb. sugar 12¢.

Personne is to take supper with us tonight. He wrote to Genl. H. inviting himself over. He may therefore write a letter to his paper from these Hd. Qrs. If he does cut it out & let me see what he has to say.

I hope you are enjoying this brilliant day at home. What a day for the children to romp in the yard. God Bless them.

I have sent in the box which left here this morning

Hagood's Brigade. 13th November, 1864. Contd.
the tweed cloak. Unless you need it at once for the children do
nothing with it until you hear from me.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones.

I have not had a letter for three days.

As ever your devoted

Husband.

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864.

Dear Liz

After four days silence, I heard from you by your very welcome letter of Nov. 11th only received today. I was a little anxious as your last letter spoke of dear Charlie's sickness, but I attributed your silence to preparations for your visit to Columbia. You have been so little of a traveler lately that I imagined you were putting yourself to a great deal of trouble getting ready providing against contingencies which might never arise. I am glad that you have not done so & suppose that now your visit is over & you are safely back home & cosily ensconced before a cheerful blazing fire this dark gloomy winter afternoon, engaged in thoughts of the coming Sabbath & perhaps thinking of the absent one far away amid scenes of possible strife & battle.

Guns are sounding their angry boomings & have been all day, but not in our neighborhood. Toward Bull Gap there is continual shelling from our batteries upon the working parties of the enemy, who are straining all their energies to complete their work.

Sunday Night,

My dear Liz:- I ought not & would not send you the above were it not some evidence of my good intentions & the purpose I had. I was hindered where I left off & intended to write you at night, but when the leisure time came, I felt so wearied that to have written would have been to me a task rather than a pleasure & to you a dull letter at best. I felt all over Saturday night weary in body & spirit & retired early. At about dawn we were roused by sharp musketry & artillery on the right. I was truly grateful that it was not near enough for me to get up.

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

ened by his strength in her heart so sustaining her that her tribulation may work out patience & hope. I trust your visit may do her good & that even Bessie with her talkativeness may conduce to withdraw her mind from her great grief. I think it would help them all to have one of you with one of the children to be in the house with them. If your Aunt should propose it I hope you may do so. Poor fellow, how different his fate from Robert's, & yet who would dare offer the difference as a source of comfort. Robert died at home in their sight, tenderly nursed & anxiously watched over with the daily expectation that he would be taken from them & yet how little consolation have they had in his end. Jamie died upon the battle field bravely - fell a martyr in a sacred cause & no nobler victim has bled. He died perhaps the death which beyond all others he would have preferred. He fell doing his duty to his country, to himself, & to his home. But all this will give but little consolation to those bleeding hearts. His memory is mingled with Robert who was very dear to me. He was possessed with many noble traits of character. He was brave & free from selfishness, possessed of a tender, loving heart. He was kind & affectionate, unobtrusive & sincere. My feeling to him was one of mingled friendship & brotherhood.

I hope you will have time to write me again from Columbia. I am anxious to hear more of your Aunt. Do remember me to them when you write.

Continue to draw what you need as heretofore. I do not know exactly how I stand on the books of J.E.A. & Co., but all must be right as I have not heard from Brown. I intend writing to him in a day or two for a statement. I wish you would make some

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

settlement
with Calvin for the corn we have been using from his crib for the
horse - fodder also.

I laughed heartily over your account of your adventure with Billy. If you had only thought of it you might have sent the Harness down & had it repaired in Cola. Cant you write to Mr. Bennet & have it attended to. I fear by this time it is a miserable affair. I dont hear anything about Andrew's riding nowadays. I hope he has not been demoralised by the fall you wrote about some time ago. I am very grateful that we will not be obliged yet to part with this great means of convenience & enjoyment. It is a great comfort to me that you have it & I will not part with it as long as we can honestly enjoy it.

I did get the little hymns you enquire about & thought them very sweet. It was a neglect on my part not to mention them.

You ask who is A.A.G. if I am A.A.A.G., why there is no A.A.G. & I am A.A.A.G. If I obtain my promotion I will be commissioned A.A.G. There is but one Adjutant General - who is Genl. Sam Cooper. He is the President's Adjutant. All others are Assistant Adjutant Generals. As I have not received my Commission on what is called the General Staff, I am known as Acting Assistant Adjutant General or A.A.A.G.

I am very glad Dr. Palmer has taken such high ground in our cause & hope his discourse will be published. I will be anxious to read it.

Mr. Boyce has I fear done us serious injury. We are now I think in our darkest hour. What we need is patience & endurance. It is now against these two qualities that the

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

enemy is directing all their efforts. They are trying to wear us out. If we can by God's help convince them that we can & will submit to anything but departure from the principles for which we are contending, even they will admire the grandure & sublimity of our position. God has his purpose to work out. I believe that he looks down with sorrow (if we can impute to him anything so human) upon our unfortunate strife & would say peace be still & no doubt will so soon as his purposes are accomplished. Whatever those purposes may be, we must believe that they are wise & merciful, and although we know not what he designs to accomplish, we do certainly know that we deserve his judgements for our sins, our sins as a nation, as individuals & our duty is to be circumspect in all our ways & thoughts, to walk humbly before him & seek pardon for ourselves & our fellows & in our prayers to emlore him to accomplish his purposes & grant us patience, humility & submission, to pardon our enemies who equally with ourselves have incurred his anger, remembering that they are but ^{instruments} in his hands to accomplish his designs. In my opinion when Christians become submissive, obedient, humble, faithful & penitent God will stay his anger. All his judgements are meant to work out his own glory & the Church is the instrument to accomplish this purpose on earth. Oh that his grace which he is ready to grant may soon be poured out & his inscrutable purpose be accomplished. One thing I think above all others we should avoid a spirit of rebellion against him. We should crush ever rising complaint. We should seek his face with a " what will you have me to do " spirit. Our worship, our daily life should be a waiting upon God. What more wouldst thou have me to do ? Thy

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

grace is sufficient for me, only thou my leader be. Let us avoid prying into his purposes. Let us cease wondering why we are called upon to suffer so long, but rather seek a spirit of meekness to endure all his righteous will & day by day look to him for the grace which he can provide for every necessity & trial. When we arrive as Christians to this state of heart it may be that God will stay his anger. Meanwhile let us not impeach his justice or his goodness. Let us not with unfaithful hearts complain against him.

We are looking anxiously for this campaign to close. Some think Grant will continue it through the winter & that he is now waiting for reinforcements to strike what he hopes will be a final & decisive blow. My hope is that there will be no more serious campaigning in the neighborhood & that the time is near at hand when I can feel that the campaign is sufficiently completed to justify in applying to Genl. Lee granting me a Leave of Absence. But the prospects are too uncertain for me to encourage you in any hope that I will be able to do so soon. Meanwhile let us cheer our hearts with past blessings & trust for the future, rejoicing in the present & with thanksgiving make known all our wants.

Genl. Lee's A.A.G. told Genl. Hagood a few days ago that the order for Charlie's return had been issued, So we are looking for him daily. I don't know whether to be sorry or glad. He will not like it but I am clearly of the opinion that it will be best for him. I am glad that it has been effected by Genl. Hoke's application rather than by Genl. Hagood's.

Hagood's Brigade. 19th Nov. 1864. Contd.

It is late & although I could chat away the entire night with you I must close. Love to all. Kiss the little ones for dear Papa. Be sure not to give your pet more than your share. I am very curious to see him. I hope he is quite well again.

God bless you all with choicest blessings, preserve you & keep you & ever surround you with his love & mercy restore us to each other to praise him for all his goodness.

Good night. You cant write too often.

God bless thee.

Your devoted

Husband.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 21st Nov. 1864. Contd.

Do the best you can with it.

As to the 4% bonds. I think it will be best to have them transferred as you propose, but I am not sure that it will be best to sell them. You say they are bringing 70. Do you mean that for this the interest is included? There is or will be on 1st Jan. due about \$200 interest. As well as I remember I have \$6,200 so invested & by 1st Jan. a month's interest or thereabouts (a little more) will be due, so that if an opportunity arises to improve the investment you can sell out & use the money. Meanwhile use the amt. you now have with the 4% in reserve. The two together will give you about \$8,000 to operate with & situated as you are I think you ought to be able to improve its bulk.

Send the certificates on at once , as our movements are very uncertain. Fill up the certificate of transfer so that I have nothing to do but sign my name. We have plenty of Magistrates here before whom I can sign it.

Try your luck now at bold speculation, on a small scale. You never have been bold enough in this way, or you might have been a rich man by this time. Small as the start may be you may by activity do something for both of us.

The rainy season seems to have set in We have had a continuous shower for the last two days & it is now falling with somewhat renewed vigor. I hope it may put an end to this campaign. On some portions of our line there is no reason why it should cease on account of the weather but if the roads become bad active movements must be necessarily suspended. Until the campaign closes no furloughs will be granted & I long to pay a visit

Lines near Darbytown Road. 21st Nov. 1864. Contd.

to my family. I hope when I do get a leave you will be able to run up & see me.

I had to get \$300 (three hundred dollars) from George H. McMaster the other day. You have no idea how much a man has to spend out here. I drew upon you as Agt. for J.E.A. & Co. for the amt.

If you can secure a pair of those cavalry boots, dont miss the chance. The few days rain we have had show how little use any thing like a shoe or light boot will be in this country. If possible get them as near my size as you can, say ^{larger} two sizes _^ than would fit you.

Genl. Hagood has promised me to let me have a supply of Bacon, lard & peas from his surplus for this year at the Govt. prices. The only difficulty in the way is packages & shipments. He thinks abt February they will be ready & he proposes for you to go to his place on G&C RR Chappels Depot with packages. Spend a week or so there packing them & attending to the shipment. Do you think you could manage it ? It is worth thinking about. Let me know.

I am sorry to hear that Georgie is suffering as you describe & hope the children continue to improve.

There is a probability that we may be ordered south when the campaign closes. Sherman's movements may hasten our departure.

What do the people in Charleston think about the war ? I hope Boyce's letter has not demoralised them. In my opinion if we are only true to ourselves & the cause , we can so thoroughly defeat the plans of the enemy that by Spring we

Lines near Darbytown Road. 21st Nov. 1864. Contd.

will have inflicted upon him such blows as will persuade him to a better mind on the subject of peace than is put forth by Button. Sherman's army ought to be entirely demolished & I see no reason why it should not be done. Grant can do nothing here until Spring. & by that time we ought to be thoroughly prepared for him.

I wish you would get from John Russel a copy of Genl. Jamison's book & send it to me by mail.

Love to Georgie & children. Remember me to Mr. Burckmyer & Miss Bennet. Write soon.

Yours affectionately

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 28th Nov. 1864

Dear Liz

I had no expectation of writing to you but cannot refrain expressing my anxiety on account of your long silence. It is now a week since I have heard from you. What can the matter be? I cannot satisfy myself with any other supposition than that you are too unwell to write, but it seems to me that you would have got some one to write the state of the case. I will be greatly worried if I do not hear from or of you tomorrow. I have imagined all sorts of possible hinderances without impeaching you- the mail, the R.R. & all other causes which might possibly have deprived me of this my greatest pleasure. I can not do more than scratch a line . I am being interrupted every minute.

Things remain very quiet in this neighborhood. The papers say we are to have a grand battle before the campaign closes. At present there are no indications of it, yet there is no reason why we should not. The weather is fine. Today is warm rather than otherwise. The roads are good & Richmond is yet in possession of the Confederates. It may be that Grant is waiting for Lee to send away a part of our Army against Sherman. This I dont think will be done for some time, if at all.

Now is a time to bring out all the skulkers & if they find that on all occasions the Army proper is to do their fighting they will continue to stay at home & reap their harvests of ill gotten gain. If their homes are worth fighting for, let them go forth and do something for their country.

I am confident that Sherman must fail.

Today we received a lot of papers. Referred to Genls. Hoke & Hagood -- very complimentary -- from both subordin-

Lines near Darbytown Road. 28th Nov. 1864. Contd.

ate & superior officers.

I dont know now whether he will return or not.
I have not heard from ^{him} since 10th. I will if possible take a copy
of the papers & send them to you.

I am deeply interested in the review I am making
of our campaign & will send you the first sheets with this.

I am having built for myself a nice apartment
of which I will give you a description when completed.

Love to all. Kisses to the children & Heavens
best blessings on thy head.

Yours as ever

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 29th Nov. 1864.

Dear Liz

Yours of 21st & 24th came to me only a few minutes ago with Bessie's dear little note & relieved me not a little beside being very acceptable in themselves. I infer although you do not say so that you have finished with the dentist & now I hope you have gotten over the soreness consequent upon the treatment & are able to enjoy some comfort in your visit, as much as circumstances will admit of.

I am just finishing an addition to the house we occupy - for my own private use & therefore will only write you a few lines to accompany two more sheets of my "review"

I am feeling very well & hope by the mercy of God to be able to pay you a visit. It will not be I suppose until after Grant makes one more desperate effort to take Richmond. We are looking for him to make a movement now nearly every day. The weather is fine & I see no excuse for his idleness unless he is waiting for the completion of the canal. His next effort will be a desperate one. The fighting will be very severe. God defend us.

I am becoming anxious about your obtaining supplies. Calvin's hints seem significant. Do notice carefully & don't press the kindness of your friends too far.

I hope to be able to write you very soon again.

I suppose by this time you are back at home. Oh how I long to get there.

God bless you all. Kiss the little ones.

Yours as ever

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 1st Dec. 1864.

Dear Liz

You must bear with my short hasty notes for a while. You see how I am engaged & although you may think it a dry record yet some of these days if our lives are spared it will be pleasant to go over the " review ".

I recd your affectionate letter of 25th only a few moments ago.

I am glad you are remaining so long in Cola. Hope your visit will be of mutual advantage.

Glad too that you wrote to Jim Connor. I will be curious to know his reply. I wish as you do that he would ----- but ----

I write chiefly today this first day of a new month & it the last of the twelve to congratulate you on all the goodness experienced in the past, to express praise to our God for mercies past & unite with you in prayers for the eventful days which remain in this eventful year. How much is wrapped in the days before us, how pregnant with events. Who but the all wise can tell what may be ? It behooves us to live near his throne, to walk with him. Oh that he may bless us. Oh that he may preserve us.

The dying year. We are near its close. Oh how solemn are the moments, How they fly. How soon its record will be complete

God be with you my dearest in these remaining days & bless you with his presence.

Poor Alex. I have nothing to say. God deliver him from the snares that beset him. My heart yearns over him. Would

Lines near Darbytown Road. 1st Dec. 1864. Contd.

that I could do him good.

Love to all.

Dont be weary with my review. Set it aside if you tire with it. If spared to visit you this winter, we will read it over together. Openput the sheets in some large book so that they may if possible lose the crease.

I am quite well .

We are expecting some move by the enemy. The weather is lovely- favorable for Grant if he designs an attack.

I have a letter from Charlie today. He is gloomy, & low spirited. Looks at the dark side. Ella is with him.

My room is finished. It is very snug. I wish you could peep into it. Not just now however as it is all in confusion.

God bless you all. Love to all & kisses to the dear little ones. May Heaven shine brightly over you & the peace of God fill your heart.

Yours


George.

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864.

Dear Liz

In the few hasty lines written just before leaving Hd. Qrs. enclosed with three more sheets of my review, I told you of my intention to come up to the City for the purpose of attending service, & here I am in the third story of what used to be the Ballard or Exchange Hotel. I started at about 1½ P.M. It is about 1½ hours light ride. I don't remember the date of my last visit here; only about a month ago I think, perhaps not so long ago. If I am not mistaken I mentioned in one of my letters how beautiful the country looked. The rich & somber robe of fall being over everything. I was much struck today by the great & rapid change; the bare & leafless trees standing like spectres, their glory all gone. One thing I saw which made me very sad. You remember I attempted a description of our bivouac on the night of the 7th Oct., just after the fight on the Darbytown Road, in which I spoke of a noble old oak which sheltered us. I must have spoke of it in glowing terms for I remember well how I lay upon my back & enjoyed ^{gazing} through its noble branches at the moonlight as it made its way through the thick foliage, & the stars as they twinkled in the far beyond. It was a grand old tree without one sign of decay. The frosts & storms of a century no doubt had passed over it & vigorous & strong in its age seemed to defy the coming years. Today as I rode by on my way to the City, My grand old tree lay a sad victim to the more ruthless hand of man. The axe had done what neither time or storms would do. The king of the forest lay shorn of those glorious branches, through which the moon & stars looked more beautiful. A lifeless shapeless trunk was all that was left. I really felt sad. Oh the havoc war commits.

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864. Contd.

Whole forests have been swept from this country since we moved here with the Army. A large amt. of wood is consumed for fuel, a still larger quantity for building, for fortifications & quarters. Only think of a street 9 miles long - houses constructed of logs. It is a queer sight to ride along this street & observe the various styles of architecture from the old fashioned Indian hut  to really respectable log houses - some of them of really respectable size. And you would be astonished how comfortable they are. But what destruction has been caused for this. In only the short space of 1 month I was amazed at the havoc. And on it goes. Oh Lord how long ?

I had a little while before dark to knock about & went to the Presbyterian publication rooms (what horrid paper). I wanted to get some reading for myself, but could find nothing. I then looked for something for the children, but they have nothing except " Our Father's Con " & that you have . What a touching story it is. I sent one by today's mail to Lizzie. I enquired about your paper. Your name had been scratched out by mistake for somebody else. They promise to send you the back numbers & I paid them for an other day's subscription. They promise it shall now go regularly. I got a child's first reader which I will send for Anna. For myself or for you (if I can get them to you) a set of the gospels & Psalms like what I sent the children but a size larger. They are very nice.

Then as I had forgot to bring a candle with me (for I intended to spend the evening with you & for this purpose brought pen, ink, & paper & intended to bring a candle too) I started out to buy one & by it I write . A very fair tallow for which I paid \$2.

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864. Contd.

I met Jim Carson here. He has just returned from his wound recd. 15th May. He shocked me very much by telling me that your Aunt Mary Henry was buried the day he left Cola. You mentioned her sickness but I had no idea it was serious & therefore was not at all prepared to hear of such a result. Your poor Aunt Ross. I grieve for her. God help & sustain her under this second stroke. May she be able to see the love which thus afflicts her. Were you still in the house ? You must have been. Her end must have come suddenly at the close. Give my love to Aunt Ross & tell her how my heart goes forth for her. I hope you will remain as long as you can do the good you may do in that house of mourning. God be with you all & sanctify to all concerned these mysterious providences. I hope that Mr. Bennet was not taken from them at this trying time. Oh troubles are on every hand. How we should tremble as we rejoice over the goodness & mercy which has been our portion in the past. How few are the houses into which death has not entered. Why are we passed over ? Oh God give us humility, holy trembling, holy fear, hearts & tongues to praise & pray. Teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. How constantly do we need this touching . How slow we are to walk in wisdoms ways. God be merciful to us & ever lead us in the paths of righteousness. We need often to be reminded of duty.

It would be very pleasant - my dear Liz - could you be here & join with me in commemorating the dying love of our risen Savior & mediator. I pray that I may find that it was good for me to go there. I shall think of you as there, & while the blessings I expect, visit me may your soul also be refreshed from on high. I go that this cold heart may grow warm, that these grov-

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864. Contd.

eling desires may become holy longings & that my whole soul shall be filled with that life giving presence which is able to make me rejoice with joy unspeakable & full of glory. I thank God that my heart has been inclined to seek this opportunity & that nothing has happened to prevent thus far.

I fear I have written you a dull letter. I have had a head ache all day & it has increased tonight. This must be my excuse. What a mass of written material I have sent you in the last week. It must have overwhelmed you as an avalanche. I hope they have all gone straight. The last sheet is numbered 14. Do when you write me let me know where I leave off. If you have patience to read them do correct any errors you may detect. I fear there are many. I often have to write under very unfavorable circumstances.

Sunday 3 P.M. Only a line, Dear Liz, to close my letter before returning to Quarters.

I attended service at St. Pauls. Dr. Minagarode. The service was very solemn. I trust I may have recd. grace & strength. Oh me. How hard it is to rise to the glorious privilege of children of God. When we should soar, we crawl & grovel. These services so well calculated to lift us up fail to do for us all they might for the want of that faith which should elevate the soul & exalt our whole natures.

I have suffered all day with head ache & last night got very little sleep on account of this, & a toothache, something new for me. I hope to be better tomorrow.

I will be disappointed if I do not meet a letter

So. Ca. Soldiers Home, Richmond. 3rd Dec. 1864, Contd.
at Quarters.

God bless you & all our dear ones. Kiss the children. You know how entirely I am thine.

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road .6th Dec.1864.

My dear Liz

The sad news contained in your last, 30th Nov., I had already heard as I told you in mine from Richmond, from Capt. Carson. It shocked me greatly & I sympathise deeply with that mourning household. It was well for you to remain. Without some one to be with them under their circumstances would have no doubt added greatly to the severity of their grief. Oh what a land of mourning is ours. How few who have not buried a loved one. I tremble sometimes at our exemption. God in mercy preserve us from ingratitude or improper use of his great mercy. I was particularly struck with the universal bereavement of our land in Church on Sunday last. St. Pauls is a very large church, its capacity greater than any of ours, & I dont think there were more than two ladies who were not in deep mourning. What a harvest the old reaper has had & the end is not yet,

Before the few days left in the fast declining year shall have passed away, great & fierce battles will doubtless be fought, and I fear that when next the clash of arms in Virginia is heard, the results will be bloody in the extreme. Grant's next effort will be in my opinion his most powerful & he will not begin until he is almost certain of success. On the other hand our armies will fight only as men can fight who have everything at stake. How great is the comfort that the battle is not to the strong.

What fountains of comfort are found in today's readings of the Psalms. May we so trust the Lord as to obtain the blessings which David found. I sent you a copy by mail. If you would like more for gifts, I can send them on to you. The gosp-

Lines near Darbytown Road. 6th Dec. 1864. Contd.

pels also of same size, as well as some of smaller size. They are low in price. The Presbyterian board have also "Blind Bartimeus" a series of discourses by Professor Hoge. I bought a copy & am now reading it & like it very much. The subject of the book will readily suggest its character. Would you like some of these also? I will send you my copy as soon as I finish it. I get very little time for reading.

I wrote John to secure me a copy of Genl. Jamison's "Bertrand du Gueschlin" which he has done & sent to me. That too I will send. How much better it would be to be the bearer. Oh me.

Yesterday I wrote out my application for leave intending to send it up this morning, but last night Col. Graham's application to attend the Legislature came back endorsed by General Lee that he could not be allowed to leave under existing circumstances. It was a wet blanket to me & therefore mine must be postponed. Genl. Lee evidently does not think the campaign at an end & the papers seem to be of the same opinion. In fact everybody here with but few exceptions believe that there will be a great battle fought in this neighborhood in a short while. Until Genl. Lee is satisfied that active operations are over no leave will be granted. I am enabled to feel patient & will not complain. God's will be done in this as in everything else, is the spirit I strive to maintain.

The President reviews us tomorrow & we expect to see a large number of ladies present on the occasion - unless they are frightened away by the reports in the papers of the expected fighting. The weather is charming.

Lines near Darbytown. 6th Dec. 1864. Contd.

I have written you a dull letter. I am not myself & have not been for several days. Sick headache & toothache. I woke at 3 this morning. Tossed restless until 4. Got up & did not return to bed. I think it is an attack of indigestion & hope to be over it in a few days.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones.

Heaven's best blessings attend you ever prays

Your devoted Husband

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade. 8th Dec. 1864.

Only a line this morning, Dear Liz, to relieve you of anxiety, which may disturb you when you hear of the movements now going on. For this reason I will at least send you short dispatches daily until the present excitement passes over. You ought really feel complimented. Here I am writing words to relieve which to most of your sex would produce the opposite effect. You see how much confidence I have in your stability & the trust you repose in him who over rules all events.

The enemy are from all appearances about to make their grand & final effort to take Richmond (at least for this campaign) Yesterday afternoon just at dark we received orders to move out of our present position. All was hurry & bustle & in half hour I was packed & ready. About 7 P.M. we started - where we knew not - except that we were to cross to the South side, the enemy being reported moving in that direction in strong force. Two Brigades of our Division crossed the river, but we were halted before going so far, & were marched a short distance back to obtain shelter in a wood for Bivouack.

Near by was a house which tempted us greatly. At first the proprietor refused to admit us (Genl. & Staff) saying his family were sick. We were about taking the wet ground, when the old fellow came to ^{me} & asked for a guard to protect his property. This I acceded to cheerfully & always do to such applications, as my heart sickens over the ruthless devastation which I witness in the track of troops. The old fellow seemed to appreciate the cheerfulness with which I supplied the guard & the strict orders I gave to them. He then told me he would arrange to give us one of the two rooms of his log house. The exterior did not

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade. 8th Dec. 1864. Contd.

promise much comfort. It was a common log shantie built in the usual style. But we no^sooner entered the house than our hearts warmed up (mine did). Everything was clean to perfection & an air of home comfort permeated everything. A clock upon the mantle. On either side old fashioned china candlesticks. A bright cheerful fire burning below. Old fashioned chairs. An old time crockery cupboard such as you only see now in the chambers of our maumas. And so everything told of how the good wife & daughter (who were in bed in the next room) (you wont blame my eyes if they did see more comfort in that chamber) were " stayers at home" not gadders abroad. A single picture on the wall told something more of their history, and I know they are Romish in faith from the highly colored picture of the siege of Limerick. And now I have saved the best for the last. In one corner was a very comfortable bed & in it I had five hours sweet sleep. The Genl. & myself occupied, the rest took the floor. We were roused about 5 A.M. & returned to these our old quarters. Here we are, but we can not tell how soon again we will have to move.

I am grateful, truly grateful, my dear one to be able to write for your comfort that there are no present indications of our being engaged. I thought last night that we were about to be engaged in bloody work & was able to look with comfort to Him who has blessed in the past & to feel that whatever might befall, I would trust him. Pray for me that His Spirit may never desert me.

I had deeply to my regret to tear up your affectionate letter, or I would have it before me now to reply to. I suppose by now you are back at Geneva. It almost amused me to read about how you missed the children. Poor little things, I have no

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade. 8th Dec. 1864. Contd.

doubt they missed you. It makes me sad to think how little they know of me. Another year & they will feel that I dont belong to them. As for poor Charlie - to him I am a myth. And Anna will not I fear soon forget papa's big hands. Andrew & Bessie seem to claim an ownership in me. May God over rule all for the best, as I have no doubt we will one day see clearly, it is. It may not be until we meet in our Father's home, where partings will be no more for ever - for ever.

John writes me that Alex says he will refund the amt. I advanced. I wish to write John to the effect that I want Alex to know that I will not receive repayment. The fact is I do not wish to add to his temptations. It causes me a bitter pain to feel so , but I know you will cheerfully yield to this loss, from your sympathy with me, & agree with me as to the propriety of this course.

I expect I am wrong when I say that the " Circular " should be a perfect circle. The Idea is to have it so full that when seated on Horse back it will cover the body completely. When standing it will reach just beyond the tips of the fingers -arms extended.

I prefer to settle with Calvin as soon as possible. Dont let them put you off yet I would not offend them by your urgency. I am feeling a little better today. I have taken cold. The mail man has come. Do write to John for me.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones for me.

Yours as ever

George.


Lines near Darbytown Road. 10th Dec. 1864.

My dear Liz

It was not for the want of a good & earnest purpose that I did not write you last night as I promised, on the contrary I had as I supposed but one thing to hinder me, and as you yourself created this, you can not exercise the weakness of your sex. Without fearing your jealousy therefore, I will proceed. Your affectionate letter gave me great pleasure & strengthened me in the purpose I announced in my last of writing you short daily dispatches during the continuance of active operations here. Only I felt sure that with that loving letter before me, mine would have spun itself out indefinitely. I was in the humor too. I never had a more perfect assurance that we would remain quiet for at least 4 or 5 days. At your suggestion therefore I sat down & first began a letter to Jim - before I would write to you. I had completed the most important part of my letter & was just about to indulge in some fancies which memories of old times had conjured in my brain, - when a courier arrived handing me the unwelcome order which broke off my letter to Jim & prevented yours being written.

We were ordered to move at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. with three day's rations. It was sleeting heavily - the ground already 2 in. deep & every prospect of the continuance of the shower or fall. It seemed from that moment to patter upon the roof with sharper spite & nothing could have been more venomous than the hissing that it made as with more blinding haste it fell. I hurried through my letter to Jim & set my hand to packing up. It was very late when I got through with all the arrangements to

Lines near Darbytown Road. 10th Dec. 1864. Contd.

be made. I thought I might write you a line but could say nothing but tell you we were to go out in all the sleet & mud with the expectation of remaining out for three days. It would have been a gloomy letter. But the fact is I am too tired even for this. I lay down at 1 P.M. & gave orders to wake me at $4\frac{1}{2}$. Our line was formed at $5\frac{1}{2}$ according to orders, but had to wait in the cold air & three inches of sleet until 7. It was bitter cold. The men suffered severely. I was well off, for the first time putting on a pair of the heavy drawers & my 2nd under shirt, & then with your heavy wool socks & my scarf upon me & my bear skin beneath me on the saddle & the gloves upon my hands, I scarcely felt the cold. At 1 we went over the Breast works & down the Darbytown Road to feel for the enemy. The movement was only to ascertain the strength & position of his works, to threaten him on this flank so that A.P. Hill might dispose of the raiders who had started out on our right. Some skirmishing took place on the extreme left. All was accomplished that was intended & we were notified that at dark we were to return. It was a relief to know that we would not have to lie down in all the ice & slush it created. The marching was awful. Our horses suffered terribly. I had to get down six or seven times to chop the ice from poor Barney's feet. It would collect in the hoof & then gather like a snow ball, to such an extent as to protrude below the hoof 3 inches. In other words his shoes would be 3 inches from the ground.  We had to hold the foot up & with our axes or stirrups chop it off. Sometimes it became so bad that the poor creatures could not stand upon their feet but would

Lines near Darbytown Road. 10th Dec. 1864. Contd.

slip & slide in every direction. It was really painful to ride them. I was in fear & trembling all the while that I would find myself wallowing in the mud, but we were rejoiced after a while to get to our homely home.

A few necessary preparations detained me & down I sat to tell you of the move & return & thank you for your affectionate letter. I did not get further than the 1st page however before I felt so weary that I had to stop. I resumed a little while ago. It is now 4 P.M. & only a few more minutes and the mail will close.

I wish you had been more inquisitive & pumped Jamie more. I am very curious to know what impression I have made on Johnson Hagood.

I don't know whether I am right to tell you or not but I suppose I may trust you. I have made my application for leave, which will go up tomorrow morning. I think it is very doubtful whether I succeed, but I will make the effort hoping for the best. I expect to hear from it in about five days, perhaps not so soon. The condition of the roads yesterday ought to convince any reasonable man that the campaign here is over. Genl. Lee however has a way of thinking on this subject peculiar to himself & he may not agree with the reasoning portion of the community. If my leave is granted, I will be the happiest man in the army & I imagine when my wife hears it she will be the happiest woman in the Confederacy. To air castle a little. If it be favorable say, I will leave here on the 19th. It will take under the most favorable circumstances say, about 33 hours. This should land me at Yonques at 3 P.M. of the 20th, just in time for Christmas. I may not hear

Lines near Darbytown Road. 10th Dec.1864. Contd.

from my application so soon- it may be 10 days. Say I start on 21st, I am then due on 22nd at 3 P.M.. So if you hear no unfavorable news in the meantime, dont be surprised,& tell me you have no turkey or minced Pies, plum pudding & etc. I am not hopeful of success so dont be too bouyant.

If I get my leave I will tell you^{all} about my letter to Jim. I have not heard from Charlie for a long time.

I must close. The ground is still covered with sleet & it threatens to rain or snow.

Love to all & kisses to the children.

Heaven's best blessings shine upon you.

Yours as ever,

George.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 13th Dec. 1864.

I would write you a long letter today but the prospect is not promising. A crowd is around me & all talking making my brain confused and trying my temper not a little. The day is bitter cold. To keep warm I am compelled to get so near the fire that my face is scorched, & my hands remain cold & cramped.

You know I wrote that I intended sending forward my application for leave. I did do, but it had a short trip. I send you copy of endorsement. Both that of Genl. Hagood & Genl. Hoke are flattering & worth preserving.

" Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade. 12th Dec. 1864.

Respt. forwd & recommended for favorable consideration.

The applicant has a record for gallant, efficient & faithful service in this campaign of which he may well be proud.

(signed) Johnson Hagood, B.G. "

Dec. 13th, 1864.

" General-- If this application goes forward now, I will have to disapprove it in the conscientious discharge of my duty, and feeling that a furlough is due to Lieut. Moffett as much as any officer of my command, I would be pleased to see him have it. In consideration of which I suggest that he withhold it for ten days.

Respectfully

(signed) R. Hoke

Maj. Genl. "

The usual form would have been to return it disapproved, but you see that Genl. Hoke goes to the trouble to explain why he does not send it forward, & at the same time pays me a slight compliment. He afterward spoke kindly of me to Genl. Hagood &

Lines near Darbytown Road. 13th Dec. 1864. Contd.

sent me a message by him to say that if I preferred forwarding it at once, he would do so.

These little things are a soldier's pay. They warm his heart & reconcile him more to the hardships & privations incident to his life of endurance than any other reward which can be offered him. In my position this is peculiarly the case. I am so frequently called upon to exercise discipline that I do not receive favors from those below me, & you know although I do not rank as high as Col., yet the usage of the army is such that Cols. have to pay deference to the A.A.G. It is therefore very pleasant to receive these tributes of esteem from superiors. Genl. Hagood has been peculiarly kind in this respect & has repeatedly expressed the kindest feelings toward me & by his whole conduct denotes his entire confidence in me. He is strongly recommended for promotion & his chances are good. He told me this morning that if he received it he would apply for me to go up with him. But to return you see by the endorsements upon my application that I am on probation for say 15 days. How long it seems. Patience oh my soul. Well, I will if nothing prevents, renew my application on 22nd. It will be about six days before I hear from it, & say 2 days to get home, so you may reasonably look for me about 30th, & we will have a happy new year together. My heart swells at the thought. It is worth waiting for & when it is realised all that has been endured will seem as nothing in comparison with the joys, the quiet joys we will then experience. I dreamed of you last night. We were in close embrace. The waking was a sad disappointment to a sweet dream. Oh well we can now look forward with some assurance of hope that by the 1st January we will once more be reunited.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 13th Dec. 1864. Contd.

I am now without a clerk & have a great deal to do.
Caldwell has not treated me well, but left me when I had my hands
full.

I felt sure I would get a letter from you today ,but
have been disappointed. I suppose it is owing to your return home.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones & Heaven bless thee
my dearest one, ever prays

Your devoted

Husband.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 14th Dec. 1864.

My dear Liz

With very little prospect of writing you a letter, I nevertheless will attempt(interrupted twice already) to say a word or two in reply to your affectionate letter of 8th. I am glad to know that you are at home once more. No doubt you received a hearty welcome. Charlie must be an affectionate little fellow. I have great fears that he will be spoiled by his good Aunts however. I envy you on account of all the enjoyment you have with these dear little ones & long even for the short period I may be allowed to share it with you.

You say nothing at all about receiving the numerous packages I sent you in rapid succession containing what I had written as a review of our campaign. I am frightened lest they have fallen into wrong hands. You surely would have acknowledged the recd. of them at least. I did not expect you to wade through them, but surely some of them must have gone right. I think I sent you as many as 14 sheets, each were numbered in regular sequence. 1, 2, 3, &c so you can tell if any are missing. Do write about this at the very first opportunity. They cost me some labor & may be of interest some of these days. I am still working upon record with the hope of bringing it up to date before I receive my leave of Absence-- which if all goes well I hope to obtain by 28th. If so you may look for me from 29th to 31st - possibly the 28th. My letter of yesterday will show you what my chances are as far as it goes, but Genl. Lee is the grave which may bury my hopes. The weather has greatly moderated this morning. This is not favorable so far as the closing of the campaign is concerned & of course leaves of absence will depend very much on that.

Lines near Darbytown Road. 14th Dec. 1864. Contd.

You must secure the Hogs alluded to in your letter. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. If the owner does not live too far from you, take some good day - the first that comes - & ride over yourself & fix the trade. Dont forget to look at the animals however. Buy all he will let you have. He must not charge more than government price & ought forpharity sake charge less, Do the best you can. You have succeeded very well in such matters heretofore. Try to out do yourself this time.

You close your letter in a very tantalizing way telling me you have a doz. letters & dont say if any are from me.

A man just from thirty days furlough is in the office & has just said that he advises every body to stay here & not go home at all. He also tells me it takes 4 or 5 days to get to Columbia. So there is no knowing when I will arrive even if so fortunate as to get my start.

I have today ordered Andrew Adger to report to me as clerk. Caldwell has left me, not acting well at all, leaving just when I had a great deal to do, and when he knew I was about to apply for a leave.

I sent my box to the Association with a note to Mc Master requesting him to direct it for me to Cola. or Yonquesville as might be best. I will make further inquiry about it.

Love to all. Kiss all the little ones & a Merry Christmas to you all. God bless you & cheer your heart under all the difficulties, trials and anxieties which press upon you by his ever abiding presence & keep your spirit in perfect peace. Hoping soon to be with you.

As ever with fondest love,

Your devoted Husband.

22nd Dec. Danville, Va.

My dear Liz

We left our camp at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.M. on 21st. It had been raining & sleeting hard for some hours. The roads were awful. It rained & sleeted on us until 9 A.M. I have never suffered so severely. We took the train at Richmond at 11 A.M. & arrived here at daylight. How I spent the night you may imagine when I tell you I literally poured the water out of my boots & my clothes froze hard & stiff upon me.

I have been very busy all day & in this breathing spell write to let you know that our present destination is Wilmington. It depends upon the movements of the enemy whether we remain there or not. I will write you as opportunities arise.

God bless & comfort you. And enable us both to submit with patience to this new dis-appointment. All will be well.

If we move beyond Wilmington we may possibly go down the Charlotte road. You will know by troops who will precede us our entire Div. is on the move.

It is bitter cold & the troops are suffering terribly.

Love to all. Kiss the dear little ones.

Yours as ever with increasing love,

George.

Somewhere on the Piedmont R.R. 23rd Dec. (1864)

Broke down. The coupling between the Engine & the train ^{pulled} out & we are unable to go forward. The Engine has gone on with the empty car, hoping to repair. Meanwhile we have built a fire in the woods & wait the result & resting & hoping some opportunity may offer to mail this. I scribble you a line, my dear Liz, to give you all the bits of information as to my whereabouts &c.

We left Danville this morning at daylight. It is very cold. I was up all night waiting for a train to send forward ^{more} some of our Brig.. The cars were promised me before dark & then every hour on during the night, I was made to hope that the train would be ready. All that bitter cold night I was kept waiting. I laid down under frozen blankets upon the frozen ground & got about an hour's refreshing sleep. Col Orr H.V. Johnson & a few other M.C. got on with us. It was refreshing to see how these law makers put up with the inconveniences which surrounded us.

We have two ladies with us too, whom we are making as comfortable as we can.

We are still as far as we know destined for Wilmington. We hear that B with 2,000 men have gone there. My own opinion is that their destination is Charleston, & that we will do our next fighting in So. Ca.

1:15 P.M. We have come to another halt Miserable transportation. Delayed 24 hours at Danville & 8 hours consumed in travelling 9 miles. 32 hours & only 9 miles passed. Off we go again.

Dec. 24th (A.M.) We made about 5 miles when the engine broke down again & again we were at a halt, but this time

Somewhere on the Piedmont R.R. 23rd Dec.1864.Contd.
the prospects were even worse than before. Telegraphed for engines & the promise given that they would be furnished, but here we are & the prospects not improved.

And Oh what a night in a box car with about 20 negroes & as many whites & filled with baggage & oh how cold. It was a

night.Thank God it did not rain or sleet or snow, but it was bitter, bitter cold. Fortunately for me a negro fellow lay half the night partly upon me. That gave some warmth.

If these delays continue I will have frequent opportunities to write to you on our way to Wilmington. I will certainly write you by every opportunity which offers, & do not be uneasy if there be delays.

We will be moving about a great deal for some time direct to Wilmington.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones.

May God bless you all.

Yours as ever,

George,

Near Wilmington. 2nd January 1865.

A happy new Year to you, My dear Liz, & to my dear little ones & all the loved ones at home. Christmas has come & gone without a greeting. New year day has passed too and only now on the 2nd day can I by this cold medium wish you the usual salutations of the season. We have much to make this a happy season. Great deliverances have been vouchsafed to us in the past & now hurried year. Life & health, exemption from many troubles, gifts of goodness & mercy have been & still are bestowed. Surely we should be happy & thankful. The very troubles which surround us, the trials which beset us & the gloom which over shadows the future - are not so great & disturbing, heavy & dark though they be, to hinder us from rejoicing this day over our portion. God grant us thankful hearts & forgive the ingratitude which shows itself in tones of complaint & acts of disobedience at the very time when our voices & hearts should be tuned to praise & our whole life & conduct regulated by love, obedience & gratitude.

On Christmas day we were on the cars until dark. Saturday the 31st we were ordered to march from the neighborhood of Fort Fisher to Wilmington. There was some delay in the issuing of rations, in consequence of which we did not start until 5 P.M. We marched 4 miles & bivouacked. It was cold & rainy & as night came on the sleet & snow began to fall greatly to our discomfort. There is no luxury in sleeping upon the wet ground & no shelter from wind & sleet & snow. Genl. Hagood had been quite unwell & remained behind leaving me or rather sending me in charge of the Brigade. It was some time after dark before I got the different Regiments located for the night. Cold & wet I set about finding quarters for myself & staff. Fortunately

Near Wilmington. 2nd January, 1865. Contd.

There was a house nearby, & I obtained the cheerful consent of the owner to occupy it for the night. It was late before my clothes were sufficiently dry for me to lie down & when I did thoughts of the past & future so occupied my mind that my sleep was disturbed. I had given orders that we would march precisely at 7 A.M. & directed the sentinel to call me at 6, but I woke at 5, & got up & ready for the days march. We had 13 miles before us. It was bright & clear but bitter cold. I suffered much from the cold in my feet. Riding at the head of a column of troops on a march is a slow & tedious business. Two miles an hour is the most that can be accomplished. It is a constant effort to prevent the column even at this slow pace being elongated & often after the leading Regiment has halted it will be 15 or 20 minutes before the rear has closed up. We reached Wilmington at 2 P.M. & there received directions to march two miles beyond & bivouack. Here we are with Hd. Qrs. in a negro house, the Genl. in one room & Lt. Ben Martin, Andrew, and myself in the other, & the Brigade in a neighboring wood. They are very well provided with what are called shelter tents which when pitched are about 4 ft. high but affording shelter for three men lying down. They make a pretty encampment. They consist of three pieces which button together to make the tent & are very portable when apart, each man transporting a part.

It seems strange to me however that this Division should be kept here idle when they might be employed in so many other places. It is to be hoped that our Generals have good reason for so doing.

We do not fare as well here as we did in Va. The rations are inferior & not so abundant. No coffee or sugar is

Near Wilmington. 2nd January, 1865. Contd.

issued. Corn meal & bacon (Nassau) is all we get. I will lose some of my flesh here.

I have not yet heard from my application for leave of absence, but hope to hear tomorrow from it. I am not very sanguine, yet it will be a severe disappointment to me if I am refused. If leave be granted I will start on Wednesday at 8.A.M. & hope to reach Yonques at 11 P.M. Thursday. It is so uncertain however that you must not send for me. If I get there I will be enough to foot it over. I think I can find the way. A sort of natural instinct will lead me to the spot where my heart dwells, & I will not weary on the way. Beside I will find it hard to pass so near Mother & Sisters without stopping. So I may run up there & spend a night with them.

Again Genl. Hagood has applied for leave & he wishes if possible that we start together. This may delay me a day or two. So you see the uncertainties are so great that it will not do for you to send for me. I don't mind the walk a bit.

I have been too busy to go to town & can't tell whether Ella is there or not. I have heard nothing from Charlie. I wrote to him but recd. no reply.

I have no letter from you later than the 16th & long to hear from you. When last here the letters used to come promptly. I look for one tomorrow.

My pen can not tell any good wishes for you in the beginning of this new year which your heart does not already know fills my breast, with prayerful hope for its accomplishment. Yea all that a loving heart can desire for the object of its deepest affections; blessings temporal and spiritual, peace of mind,

Near Wilmington. 2nd January, 1865 . Contd.

joy in God, fellowship & union with the blessed Son, communion with the Holy Spirit. May all of earthly good be added to Heavenly blessings & may your mind & heart be so stayed on God that you may not be afraid of evil tidings, but so balanced that in all things the will of thy Heavenly Father will be thine also. All that I do wish for thee^{my} wife, my precious - precious one is more than tongue can tell but which thy heart knows full well. All that mine can wish of good, of peace, of joy - is thine. May Heaven grant it to thee, & when this year has rolled away & has left upon the shore of the past eternity, may you have even greater cause for grateful praise than now. God grant that with winnowed hearts we may be all united & permitted in peace to dwell together for years to come nurturing the little ones he has given us. Good night. Again I say do not be too sanguine about my visit.

I do not know how long our Brigade will remain here, neither do, I know its destination. We all expect to move further south but have no information upon the subject. There is to me a certain charm in the uncertainties of this army life.

Good night & God bless you all. Hoping amid fears soon to be with you-

As ever

Your devoted Husband.

Hd. Qrs. Fort Ander on. 9th Feb. 1865.

Only a P.S. to tell you that our alarm last night was needless.
A scouting party from the enemy frightened our pickets. All very
quiet today.

Anxious for news from So. Ca.

Love to all.

George.

July 10th, 1865.

I have only a moment, my darling, to say to you that you had better return to Spartanburg taking Sisters &c with you . I would give anything to see you only to see you away but it is impossible. I am greatly jaded having been up all night long & been moving about ever since.

Thank God I can feel that your trip has not been without some benefit to our dear little one.

You had better draw from Brown about \$ 250.00.

God bless you my well & best beloved. Love to all.
Remember us in your prayers. Kiss all the little ones.

Ever my darling,

Yours

George

Circumstances of the capture of Hagood's Brigade on the 20th Feby. at Cowan's Place on Town Creek near Wilmington, N.C.

About 10 A.M. being in command of Hagood's Brigade, I sent out 21st & 25th Regts S.C.V. under Maj. Wilds of the 21st, to relieve the 11th S.C.V. which had been placed on picket at Cowan's the night before. Within an hour after Capt. Wescoat commanding 11th came in & I saw him conversing with Genl. Hagood. He rode off in the direction of Cowan's & a short time afterward the Genl. called me to him & instructed me that the enemy were reported by Capt. W. to be landing at Cowan's and that I must send off the 27th S.C.V. to reinforce the pickets and go in person & take command of the troops there, retaining the 11th- That it would be best to attack them. I suggested that they would be under cover of the gunboats - he said that he knew that, but it would be best to attack them & at least get a few prisoners. I sent off the 27th & went with them. This was about 11 A.M. - Cowan's is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ from the place we were lying - at the old church on the Smith Road to Wilmington about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Town Creek Bridge. On reaching the picket reserve, I found that the enemy had driven in our pickets about 300 yards from Cowan's gate & I heard that they were in force in front. I put the 27th in line of battle on the right of the road leading from Cowan's & the 11th on the left of the road - I ordered the whole of the 21st & 25th on the picket line as skirmishers. Then visiting the skirmish line I saw that the enemy were in considerable in our front apparently extending to our left. They were very close so that their orders could be distinctly heard & they seemed to be advancing. On my return to the main body, I retired the line about

30 yards. placing a sort of pond in my front & putting in position to command the road a section of Artillery which in the mean time had reported under Lt. Raudin.

The Enemy not advancing immoderately I went out with Capt. Stoney on a personal reconnoissance on our left front and then found that the Enemy were advancing their right to the telegraph road, leading past ---- & McElhenny's to Wilmington. It seemed necessary to change my dispositions which had been made in anticipation of an advance from Cowan's - & to guard both roads & I had already sent off a dispatch to Genl. Hagood stating the necessity for guarding both roads & my inability to do so with my small forces. My plan was to withdraw --- to the fork of the Cowan & Telegraph Roads, so that my right could rest on one & my left on the other. Returning to the line I found that the Genl. had been there and had taken off the 11th & had changed the 27th from the right to the left of Cowan Road. Very soon after he returned --- 27th, told me that he had placed the 11th on the Telegraph Road, & calling up Capt. Allston, Comdg. 27th, ---- as instructing together. He ordered me to take special charge of the left - Allston of the right. That we were to hold on until we were driven back-- that we should fall back on each road until we met at the ford - if one reached there before the other, to wait for him, and to block the Telegraph Road as long as possible. If I was unable to hold the road, I was to retreat across it to a road cutting through the woods to the Smith Road - checking the Enemy as much as possible & in that event acting as his rear guard. He then took off a piece of artillery I had placed on the left. I committed a grave

error in not ascertaining from Genl. Hagood the precise position of the 11th, but supposing that they were on the continuation of the line of Allston, I went out on that line & to my surprise found that the left of my skirmish line had been driven in, & had run off & that they were to the rear of Allston. I stopped them & restored the line & went after Wescoat & the 11th. I found them on the Telegraph Road, below the ford & advanced them on the road toward the enemy, in order to prevent Allston from being flanked. He in the mean time had been compelled to fall back. As soon as he came to the line selected for the 11th retired the whole line a little and put out a strong skirmish line keeping up a connection between my two flanks with a small force of cavalry which reported to me just then. My orders to the skirmishers were to extend in front of the enemy & if they more than covered his front to form at right angles on each flank covering my flanks. They reported that the enemy were extending to the left. Observing closely this movement I began to fear that I would be flanked on the left & at once sent off a courier to Genl. Hagood informing him that the enemy were moving in force to my left, & that I could not hold either my present position or the Telegraph Road at all. The columns of the enemy were at some distance from me. The object of my message was to give the Genl. notice of my inability to stand between him & the enemy on the Telegraph Road, so that he might leave the position at the bridge & Church in time. The courier came back & said that he could not find the Genl. & that all the troops had left the bridge & the church & that he saw no one at all. I sent the Cavalry to the left to ascertain the position of the enemy &

get ready to move.

We had not reached the ford and not yet been seriously attacked. Just at this time Capt. Stoney came up with orders to move & whilst he was speaking the enemy advanced in force on my front. I told him to say to the Genl. that I could not move to the flank then as I was attacked in force, but that I had to draw the enemy back. I then went to the line of the 11th. This Regt. had made use of the short delay to dig a small trench, & cover themselves a little. On their front was burning woods. The enemy advanced in line. Not one of my skirmishers or cavalry came in. We opened with Artillery & rifles. His skirmish line was drawn back, but his line came on & by sheer force of numbers ran over & overpowered the left. My flank was thus turned. They surrounded & captured the most of my command. *

The 11th fought under my eye. They stood firm, holding their front without flinching & did not cease firing until the enemy were among them. My piece of Artillery was served with great gallantry & the gunner was cut down in the act of firing the piece. The attack was directly in front of my left & the enemy had - as Genl Casement (who commanded a division temporarily) informed me between 6,000 & 7,000 men. They came up in lines of battle. I was taken on the line of battle & surrendered to Maj. Genl. Cox in person.

The woods were so thick that I could not see the whole line, but have reason to think that the right behaved well also. The enemy held on our line & the columns which were on our left & which seemed to be attracted by our fire came up after we were captured & halted also.

The 21st Regt. left & but few were captured . As they

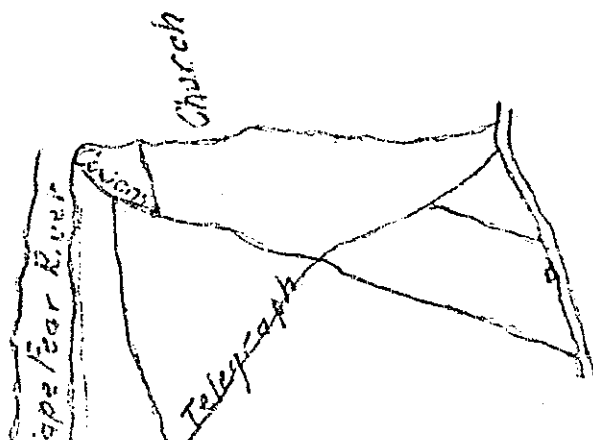
were on skirmish line & did not come to my main line at all.
I think that they behaved badly.

The whole capture consists of :-

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Officers | 27 |
| 11th S.C.V. | 90 |
| 25th S.C.V. | 45 |
| 27th S.C.V. | 150 |
| | ----- |
| | 312 |

I learned of the capture in conversation with General Casement & Col. Wilcox 177 --- that the enemy crossed the creek from Taylor's place to Cowan's on rice flats at --- & that they marched on the back road to Walus place. The troops that drove in our pickets in the early morning were Marines from the Navy who had landed from gunboats.

* Some of the officers & men actually engaged seeing that the enemy had broken the line, endeavored to save themselves by flight, but they were all captured, some at the bridge & some more at the Church & some between the Church & Wilmington on the Smith Road. The conduct of the skirmish line on the left - all of whom escaped - deprived me of any certain information of the advance of the army.



TO THE MEN OF HAGOOD'S BRIGADE

in South Carolina.

A large number of officers and men of the Brigade, captured at various times during its long and arduous service, are, or soon will be, in this State upon the usual parol furlough. A very considerable number of the command are, also, in the State absent without proper leave. A minority of the whole is in the field. In the present interrupted condition of communication, both within the State, and from the State to the army, Gen. Johnston has thought it necessary to adopt some other than the usual means to secure the prompt return of these men to their standard, and has ordered me to repair to South Carolina to give my personal efforts to this desirable end.

It will be seen by the orders annexed that a pardon is announced to those who avail themselves of this opportunity, and that General Lee solemnly declares that no general amnesty will be again granted.

My Headquarters will be at the terminus of travel on the Charlotte and Columbia Railroad. At present this is Blackstocks. Members of the Brigade absent without leave will report at once to me at that point to be forwarded to their commands, or will report, when more convenient, to the enrolling officers of their respective districts, to be by them forwarded to my Headquarters. They will bring with them all rifles and accoutrements in their possession.

Exchanged men will report as above as soon as they hear of their exchange, and if not exchanged at the termination of their parol furlough, will report to me instead of to the parol camp

at Richmond.

Our regiments have a sufficient number on the rolls to save each from consolidation. They are not for the present to be consolidated, and your speedy return will ensure the continuance of your service in the organizations to which you are used, and in which you naturally desire to serve. Among the absentees are some who, in a moment of weakness, oppressed with the toils of war, or perhaps influenced by exaggerated accounts of the sufferings and trials of the dear ones at home, have fallen off from their standard and sullied a glorious and hard won record. Let these men return and blot out the memory of their weakness by again standing shoulder to shoulder with their battle scarred comrades, under Johnston and Lee, on such fields as we have before, and will win again. The greater number of absentees without leave from the brigade are, however, those who, coming home on proper leave, have allowed a spirit of sloth to overcome them, and insignificant reasons to detain them from their duty. Let these men recall the spirit that animated them when almost single - handed they held the myrmidons of Butler at bay, at Waltham, until the arrival of Beauregard's avenging army. Think on your triumph at Drewry's; your services at Cold Harbor; at Bermuda Hundreds; the sixty seven days in the trenches on the Appomattox; the bloody but glorious Sunday on the Weldon road; the Richmond lines; Fisher, Anderson, Town Creek, Kinston, Bentonsville. Will you let such a history terminate ingloriously: and the verdict of posterity be, that the men who made the record perished in the making, and the degenerate survivors were unable even to sustain the weight of glory their more gallant comrades had already won?

To the returned prisoner I have nothing to say, but to name the rendezvous, The man whose captivity is oftenest owing to the very manhood which carried and kept him to the front on returning from the insults and indignities of a Northern prison, cannot sit patiently by the ashes of his desolated home, with the wail of outraged women and foodless children in his ear, while a fair blow may be struck for freedom and vengeance.

Soldiers of the Brigade -comrades of so many fields - you have never failed me before. Rally once more to your colors and let us again fling their tattered folds to the breeze, where they have so often floated, first and foremost in our country's battle.

April 6, 1865.

JOHNSON HAGOOD, Brig.General.

General Orders
No.2

Headquarters Armies of the Confederate
States.

February 11th, 1865.

By the authority of the President of the Confederate States, a pardon is announced to such deserters and men improperly absent, as shall return to the commands to which they belong within the shortest possible time, not exceeding twenty days from the publication of this order, at the headquarters of the department in which they may be,

Those who may be prevented by interruption of communications, may report within the time specified to the nearest enrolling officer or other officer on duty to be forwarded as practicable, and upon presenting a certificate from such officer showing compliance with this requirement will receive the pardon

Diary Notes of George H. Moffett,
Hagood's Brigade, S.C.V.

1865.

- Feb. 19. Evacuated Anderson. 3 A.M.
- Feb. 20. Evacuated Town Creek. 4 P.M.
- Feb. 21. Reinforced Genl. Hoke.
- Feb. 22. Evacuated Wilmington.
- Feb. 24. Left North East. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M.
- Feb. 24. Arrived at Rock Fish Creek. 5 P.M.
- Feb. 25. In status quo. Exchange of prisoners going on.
- Feb. 26. In status quo.
- Mch. 5. Marched to Teaches.
- Mch. 6. Taylor & Hendrick took cars for Kinston.
- Mch. 7. Rion with Genl. H. & Staff started for Kinston
at 10 P.M.
- Mch. 8. Arrived at Kinston at 7 A.M. & crossed the Neuse
River immediately & marched about-----.

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade.
Hoke's Division. 1 March 1865.

Genl. S. Cooper,

A. & I. G.

Gen.:-

I beg leave respectfully to ask for the promotion of Lt. George H. Moffett, Adj. of the 25th S.C. Regt. by apptmt to the position of Ast. Adj. Gen. and assignment to my Brigade.

Since the death on the field of my former A.A.G. Capt. Maloney on the 21st Aug. last, Lt. Moffett has discharged his duties, & is a most efficient officer.

Lt. Moffett is a native citizen of South Carolina, and was before the war a member of a large importing Firm in Charleston.

In the beginning of the war he closed his connection with it notwithstanding the allurements held out to merchantile men by the immense profits of blockade running, - and enlisted as a private. In that capacity and subsequently as Adj. of the 25th, and A.A.A.G. of this Brigade has served the country with a devotion and singleness of purpose that few men have exhibited. In addition to these claims, I ask his appointment for the uniform gallantry he has displayed in the numerous actions & affairs in which he has been engaged - multiplied instances of which I can give if desired. His Brigade has been literally used up by hard fighting since May last, & it has been engaged in no action in which ---- has been at his best doing well.

I have urged his case thus strongly in hopes that his case may be made an exception to any rule against the apptmt of

Hd. Qrs. Hagood's Brigade.
Hoke's Division. 1 March 1865.
Contd.

new A.A.G.'s

If his merits can not be recognized by promotion, in consequence of such a rule, I do not wish any A.A.G. assigned me, but prefer keeping Lt. Moffett in his acting capacity.

Very Resp.

(Sgd.) Johnson Hagood,

B.G.

Diary Notes of George H. Moffett
Hagood's Brigade, S.C.V.

1865.

- March 4. At 11 P.M. recd. orders to be ready to march at 8 A.M.
- 5 The R.R. was used to transport the troops & in consequence we were ordered to return to camp awaiting transportation. At 4 P.M. recd. orders to march to Tycher's Dep. Arrived there at 6 P.M. waiting transportation.
- 6 Hendrick's & Taylor's commands left during the afternoon.
- 7 No train arriving, Rion's command remained all night & the next day until 8 P.M. when a train arrived on which the bal. of the Brigade embarked leaving Teachey's at 10 $\frac{1}{4}$.
- 8 Arrived at Kinston at 6 A.M. & immediately marched to the front where we were kept in reserve, that is Rion's Comd. (Hendrick's & Taylor's were upon the line.)
- Tolerable stiff fighting began at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. Very soon after Maj. Parker of Genl. Bragg's Staff ordered us to move forward to participate in the pursuit of the enemy who were reported as utterly routed by Genl. Hoke. We reported to Maj. Genl.D.H.Hill who moved us across a small creek which skirted the woods. We were then marched about 4 miles in the direction of the right flank of the enemy with the purpose of attacking & so cooperating with the movement on our right. We met no enemy & the day being so far advanced, it was determined to return. We encamped upon our old ground.
- 9 The next morning we were put in position on the extr-

Diary Notes. Contd.

1865.

March 9 Some left of the line constructed on the ground from which the enemy were driven the day before. These lines were so constructed that an elbow was formed on the left & which was occupied by our Brig. It was a very weak position & the enemy soon discovered it & all day they were engaged with their skirmishers feeling the position.

At dark we were notified that we would be relieved by the 67 & 68 N.C.T. & ordered to march out & report to Genl. Hoke. We bivouacked about 700 yds. to the rear.

10 On the morning of the 10th at 4 A.M. started on a march to the left of the enemy. The road led through a thick swamp & marching was difficult. After penetrating about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, line of battle was formed by coming to the front. We then recd. orders to the effect that the Division would wheel to the left pivoting on our Brigade which occupied the left of the line. Soon after heavy musketry began on the right & we moved forward in line of battle. The order was not carried out, but instead the movement was made in echelon. Kirkland's Brigade charged a strongly constructed fort & failing to take it they met with heavy loss, chiefly in the 66th N.C. This failure defeated the purpose of the movement & after remaining in line of battle for about an hour, we returned by the road on which we marched & took

Diary Notes, Contd.

position on the extreme right. At dark we were ordered to march to the rear & bivouac.

March 11, 1865.

We returned to Kinston, halting in the suburbs until 2 P.M. when we marched out of the town following the R.R. for a distance of 8 miles when we diverged on County Road to the right & encamped.

March 12, 1865.

At 12 M. we received marching orders & proceeded to Mosely Hall. Remained there until 4 P.M. of the 13th.

March 13, 1865.

At 4 P.M. we were ordered to march toward Goldsboro. At 10 P.M. halted & camped.

March 14, 1865.

At 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M. recd. orders to be ready to move promptly at 12 M. Continued marching in the direction of Smithfield by short marches.

March 17, 1865.

Arrived & marched through Smithfield & halted about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town & camped. Remained there until morning of 18.

March 18, 1865.

Marched about 13 miles to a little beyond Bentonville. Camped.

March 19, 1865.

Marched a short distance & formed line of battle. Colquitt on our right. Shortly after getting into position the enemy were discovered moving to the left with the intention of

Diary Notes. Contd.

striking our flank. Genl. Hagood advised Genl. Hoke of the movement & in consequence some Cavalry were thrown out & Kirkland's Brigade moved in upon our left. A few minutes after & before Kirkland was fairly in position the skirmishers were engaged & they were followed by a strong line of battle who charged Kirkland's front & our left. They were successfully repulsed & our skirmish line immediately reestablished. Skirmishing continued during the day & at 2 P.M. heavy firing of musketry opened on our right, seemingly at right angles to our line. Our troops in that direction had moved forward & forced the enemy from their position. In succession the Brigades on our right swung out to the left & joined the line of battle engaged in this movement. At about $4\frac{1}{2}$ P.M. our Brigade advanced & pressed forward, driving the enemy from their 1st line of works, but coming against a stronger line encountered a heavy fire. The Brigade on our right gave way & we returned to our lines.

Hd. Qrs. Shannon Scouts,
Apl. 2nd , '65.

Lt.

Your note of this morning with Adjutant G.H. Moffett's letter is before me. I will state that on the morning 23rd Feby., Gen. Wheeler ordered me out with a small scout, When at a Turn out (Cornerell's, I believe) we discovered two Yankees at a house. Charged and captured them. One of them had the insignia of a 1st Lt., and reported that he belonged to the 14th A.C., and was Adjutant of a Regt., that he had been sent out the day before with a detail of forty (40) men to forage. Other prisoners captured soon after corroborated this report. I did not learn his (the Adj't's) name nor do I remember his Regt.. He had the papers referred to in his possession. I sent them in without examining them. I will add that he (and others of his party) reported that they had been lost for several hours and could gain no information of the road taken by their Command. They had several small articles in their possession that had been taken from Citizens.

I am Lt. Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

A.M.Shannon, Capt.

Comdg. Spcl. Scouts.

Lt. M.G.Hudson,

A.D.C. and A.A.A.G.

hereby offered.

Those who have deserted to the service of the enemy, or have deserted after having been once pardoned for the same offence, and those who shall desert , or absent themselves without authority after the publication of this order, are excluded from its benefits. Nor does the offer of pardon extend to other offenses than desertion and absence without permission.

By the same authority, it is also declared that no general amnesty will again be granted, and those who refuse to accept the pardon now offered, or who shall desert or absent themselves without leave, shall suffer such punishment as the Courts may impose, and no application for clemency will be entertained.

R.E.LEE, General.

Headquarters, Hardee's Corps,
Near Smithfield, N.C. March 31st, 1865.

General Orders No.2, Headquarters Armies of the Confederate States, dated 11th February, 1865, not having been as yet published in the Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, formerly commanded by Lieut. Gen. Hardee, its legal publication in that Department will be its publication by Brig. Gen. Hagood, who goes to South Carolina for the purpose of collecting and returning absentees to their commands.

By order of Lieut. Gen. Hardee ;

T.B.ROY, A.A.Genl.

Geneva. 17th April 1865.

My very dear Mother

I wrote you a long letter some time ago giving you a full account of our visit from the Yankees, &c. I hope this will reach you safely & I now write again hoping to have another opportunity of sending it.

You will be surprised to hear that George is with me. His horse fell upon his foot, disabling him for the time & he with Gen. Hagood & Capt. Brooks have been sent home to gather up the absentees from the command- who are very numerous. I am very glad to have him here, most thankful- tho he is in the saddle constantly. His foot is well & he is kept very busy. He wishes to go over to see you if he can accomplish it, & I am very anxious to accompany him, but I doubt if this can be managed. The country is in so unsettled a state & there are such rumors constantly of raids that at times much alarm is occasioned. One day this week there was almost a panic here. The party who burnt the cars near Camden (& what a loss they will be) were reported as having come on to Winnsboro & on their way up. Jane Yongue was packed to leave & sent over to see if we would go along. Mrs. Miller put double suits of clothes on herself & her children & there was a general ^{hiding} away of the few valuables left & some even drove off the stock. A few hours proved the news false & we breathed freely again & I hope as they have cut the R.R. in N.C. they may let us alone. This was said to be their object - to stop reinforcements going on to Lee & Johnston - of whom hundreds pass here almost daily. The R.R. is now completed to Yongue's & the work is going on quickly.

Yesterday we heard that Gen. Hampton had driven the

Geneva. 17th April 1865.

Raiders from Salisbury & was still pursuing. So for the present Charlotte is safe. Serious fears were entertained for its safety last week.

I have news of John, James & Andrew. The latter has written George since he left. He has been sent to the ranks, all details being revoked, & is with Augustine Smyth in Capt. Izlai's Co. & begs his uncle to get any autographs he can for him. So Sister will see he has thoughts for something else besides the war. I wrote him by a negro boy who passed here with some officers & who belongs to the Brig, giving him all the news from you. From James I heard just before the fall of Richmond. As it was an infantry fight then he no doubt escaped it all. I have written him also enclosing your letter to me. Those last fights at Richmond must have been fearful. George heard from one who was there. The enemy approached in nine lines of battle. Eight were repulsed. Genl. Lee estimates their loss at 50,000, ours at 9,000. He published an address to the Army saying - the brightest day of the Confederacy would soon be believed be upon us. The Evac. of Richmond was the turning point of the war.

If the news of French recognition is this time true & we can sustain ourselves for 6 mos. longer & who doubts this we may share his bright anticipations.

Kirby Smith too has sent dispatches to the Pres. offering nearly 70,000 of trans-Mississippi troops who have volunteered to come as soon as the river falls sufficiently to permit them to cross .

George saw John too. He is with McLaws supply train - Hardee's Army Corps. in this way of you write him. He

Geneva. 17th April 1865. Contd.

left everything in Charleston, even his clothes. I do not understand how. Mr. Warren spent last night with us. He attended our church years ago. Married a Miss Warren- a great friend of Miss Mayer, He gave us news of many of our friends of whom we had scarcely heard since the war. He is with the Medical Dr. Lining whose Hqrs. are now at Yonques. There is now a telegraph station there & it is the present terminus of the R.R. - an important point. Mr Warren's family are in the City. The fire that occurred at the N.E.R.R. on the Evac. of Charleston burned as far down as Calhoun & across a considerable distance. Our church is safe but St. Luke's was burnt with all of Charlotte St, above there. This is the report. The negroes in some families have remained faithful.

I heard from Aunt Ross a fortnight ago. She wrote quite cheerfully. Saved only a few of her clothes out of all the house contained, & Mrs. Kennedy was also burnt out & is very destitute. The girls are now in Cola. with Aunt R. & I expect next to hear that she has gone to Charleston.

The Yankees were at Aunt Jane's as well as Gov. Adams'. Cousin Jane saved her horses & carriage & Aunt Ross went down to see them. Aunt Jane's negroes behaved shamefully. Her house was set on fire three times & the negroes broke up almost all her things. She had a fall & can only walk a little on crutches. She is now eighty three. It must have been a painful visit there for Aunt Ross. Janie Gist, she said was looking very thin & badly.

James Moffett mentioned having seen Jamie Adger in Richmond. He suffers from his wound when exposed. George heard

Geneva. 17th April, 1865. Contd.

James was a special favorite with Gen. Young who had taken a wonderful fancy to him & favored him in every possible way. I am glad it is so. It is pleasant to see the spirit of the soldiers who are going on - all high & hopeful. We have been heavily taxed in this neighborhood - first the paroled prisoners coming on & next the absentees from the Army going to join their commands. Yet we cannot refuse to share the little we have with them. I bought a Pig to celebrate our wedding day & on Sat. had a present of some fine mutton. So I have been able to treat George to fresh meat.

we must do without any (of any kind) & we get no butter, but I hope by that time our vegetables will be ripe & the cows giving more milk. At all counts there will probably be an abundance of fruit & if the Yankees let us alone the Almighty has blessed us with a wonderfully favorable season for the crops. So we will not starve.

I take fresh courage & hope when I think of the manifest tokens of His goodness & love & feel if we believe & trust in Him, He will yet lead us as He did His people of old & deliver us by the strength of His own right arm. What glory with the result to him.

I was disgusted to hear the effect the fall of Charleston produced in London. Placards were set up about the streets " Babylon is fallen - that wicked city " & the papers published exulting pieces quoting from Revelation the curses pronounced upon Babylon "the smoke of her burnings &c ". Will not England have a share in the judgements that will yet follow the innocent blood poured out like water in this unholy war ? The putting forth of his hand would have stopped it. God will yet

Geneva. 17th April 1865. Contd.

avenge His own .

George has been to Wilmington twice but he did not call on Mrs. Clark, so I can give Sister no news of her except that she is living in a very small house in Winnsboro & Adger is better.

George met the Briggs' above Yongue's in their Landau travelling up from Sumter running from the Yankees. Adger Smyth was in the Militia fight with them. It was late & George did not ask many questions of our friends- then he was sorry for it afterwards.

Mr. J.M.Caldwell had gone up to Salem, N.C. for his daughters who are at school there just before the R.R. was cut.

Another of Calvin's little negroes - Lizzie - died last week. Consumption induced by Scrofula. It was a very rapid case.

Yesterday a paroled prisoner who has been three weeks at Mr. Miller's hoping to gather strength to get home died, also of Consumption. Many will thus perish on the way from the effects of their treatments.

I heard from Miss Aisme again of 4th April. Mrs. Wagner, she did not think would live out the day. Cousin Etty was well. Teddy Timberlin (?) was with them. He passed through the battles in Va. Was in C.L.D. to come home on furlough, & have one eye put out by the kick of a mule.

Charlie has been sent to Fort Delaware which I fear signifies a prolonged imprisonment. I have not heard from Ella, but a soldier from Anderson told us of them. Mr Ben Howland has been very kind to Charlie, supplying him with money &c.

Geneva. 17th April 1865. Contd.

All join me in love to you all. George & possibly
I may surprise you some day.

In warm love to each & all- dear Mother,

Yours,

Lizzie.

GEORGE HALL MOFFETT.

George Hall Moffett was the son of Andrew Moffett, II, of Dunse, Scotland, and Anna Reid. He was born in Charleston, S.C. on February 12th, 1829. He attended private schools in Charleston, and went for one year to Oglethorpe University in the State of Georgia. Then he entered the South Carolina College at Columbia. From there he graduated in the Class of 1849.

In 1854 he married Miss Elizabeth H. Simonton of Charleston, S.C.

When the State of South Carolina seceded from the Union, he enlisted as a private in the State service of South Carolina on December 26th, 1860. On February 24th, 1862 he entered the service of the Confederate States as a private in Company B, 25th South Carolina Volunteers.

Soon after the commencement of hostilities, he was sent by the Confederate States Government to Europe to purchase arms for the Confederacy. He returned to this country by running the blockade into Savannah, Ga.

On account of bravery displayed on the field of battle, he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant, and subsequently was appointed Adjutant General of Hagood's Brigade, which had as severe fighting in Virginia as any part of the Confederate Army.

GEORGE HALL MOFFETT.

Record of service rendered to the Army of the Confederate States of America.

George H. Moffett entered the service of the State of South Carolina on Dec. 26th, 1860, as a private in the Washington Light Infantry Regiment of Rifles. He entered the Confederate Services on 24th Feb. 1862 as a private in Company "B", 25th Regiment South Carolina Volunteers. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant on April 30th, 1862.

He was present and engaged in the following battles :-
Sessessionville. June 16th, 1862. Attack on enemy's Camp on

James Island, July 16th, 1863.

Walthall Junction, Va. May 7th, 1864.

Swift Creek, Va., May 9th, 1864.

Drewry's Bluff, Va., May 16th, 1864.

Bermuda Hundreds, Va., May 18th, 1864.

Ware Bottom Church, Va., May 20, 21, & 22, 1864.

Cold Harbor, Va., June 3, & 5, 1864.

Petersburg, Va., June 16th, 1864.

Petersburg, Va., June 18th & 19th, 1864.

Trenches near Petersburg, Va. from June 18th to August 21st, 1864.

Attack on enemy's works on Appomatox, June 23rd, 1864.

Attack on enemy's works on Weldon R.R. August 31st, 1864.

Fort Harrison, Sept. 30th, 1864. (Present but not engaged)

Attack on enemy's position on Darbytown Road. Oct. 6th, 1864.

Attack of enemy upon our works near Darby-town Road. Oct. 6, 1864,

Darbytown Road. Oct. 29th, 1864.

Fort Anderson, N.C. Feb. 1865.

Town Creek, N.C., Feb. 20th, 1865

GEORGE HALL MOFFETT.

Service Record, Contd.

Bentonville, N.C. May, 19 20, 21, 1865.

Kingston, N.C, March, 1865.

Surrendered with Johnson's Army.

Detail Assignments :-

June 23rd, 1864, Acting Assistant Inspector General of
25th Infantry, Hagoods Brigade.

August 21st, 1864, appointed Acting Assistant Adjutant of
Hagood's Brigade in place of Capt.P.K.Malony, who was killed
on that day.

The above Record was duly verified by General Johnson
Hagood, and by Col. Chas. Simonton, and is taken from the
records of Camp Sumter.

To all those who read these letters

SALVATION EVERLASTING

in the Lord.

BE it known to you that the Trustees of the South Carolina College in their solemn academic assembly have granted to George H. Moffett, candidate for the first degree and approved by examination, the title and degree of Bachelor of Liberal Arts, and they have given to him to be enjoyed all the rights, privileges, and honors pertaining to this degree where-ever they are carried among mankind.

In testimony whereof, we have subscribed our names to these letters, supported by the seal of the College, given from the Academic Halls, the third day before the nones of December * in the year of the Lord the one thousand, eight Hundred and forty-ninth.

* Dec. 2, 1849.

President Gulielmo C. Preston, L.L.D.

Professors M. Lorbasde, Metaphysics & Lan. Prof.

Robertus Henry, S.T.P. Litt. Gov. Prof.

Mat. I. Williams, Math., Nat. Phil. & Asty. Prof.

R.T. Brumley, Chem. Hist. Nat. Prof.

Jacobus H. Thornwill, D.D., Sac. Litt. Prof.

Carolus P. Pelham, Lit. Rom. Prof.

Franciscus Lieber, Hi. Ph. P. Prof.

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 R. W. Barnwell
 E. Billington, Jr.
 L. N. Dawkins
 H. C. Goring
 T. J. Withers
 Robert W. Gibbes
 John Bolton O'Neill

| | | |
|------|----------|---|
| 1860 | Dec.20 | South Carolina seceeded from Union. |
| 1861 | Feb.4 | Confederate Congress organized at Montgomery. |
| | Apr.12 | Confederates opened fire on Fort Sumter. |
| | Apr.14 | Fort Sumter falls. |
| 1862 | Aug,30 | Union Army defeated at 2nd Bull Run. |
| | Sept.17 | Confederate Army defeated at Antietam. |
| | Dec. 13 | Union Army defeated at Fredericksburg. |
| 1863 | Jan.1 | Emancipation Day. |
| | May 2-4 | Union Army defeated at Chancelorsville. |
| | July 1-3 | Confederate Army defeated at Gettysburg. |
| 1864 | Sept. 2 | Atlanta falls. |
| | Dec.21 | Savannah falls to Sherman. |
| 1865 | Apr.2 | Richmond abandoned by the Confederates. |
| | Apr.9 | Lee surrenders at Appomattox. |
| | Apr. 14 | Lincoln assasinated. |

To the Editor of the Sunday News:

THE STORY OF TWO DIARIES.

In January 1865, Hagood's Brigade was at Fort Anderson on the Cape Fear River, below Wilmington, N.C. An order from the War Department came to camp, to grant leaves of absence to all officers who had been for duty every day during 1864. Only one was to be allowed to go home at a time. Col. Rion examined my little 3" x 4" diary, which contained the original records for each day of that eventful year, and found that Lieut. E.B. Bell of Co.C of the 7th Battalion, and myself, the Adjutant, were the only ones who came within the scope of the order.

He sent for Lieut. Bell, and informed him of his opportunity to go home. Then came the question, who of us should go first? Col. Rion decided that as I had been in the front every day, and Lieut. Bell had, for a part of the time been in command of the pioneer corps and not then in the actual battles, I was entitled to go first. Lieut. Bell took me one side, and explained that his wife was sick at home, and if I would relinquish my right, he would return on time so that I should not be disappointed in taking the second turn. Thus it was he went home; and he kept his word with me by returning at the expiration of his leave of absence.

It was at Greensboro that Col. Rion gave me the necessary papers for my journey home. Upon doing so Col. Rion directed me to turn over my 3x4 diary to Lieut. Bell, who would act as Adjutant during my absence. I stood on the high steps of the Telegraph Station as my old comrades marched before me towards Averysboro and Bentonville. I uncovered my head in the presence

of such heroes, and they returned the salute. It was the last time I saw them, and that picture is in my mind's eye to this day.

But Bentonville came to them. They bore themselves nobly, and their new Adjutant did his full duty, until in extending an order a ball ended his gallant career. His body was not recovered, and my 3x4 diary went with it.

Upon another part of that field, occupied after the battle by the Confederates, there lay a dead Federal, and upon searching his knapsack the diary of Adjutant George H. Moffett of the 25th Regiment, Hagood's Brigade was found therein, and restored to their Adjutant. He had kept that diary from the 27th April 1864, when the Brigade was ordered to Virginia, until the 27th Nov., when he was wounded in a general attack on the lines below Richmond, near the Darbytown Road. The diary was very full of interesting facts, and dates. He after that sent it home to Mrs. Moffett, who was then refugeing near Winnsboro, S.C. When Sherman's raiders came through that section, they pillaged everything, and among their plunder took the diary.

My own diary was an original and official account of each day, only reduced in size for convenience in carrying it in the inside pocket of my uniform. It was thus complete in its fullness. I missed it very much after the War in referring to the dates, incidents, and numbers it contained, and was fearful that I would have to continue to rely upon memory.

Lieut. Green of the 25th Regiment lately told me that Adjutant Moffett's diary had been loaned to him by some one; and years ago he had loaned it to Maj. Julius Von Santen, and he was afraid it was lost, but that if I could get it, it would

be of service to me.

I asked Maj.Von Santen for it, and he told me he would look for it, but he was afraid it had been destroyed in the earthquake, eleven years ago.To my surprise he brought it to me, not a bit lost, but pale, and almost illegible from its eventful fortunes. I copied it; and made arrangements for its return to George H. Moffett, Jr., Esq.. It is a valuable heirloom to him and will furnish much information to those interested in Hagood's Brigade.

Thus it was, that, while Adjutant Moffett found his diary on a Federal at Bentonville, I lost mine at the same time and place, on my friend Lieut.Bell; and I may be said to have re-found Moffett's diary, and in it very much of what was in my own, in these latter days. I was more rejoiced to find it because I may once have been its custodian, and perhaps when it was first lost.

Upon leaving Goldsboro Adjutant Moffett had given me a package to take to his home for him, as my home-route lay in the direction of Winnsboro. We had lately fought two or three successful battles near Kingston and Newburn, N.C., and at the former place had encountered a real dudish New York Regiment. They had the softest of blankets, and the thickest and finest woolen socks in their Knapsacks I ever saw on a battlefield. Of course we despoiled the Egyptians. I had on a pair of these socks when I arrived at home. Adjutant Moffett's bundle contained some of this plunder, and his diary may have been in it. At any rate I could go from Charlotte down the Rail Road only so far as Chester; and then I left, with the Commandant of that

Post, the bundle for Mrs, Moffett. I was assured that it would be forwarded to her. She never received it; and some three years afterwards I learned , that, soon after I had left Chester, the place was raided, and that Adjutant Moffett's bundle was appropriated by the Federals. If it was so that the diary was in it, the bearer must have carried it right back to the owner; and I who lost it 32 years ago at Chester, must have found it again , for its then intended consignee.

Two or three years ago a monument was erected at Goldsboro to those who died at Bentonville and Averysboro. I saw published a request for the names of such gallant South Carolinians who fell in these battles, so that their names might be inscribed on the monument. Lieut. Bell had fallen in my place, while discharging my duties, and it moved my sympathy as a tribute to his gallantry and fidelity, to have his name so inscribed. Had I not swapped leaves of absence with him, he might have done the same for me, and my name would be inscribed where his is now.

Upon the death of the gallant Capt. P. K. Maloney on the 21st Aug. 1864, Adjutant Moffett became Acting Adjutant General of Hagood's Brigade. It is pleasant to recall his courtesies while he occupied that position. On one occasion Col. Rion sent forward a communication, which did not pass through my hands as his Adjutant, and Adj. Genl. Moffett seeing it was complimentary to me sent me a copy with Genl. Hagood's endorsement thereon.

He and I were seldom together while under fire. He was on the left, while I was on the right of the Brigade line. But on the 24th June 1864, the day Col. Nelson was killed, we were together and I can remember Moffett's calmness in action. He had orders from Gen. Hagood to remain in the trenches with a part of

the 25th Regiment, and the 7th Battalion, and so soon as the storming party carried the Federal works on our left, to march by the left flank towards the Federals in our front, and join with the storming party and their supports in sweeping the Federals from around Petersburg. The storming party failed, and we did not move out. But Moffett was ready, self controlled, and anxious for the onset.

I see by Moffett's diary the reports of Gens. Hagood, Hoke, and Beauregard of that day. Both Gen. Beauregard and Gen. Lee were spectators of Col. Nelson's charge. From these reports I find that Col. Nelson had 400 skirmishers as our first line of attack, and Gen. Hagood had the second line of 550 men. The Federals had three lines of intrenched defenses. Col. Nelson was to take their first line, which was then to be occupied by our second line; and then Col. Nelson was to charge the Federals' second line, and when it was taken it was to be occupied by our second line, and the first Federal line was to be occupied by Gen. Tige Anderson's Brigade ; and then Col. Nelson was to assail the last Federal Line. The plan was carried out, until Anderson failed to occupy the first Federal line. Col. Nelson swept the first and second lines, took 30 or 40 prisoners, and had reached the last line when he was killed. The enemy were shaken and some of their men were running from their works. Then Gen. Hagood on the second line, seeing Anderson's failure, fell back slowly, driving back the charging Federals into their own works. Then he ordered his men to lie down, and await Anderson's coming, and to go with Anderson in his advance. Some of our --- --- --- --- rifle pits and were allowed to remain with --- --- After-

wards Gen. Hagood withdrew his men in squads, until dark, when all were returned. The killed, wounded and missing were 306. Capt. Henry Buist was wounded twice and captured.

Gen. Beauregard reported; " It would have been successful" if supported. The success would have been most brilliant, if the skirmishers had been supported.". Gen. Hoke reported : "The first line gallantly entered the intrenchments of the enemy and did their duty nobly, and succeeded not only in breaking the enemy, but drove them from their works."

Adjutant Moffett upon seeing this chivalric charge (of the first line of skirmishers) writes in his diary, "I thought it would make us famous."

This manuscript is invaluable to the survivor of Hagood's Brigade; and I desire to give my testimony to the general correctness of my dead comrade's work. In many instances it is a replica of my own last book. Truly it comes to me - "as if from the grave" in memory of my friend Moffett , and of my own loss.

I will be glad to furnish any one interested with any of the interesting information it contains.

12th Nov. 1897.

(Sgd) Wm. M. Thomas,

92 Broad St.

Charleston, S.C.

D.B.Gilliland,
Standing Master.

Office of Standing Master,
United States Courts,
District of South Carolina.
Charleston, S.C. 15th August 1904.

Mr. Henry I. Greer,
Columbian Bank,
City.

My dear Henry;

I enclose Col. Simonton's account of "Circumstances of
The Capture of Hagood's Brigade on 20th Feby. 1865 at Cowan's
Place on Town Creek near Wilmington, N.C."

As this is an original in his own handwriting, Please
take good care of it & return it to me when you have read it,
as I have not had a copy of it made.

I have some other original documents which I would like
to show you, when you are down this way.

Yours truly,

D.B.Gilliland.

Copy of a letter written by Elizabeth Simonton Moffett to Anna Morris Moffett. The year is 1886.

Wednesday, 1st Sept.

How can I begin to tell you my dear child of last night's fearful experience. After tea Joe D. called & we sat talking all of us when at 9:00 a deep rumbling noise was heard & the house became violently shaken from side to side. The air filled with noises. We sat as if petrified.-only extending hands in a circle. All sat silent save for Daisy's cry- " Mama, mama ,what is it? " We lived hours it seemed, yet it was scarcely one minute! But oh the disaster following seems incredible. Our chimneys with most of those around shaved off to the roof. Houses cracked & precious lives lost. The Robson's piazzas torn off clean. Ainslie & his two sisters- Mary & Sallie buried in the ruins. They, surrounded by the timbers, but only bruised - he struck upon the head. His sister held out her hand to him & prayed with him. He was conscious when taken out but died in a few moments. His father had gone to the Depot to meet the mother & Frank, & came home to help to take him from the ruins .(this Ex . train has not yet come in.) I cannot begin to describe the night. We all went out to the open part of the yard , soon joined by the Carreres & Roaches. About 1 A.M. we adjourned to the basement piazza, several slight shocks driving us again to the yard - and so the wakeful anxious night was passed.(Joe & Dr. Hill came in, the former several times) Geordie & Janie made coffee for us at 4 A.M. God grant that we may never again pass through such an experience!- fearful beyond words to express - the appalling horror--those of us who were here can now forget it. I am thankful you are all away & would leave at once did means permit. Our nerves are so shaken. Warm love to all. Mother.

Copy of a letter written by Elizabeth Simonton Moffett to Anna Morris Moffett. The year is 1886.

Charleston, S.C.

Sept. 12,

My dear Anna:-

I will try to write more collectedly today, though my mind is in such a Whirl, & my nerves unstrung somewhat still, that I cannot give you all the news as I would wish. We seem to have lived weeks in the last few days. The night of the earthquake was spent in the yard, & in the basement piazza - the Roach and Carrere families with us until daylight. Yesterday we were sitting at breakfast when a slight shock came, & we all rushed to the yard, leaving the breakfast table, & so it remained until 2 P.M. We remained in the basement for the rest of the day, only going into the house when obliged. Jo has been devoted and kind - coming in about every few hours - trying to send our telegrams, & in every way showing such thoughtful kindness that we one and all - Geordie included, cannot say too much in his praise. Calm & collected, he has showed no fear but only thoughts for others. I thank God for his presence in the first awful convulsion, & the fire that followed, for though Geordie was perfectly collected, & acted promptly, Jo thought of the lamp upstairs. Geordie rushed up & poured on water, & Jo followed up his efforts, & with blankets (which I got out at once), the fire was extinguished. Young Chamberlain ran in to extinguish the fire, but it was out. Mrs. Mouzon had a son on

Sat.-& yesterday P.M. they brought him downstairs, as a second convulsion was expected last night. Yesterday Mrs. Mazyck & her Children spent time here, returning to their own home in the P.M., and spending the night in the stable, as they did the night before. Eliza came & cooked breakfast, but then returned home, & we had hot coffee, bread & butter, sardines etc. for lunch but no dinner. At sunset, the Roaches & the Carreres came in. A tent had been rigged up to protect us from the dew,- and there we spent the night. Jo was in and out as before. But save slight shocks (three or four) we passed a quiet night. We have hot coffee in the night, & at daylight, & then the neighbors return home. I cannot begin to tell you the desolation in the city. The papers will tell you this - tho the printers were too demoralised to print the paper today, fearing the building was unsafe. The parks, empty lots, & streets are filled with tents, & people camping out, or sitting on the sidewalks all night. Few are in their houses or will be for several days. I never before - except during the Yankees' visit in Fairfield - experienced such terror. I was thoroughly demoralized, though outwardly calm, but God grant that I may never again know such an experience. Today I feel better every way - but we will not sleep in the house for nights yet. Anna and I went to the Robsons. It seems miraculous that any of them escaped. They heard the noise, & rushed to the piazza which swayed under them, & as they were about leaping over the bannisters, the three (3) piazzas crushed in upon them. The two girls were enclosed in a sort of crib, and taken out with few bruises, but Ainslie was under a mass of timbers & bricks. When these

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were removed, & he was taken out, he was dead. His head no doubt was struck, & this saved him pain. But he spoke strongly & calmly when addressed by his father - begging his head might be relieved - & when Sallie first spoke to him she could feel him to his chest. Above was the mass of debris on the upper part of his person. She says the darkness was fearful. She spoke to him, telling him death was certain to them both, & they prayed together, & this calmness gives great comfort to the parents. The poor father crushed yet resigned. The mother and Frank were on the S.C. R.R. train, & the earthquake caught them above Summerville - shaking them up & from side to side - twisting the rails of the track. They remained at Summerville, & there John R. joined them & broke the news to his mother. Mr. R. had gone up for his wife to the Depot, & taken John & the little boy with him. She was to have come home on Monday but was detained. Mattie had remained on in Summerville where she was visiting Mrs. Seignious -- or they might have been all killed.

Susan C. came last eve. Mrs. M.A.S.'s house is wrecked. Strange to say the piazzas of the Robson House fell beside the house in a straight line & the debris scarce occupies more width of space than the piazzas did.

St. Michaels Church is ruined. St. Philip's ditto. All the Catholic Residences (religious). Few brickhouses are uninjured. Maggie Williams' house parted, & they went on board the Revenue cutter, - so did the Lamb Buist's family. Dr. Jenkins' house ruined. They are moving out of it today. Except the chimneys & cracked walls, we are intact. Very little hurt - so are most wooden houses, but our ridge

has suffered less than the lower part of the city. The Miss Gibbes' house in Legare St. caught fire- communicated with the Smyth girls & it was burned down also! I feel for them. They could not save much for all the family were away almost. The earthquake had demoralized everyone, & they will have lost all precious things associated with their mother & their past. Surely God's ways are past finding out! Who could have foreseen all this? I sent telegrams round yesterday. Feel anxious about Andrew. We heard today all the U.S. has suffered severely. Surely none worse than Charleston. In Summerville also few chimneys are left & many houses down. Water spouts from the earth -very cold or boiling hot. Fissures appeared in the earth. Holes like ant hills (but larger) which cast up mud, water & marl. Fish appeared in the wells.

" Old Arnnie " came to see me & ask how we were. He was thrown out of bed by the first shock, but has slept in his bed every night.

The scene in the streets after the earthquake was beyond description. Crowds rushed about. Negroes crying on God -singing, shrieking. Prayer meetings - some on the corners & on the Citadel Square. Last night the streets were deadly quiet, but the wild wierd singing on Washington Square (where many were gathered) was kept up all night. The scenes there, in the city Park, and all the open squares is touching indeed. So many sick sick on beds. Mothers with infants of a few days.

Fannie has been cool & collected - still expecting. Lizzie bears up, though we were all demoralized for the time.

All send love to you and all. I forgot to tell you that Dr. R. (as always kind) came up yesterday. Reported great

damage, loss of his buggy, carriage house, & chimneys. I
am too sorry. I hope he will get off today.

Always your loving ,

Mother.

P.S.

Alexander who was killed is the young Englishman
who attracted our attention at the Moody & Sankey Meeting.

Andrew Moffett I, to Andrew Moffett II.

Dunse, Scotland, Feby. 24, 1834.

Loving Son

Longe sought for has come at last. Yours of the 28 ---- reached us on the 4 instant. Your last was from New York when you said you would write us soon after you got home which caused me to put off day after day. But having heard from you WE ARE ALL very sorry that you have been so poorly and we are afraid that you were not then much better. But we fondly hope that ere this ----- God has restored you to your wonted health to attend to your labours for the support of your young Family. But if not what dare we say. Yes. We ought to say :- in humble submission to his will " It is the Lord. Let him do what seemeth best." Our Lord and Savior has told us that in this world --- --- "You shall have tribulation but be of good cheer. I have overcome the World" and "that through great tribulation you must enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Therefore it is our Unbounded duty as well as our Eternal interest to be diligent in the use of those means with --- --- are favoured so as to obtain the favour and Blessing of our Heavenly Father through the merites of our alone Savior Jesus Christ --- upon the aid of the Holy Spirit which is promised unto all who --- --- it in the way he has appointed.

My dear Son do not think for --- I have said that I consider you neglectful of your duty but we --- to be stirred up to the discharge of it. And I consider a short --- --- a father will not be out of ---.

We are all happy to know that Our Beloved Daughter with your Family is well and hope and pray that they will continue to grow as plants around your Table - that they may come forth as

Feb. 24, 1834, Contd.

Good Citizens - Useful members of Society, Ornaments in the Church below and at last be made Pillars in the Temple of our Lord never more to go out.

I think you are thinking that I am long in saying any thing about our selves. Now all that I think to say is that we have great reason to bless God for his goodness and long suffering patience to us for we have been Rebellious creatures through a long life of Rebellion against his Holy Law, but hitherto he has preserved us and in considerable good health more so than we could expect at our advanced time of life, and I must say that we are in much the same state as I described to you in my last. Jon and Agnes are in good health as also our friends as far as we know, and we have heard from them all lately. But there has been one death in one of the Familys of our friend since I wrote you last and that is your Aunt Nannie. You will perhaps not remember that she had Twins--- both girls . It is one of them - a fine young woman about 24 years of age. She died on the 5th inst. after a short but severe complaint in her bowels which produced mortification to the great grief of all concerned. But disease and death are all around us. The smallpox is very general but as yet not very mortal ; and the Scarlet fever is carrying off a great number of children - one, two, and in some cases three of a family. But what dare be said. It is the doing of the Lord, and we are assured he doeth all things well.

With respect to Business ** Although it is but a small one , yet we must not complain as we have been rather busy for a few months past than we have formerly been. A few families

Feby. 24, 1834, Contd.

having come to reside in the Neighborhood, we have got some of them to serve and they pay well - so we must jog on the best way we can.

We were sorry to learn by yours that we are not to have the pleasure to see you the coming summer, but disapointments must be expected and submitted to -- and wait in hope.

Pray do you receive the Berwick Advertiser ? It is regularly sent from here by Post every Sabbath to London in the faith that they forward it to you. I have had no letter from them for some weeks past, but heard on Saturday that they were all well.

Give our best love to Mrs. Hall and family, Mrs. Calder Green, and any who enquire for us.

Kiss all the Bairns for their Gran.

While we remain your affectionate Parents,

A. & B. Moffett.

Addressed as follows:-

Messrs Moffett & Calder,

Charleston, So. Ca.

Mr. Andrew Moffett,
Charleston.

Brigade Hospital, July 26th, 1864.
Contd.

complaint immediately. (I am better today.) Oh how I would enjoy a dinner with you. You must secure some more sugar. It is your only luxury, & I want the children to enjoy it. It will make a very important change in their diet to have sweetened meats occasionally.

You must not be so desponding over your responsibility as a Mother. Thank God that he has given you these little ones & look to him for help. He will come to your aid. You are endeavoring to raise them for him. This is encouragement enough. It is his work. They are vines in his garden. He will help you to train & prune them. They are lambs of his fold. He will help you to lead & guide them. Ought you not to take a more cheerful view of it, & leaving results with him use the means in your power & take all the encouragement you can find in even the improvement. Do not be discouraged. You will bring yourself into a state of mind & a habit of treatment which will be unhealthy. Be satisfied with small attainments. Watch carefully any influence for good or evil, & no matter from what source they spring act decisively. Seek strength for each day & cheerfully undertake its duties, & be prepared not to be cast down by what may seem failures.

I still have the cup I brought with me. I lost it , but recovered it only a day or two ago.

Do drop a line to John. I wrote him yesterday, & don't know when I will have a chance again, or rather be in the humor. I have written to him to have the cloth at Obury made up for me. My clothes are leaving me fast, & I will need in fact

Brigade Hospital, July 26th, 1864.
Contd.

now more new ones.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones, & Heavens best blessings upon thee my dearest one ever prays ,

Your devoted,

Husband.

P.S. I am out of Postage stamps but will get some in a few days.

Brigade Hospital, July 28th, 1864.

My dear Liz;-

I have no letter from you to acknowledge later than that of the 22nd, which came to me just when in the midst of my letter to you day before yesterday. I therefore lack just so much inspiration. You must therefore be prepared for something of an infliction - at all events a letter written with more of effort than otherwise. Now I hope one good effect of such punishment to you will be to afford me the needed stimulant more freely in the future. No doubt you will exclaim- " Why I write nearly every other day." If two mails arrived every day & every mail brought me a letter, I would not be satisfied. You see I am still in hospital. Yet I am not much sick. Only the complaint is not entirely removed, & to go back to the trenches partially cured, is only to bring on a more serious attack. So from excess of prudence, I remain here under treatment. Here I get good nourishment & rest. Under these genial influences my strength has been greatly invigorated. For instance I get for breakfast and supper,- Rice & milk with toast & good tea. Occasionally for dinner -Beef soup. Twice I have enjoyed my favorite dish - mutton. Oh how the taste of this last carried me back to Judith Street & the days thereof-- of the many good dinners we enjoyed & with too little gratitude -- little thinking of the days of privation which were to succeed. I can however look back upon them without repining, but love rather to recall them with pleasant memories, & thank God that no unpleasant associations are linked to them except the absence of a proper appreciation at the time of the loving hand which provided our daily bread & all other

Brigade Hospital,
July 28th, 1864, Contd.

comforts. These good things are remembered only as pleasant associations connected with happy days of peace when we were not so much as disturbed with anticipation of the trials we are now called upon to endure. But we must not allow ourselves to murmur or complain under even these, but endure them with meekness and submission looking to that same hand which in the past has bestowed on us from his bounteous so liberally. On the other hand we have much to praise him for. Could our praise forever flow we could not tell one half the debt of love we owe. Time spent in murmuring then is robbed from that we owe to praise. Day by day uttereth speech. Night after night showeth knowledge. Such earth born are we that our best efforts continually fail to lift us into the pure atmosphere in which we are privileged to soar. Your little book of "crumbs" contains a number of suggestions which have come to me at good time among others to wit. I have been seeking the gift of more active faith, & have been timid & downcast at the little gain which small as it was some times disappeared; when up comes this acceptable & timely crumb. "How many expect the comfort of assurance who are not found in the way of diligence. Never forget faith cometh by hearing & hearing by the word of God. Would you enjoy much of the comfort of faith read & meditate much the word of faith; and look constantly to Jesus the author & finisher of faith." And so with our coldness & the deadness of our love. The best remedy for which is to read & study more of the matchless love of God in Christ. Our lesson in Psalms for today is full of pleasant things

Brigade Hospital,
July 28th, 1864. Contd.

& encouragement ~~to~~ praise, beginning as it does - " I will lift up mine eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help." No matter to regard the path however rough or uneven. " My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved. I was glad when they said unto me - " Let us go into the house of the Lord. Unto thee lift I up mine eyes - O thou that dwellest in the heavens. Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven & earth. They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, etc. All full of exultation. All the language appropriate to that clearer purer atmosphere into which the children of God are privileged to spread their wings. O that we could realize these things. And how much has God done to take him at his word. Promise upon promise. Assurance upon assurance from his word. Invitation after invitation, and as though nothing should be left undone blessings for subjects of our song of praise daily, hourly repeated. Ah this mortal coil. These earthly affections - how they drag us down & how slow are we to learn the lesson of humility they are designed to teach. We are not neither can we be perfect because we must humble.

I learned something yesterday about the 119th Psalm. Perhaps you have not heard it before. It is an accrostic, divided alphabetically. In the Original every line begins with a word whose first letter is the same as the one which heads the division. Again in the Hebrew there is one word our translators interpret by judgements, laws, word statutes, commandments, etc.

Brigade Hospital,
July 28th, 1864. Contd.

This word in the original occurs in every verse. I have only noticed its absence in one verse. Mr Dickson tells me that Alexander has written a commentary on the Psalms. Try to get hold of it & give me benefit of your reading.

I expect to return to duty tomorrow. Grant is moving some of his troops back to the North side of the James River. He seems about to make some move. Whatever he expects to do must be done this month - Aug. So we may have some active work during the next thirty days.

Let us lift up our eyes to the hills from whence cometh our help. I dream of you very often, sometimes very vivid, at others so thin that I can not recall them -but all pleasant happy dreams.

I had a kind Motherly letter from dear Mother yesterday- to which I will reply perhaps tomorrow.

I must drop a line to John this A.M. He is very kind in sending me the papers. I recd. one today as late as the 25th. I will send him the Richmond Papers occasionally.

I am wearing my new collar today for the first time. It feels very comfortable.

I am sorry to hear that Uncle Billy is sick. Remember me to them all.

Tell Bessie I expect a reply to my letter soon, Andrew that I will write to him soon & to Anna too. I hope you have followed my suggestion about Andrew.

I heard from Charlie this morning (indirectly). He is improving rapidly

Love to all. Heavens best comforts surround thee all,

Brigade Hospital,
July 28th, 1864. Contd.

& in thy heart may peace, joy, faith, hope growing & reigning superior to all other emotions flow forth in praise.

These & more than I can express pray your devoted -

Husband.

Ordnance Train,
July 31st, 1864.

My dear Liz :-

I have been rereading your dear letter of the 24th & fearing lest in my letters since 19th I have not been able to express myself in such a way as to remove the impression produced on you by my allusion to the first of yours received after the long interval of silence. I have concluded to refer to it again. You say - "Your letter gave me a pang & I fancied you felt the effect of that shower bath all through it." My hope is that my subsequent letters explained more fully what I meant by expression of the effect of your letter. I feel very much tempted now just to say nothing more about it. You must understand by this time just what I meant to express & that I had not the most distant intention to reflect on that warm heart whose tender loving expressions have so often drawn tears to my eyes. Now I know you would have me say no more & that the "pang" has long ago disappeared.

You see that I did not as I expected return to the trenches last night. I was disturbed so often during the day that I concluded to remain one night & day longer here, & accordingly this last of an eventful month or rather one to which we looked forward with such anxious fears & expect-

Ordinance Train,
July 31st, 1864. Contd.

tations, I am permitted to spend under circumstances much more agreeable & I pray profitable than I could in the trenches.

My heart was full of gratitude this morning & partook with some degree of accord with the noble doxology of David in those last Psalms of praise which constituted the lesson for this morning. Life has been continued to me to complete our reading of my division. How many with better promise of seeing its close have been called away - some in a moment, some lingering & in pain. I have not only been spared but enough grace has been imparted to me to acknowledge the hand which wrought deliverance & to praise the goodness which has crowned me with loving kindness & mercy. " I will extol thee my God. O King, and I will bless thy name for ever & ever. Truly He is gracious and full of compassion." And in the midst of these ascriptions of praise, what precious promises are given. " The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth etc." Happy is he who hath the God of Jacob for his help etc. Encouragement to praise. Praise ye the Lord for it is good to sing praises unto God, for it is pleasant, & praise is comely. Again The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy. The whole collection seemed particularly to my circumstances at the close of the month, a month during which goodness & mercy have been renewed every morning, and during which so many signal instances of direct special providences have been displayed in my behalf. Upon

Ordnance Train,
July 31st, 1864. Contd.

this last day of this month I am permitted to spend a comparatively quiet Sabbath day & to indulge myself in communion with you of feelings which doubtless are common to us both on this sacred day. You have only to exercise more faith in order to enjoy to the full the morning lesson, to enter entirely into the praise & thanksgiving I have felt to be appropriate. Try your faith in this way.

As every morning you turn to the portion we have agreed upon for each day's reading, believe that we are perhaps at the moment enjoying the same lessons & uniting in the same language of praise-giving. I am perhaps ministering too much to your anxieties & thereby increasing them. I only want you to enjoy a happy frame of mind & partake to the full all the consolations, comforts, & encouragements I continually pray may be imparted to you. You are now under circumstances of trial but receiving continual encouragements to lift your soul above the cares which gather around you. It is your duty & privilege to rise above them & enjoy not only a peaceful frame of mind but a happy joyous state flowing from faith & hope.

God again displayed his power to deliver us yesterday. For the enemy evidently intended to make a general attack upon the lines. Although they succeeded in their mining operations & produced terrible havoc among our troops, yet their loss was greater than ours. Capt. Fleming - recently promoted to the Colonelcy of the 22nd S.C. buried 20 feet. Numerous others met similar fates. The negro who charged cried-"No

Ordinance Train,
July 31st, 1864. Contd.

Quarter." And bayoneted such of our poor fellows as were partially buried. But from all account they paid the penalty fearfully. It is said that their mangled bodies strew the ground. Our casualties it is said will amount to 1000, killed, wounded, missing. We have over 1500 prisoners (white) & their dead will - it is thought - amount to over 1000. Grant designed if successful in breaking our lines at that point to attack at all others, but God interposed to defeat his purposes & the fighting did not extend beyond Elliott's and Mahone commands. It is reported that there are but 48 men left in the 22nd S.C., Col. Wallace's Reg. but I hope this is exaggerated. The Surgeons look encouragingly upon Gen. Elliott's wound & I hope he will be spared. Grant is again moving. This time he is returning to this side & I suppose this time made desperate by his repeated failures will endeavor to succeed by a rush upon us at every point. My trust is firm that he will not succeed & it may be that God intends so to overrule the madness of this man that peace will result from his acts. It is time for earnest, faithful prayer on the part of our people.

Yesterday - no - this morning was handed me a letter from Mother & an affectionate slip from Mary-- both dated May 29th. Where it has been travelling these last 2 months I cant imagine. I would write to Mary today but I learn that she has gone to the Springs. I owe her two in reply to two very tender sisterly letters. I hope to hear from you by today's mail & will not send this until it arr-

Ordinance Train,
July 31st, 1864. Contd.

ives. If you get up that box, do send some kerchiefs, Red pepper, Black ditto & dont forget pickles. Tomato ketchup would be a great treat also.

Love to all. Kisses to the little ones. Heavens best blessing ever be thine. I hope you will enjoy this Sabbath day fully, & that the peace of God will flow into your soul & continue as a well of living water, refreshing & reviving you with spiritual supplies of comfort & of joy.

No letter for me. I will hope the stronger for tomorrow.

God bless you ever prays,

Your Husband.

In the Trenches.
Aug. 1, 1864.

Dear Liz:

I returned to duty last night, feeling a good deal better. I am taking advantage of a remarkable lull to write you a few lines. Last night we received notice that there would be a truce from 5 A.M. till 9 to allow the enemy to bury their dead. At 9 it was extended, & while this is going on all is quiet. It seems so strange. For the first time since we have been here perfect quiet prevails. The sharpshooters are mute, & the artillery dumb, while the work of the gravediggers goes on. We are expecting every moment however to learn that the truce is over, & again to have the air filled with the messengers of death. Horrid, just through covering from sight hundreds, & again to begin the work of destruction. Oh that God would interpose & stop this butchery. The loss of the enemy is terrific. We estimate it at nearly one thousand killed & 2500 wounded and prisoners. Our loss it is thought will not exceed 800. Some put it as low as 500. I will send you a Richmond paper.

I was utterly surprised yesterday by the sudden appearance of Jamie Ross. I kept him with me until dusk & we came to the trenches together. He is looking a great deal better than when I saw him in Columbia, but still thin & pale. I wish they could have prevailed upon him to remain a month longer. Yet we need every man who can be of service. Our Brigade has been greatly reduced by sickness. We brought to Va. 3480 men for duty. We now have in the trenches but 800. Our casualties number 1500. The balance are sick except a few

In the trenches,
Aug.1,1864. Contd.

who are prisoners.

I heard from Charlie yesterday. He is improving rapidly, but still feels weak, and has but little use of his legs. Mine feel as if they belonged to some body else, but they answer a good purpose, & I have no doubt will do their duty like a good pair of legs as they have always been.

Today we begin the Psalms together, but let our reading be accompanied by the prayer that mutual blessings be imparted & endeavor to realise that although we be so far separated yet we are brought nigh in spirit, & read , & pray as if we were side by side. The lull occuring on this first day of the month may be auspicious. I think Christians have shortened the arm of the Lord. He is able to say; "Peace be still!" He is the Prince of Peace. He is able & oh it must be with tears and agony of soul (if we can attribute to Him such human emotions) that that loving Savior looks down upon this horrid strife among a people professedly his, calling themselves by his name. He must be ready to stop it. Oh why is it that we have not learned the lesson he would teach. Are we like that obstinate perverse race to remain in this worse than wilderness for yet many lonely miserable months of trial and suspense, conflict & butchery ? Where are the faithful praying hearts ? Surely God is waiting to be gracious. Let us not provoke him by unbelief but by daily nourishment from his word - the fountain of truth- gain strength for our faith & trust him according to his word & promise. The blessings thus sought can not be long delayed.

In the trenches,
Aug.1,1864. Contd.

Genl. Elliott is reported as doing well. I have not heard the names of any among the injured or lost with whom you are familiar. The Regt. which suffered most comes chiefly from Union Dist. & neighborhood.

We are anxious to hear from Atlanta. Early seems to be doing all that is expected of him. Lee as far as we can see is successfully checking & defeating Grant's movements.

It does seem that if the same good Providence which in the recent past- in fact in all the past has guided, defended,& blessed us will only for a few more months extend the shield of his protection over us Peace will follow. Ah see how unbeleiving. He can as well command Peace this very day. Why will our hearts not trust him ?

We have had exceedingly hot days. Yesterday was one of the hottest I have ever experienced. I fear you are suffering, or will this month. I imagine you sitting in that fine wide passageway, both (all) doors open. It must be pleasant there. Dont I wish that I could spend this month with you.

Oh the burden of my desire is peace. Peace on earth & good will among men. Homes once more restored to absent ones. Absent ones returned to those that love them. We have to endure many things before we can enjoy the blessing. But while we are yet in the wilderness let us keep our hearts from Idolatry or rebellion. Let us not complain against God but look to him with humble contrite hearts trusting in his promises & rejoicing in his goodness. For what do we deserve at his hands but judge-

In the trenches,
Aug. 1, 1864. Contd.

ment. And yet his loving kindness, oh how free, goodness how abundant. Oh for a song of sweet accord. Praise him O my soul with all your sweetest songs. Praise him in all thy words and works. Let all the earth praise Him.

One of our Mess is keeping a journal of events connected with the Brigade. He has just remarked that he has made no entry since July 5th, nothing of sufficient importance having occurred in the interval. He of course referring to military events. It caused me to review & oh if I had kept a journal with my heart, how many mercies would I have had to record. How much to rejoice over. How little to mourn for except the sinfulness of this deceitful worldly selfish heart. Truly goodness & mercy have followed me all these days, and yet day after day fresh evidences of indwelling sin show themselves & repeated departures from duty reveal how full of iniquity I am. Oh we need constant flowings of grace to wash these sin polluted hearts. God grant me an humble & contrite frame of mind & thus keep me at his footstool.

I am looking with some degree of certainty for a letter from you today. None since the one dated 24th. I have written nearly every day recently. I hope you get them regularly.

Love to all. Kisses to the little ones. God bless them, and on thy head descend heavens best blessings & in thy heart for ever flow streams of heavenly peace, comfort, & joy.

Prays your devoted -- Husband,

In the trenches,
Aug.1,1864. Contd.

Postscript.

I will not attempt now , my dearest,to reply to your affectionate letter of 27th - just recd. - but as I have an opportunity to send this to the P.O.- will only acknowledge it. I am sorry my letters have been delayed. They will come upon you like an avalanche.

Why are you so cast down? Lift up your eyes to the hills from whence cometh our help. Be not cast down, but hope in God & praise him. Provoke him not by failing in faith & trust.

Send the box. Send what you can. I have mentioned my wants more to guide you than any thing else & will repeat some of them. Grist. Eggs. Pickles.Red Pepper. Black Pepper. Catsup. Syrup. Peach Brandy, or apple. Ginger. Nuts. Dried fruits, etc. etc.

Trenches near Petersburg,
Aug. 3rd, 1864.

My dear Liz :-

I intended to have written to you yesterday but one thing after another with a little laziness added prevented & today although in not much better fix I will enjoy a short while with you. Although I never undertake to write without experiencing - if possible - deeper feelings of regret, keener bitterness at this separation which limits us to this cold medium. Yet my chief enjoyment & relief my dearest, next to receiving tidings from you is to write, even amid the interruptions and inconveniences which surround me, & on days when I am prevented, I feel that I have been deprived of a pleasure & have lost an opportunity which leaves a regret similar to missing seeing you. The material for letter writing is very slim at present. I give you all the items of news which transpire with us, but the nature of our present duty affords but few incidents - nothing can be more monotonous or uninteresting. We lie down almost all day. My duties require perhaps more

Trenches near Petersburg, Aug. 3rd, 1864.
Contd,

locomotion, but the confinement is oppressive, & to make matters worse our long occupation of one position is making the atmosphere offensive in the extreme. At night it is overpowering. Do not however understand me as complaining, for although I would gladly hear that we were to occupy some new position yet this month & more nearly two (since 14th June) since we have been here, has been to me a period during which much has transpired to make the review on calling for deepest gratitude. I can even say "the lines have fallen to me in pleasant places. Yea I have a goodly heritage." For in the midst of dangers I have been preserved, & my discomforts are not near so great as those of many. But above and beyond this I have enjoyed more of God's presence in my soul. Have found my Bible a pleasant companion & derived from it reproof, correction, & sweet consolation & have been enabled to look upon all my trials & privations as appointed for me. Oh that I could keep continually before me the debt of love I owe & so grow in devotion and faithfulness who has done so much for me.

Yesterday's reading was full of sweet things-among others- "The Lord is in his Holy Temple. The Lord's throne is in the Heavens. His eyes behold, his eyelids try the children of men. The Lord trieth the righteous, but the wicked & him that loveth violence his soul hateth. For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness. His countenance doth behold the upright. Thou wilt shew me the path of life. In thy presence there is fulness of joy. At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. There my heart is glad & my glory rejoiceth. My flesh also shall rest in hope, because he is at my right hand I shall

Trenches near Petersburg, Aug. 3rd, 1864.
Contd.

not be moved."

He beholdeth the upright & trieth the righteous.
He will shew us the path of life, which though rough & full of foot falls & beset with cares and trials is yet glorious with the efulgence of his presence from whom cometh our help, & who so upholdeth our goings in his paths that our footsteps may not slip. That presence is fullness of joy, & at his right hand are pleasures forevermore. His presence is life & his loving kindness better than life. He who promises these things is in his Holy Temple & his throne is in the heavens over all and above all - full of Majesty and Truth. Are not these precious words? Why do we not live upon them & the many more which are written for our encouragement? As again in the day before I read in Phillipians - "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer & supplication with supplication with thanksgiving make known your request unto God, and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall fill your mind through Christ Jesus." Can anything be more inviting? Care cast off & instead thereof the voice of thanksgiving united with prayer to be employed, & the Peace of God to follow. Oh that our hearts were ever in such state as to receive the blessings which are so freely promised. Unbelief shuts the door and many an angel which would have entered in has turned aside from the soul it would have blessed with its presence. I sometime think that if we could only return to the longed for days of peace & return to home we could under our own vine & fig tree so improve our past experience that more of

Trenches near Petersburg,
Aug. 3rd, 1864. Contd.

joy & peace would flow into our hearts, but it may not be so. Trials seem to be the appointed channels through which these spiritual streams are to flow. Let us therefore seek for contentment & in whatever circumstances placed so possess our hearts that they may be tuned for praise, & then in whatever shape & however attended the last great enemy may appear we shall be able to come off more than conquerors through him who hath loved us.

You mention not receiving any letters from me for several days. It may be my fault, but I write nearly every day. I wish you could hear daily. Your anxiety must be great, & I do try to relieve it as often as possible. Some days the hindrances seem too great, but I must make it a rule in such cases to write you just a few lines. I have been sending you the newspapers lately & will continue to do so whenever they contain an interest.

I am very sorry your Uncle John would not sell you your supplies.

I wish very much John A. could be relieved in some way. Tell him I don't know how I am ever going to repay him. I trust God will abundantly reward him.

I heard from Charlie a day or two ago. He is improving steadily.

Bratton's Brigade has been moved, so I have heard nothing of Calvin for some time.

I am sorry to hear of Uncle Billy's illness. Remember me to him & the rest.

Trenches near Petersburg,
Aug.3rd, 1864. Contd.

I will be disappointed beyond measure if the mail me no letter today. In fact I look for several. Tell Annie I think she might drop me a line occasionally.

I have just heard that Gadsden Hall (You remember him. He is in our Brig. -(27th S.C.V.) has this minute been wounded by a sharpshooter. The ball glanced from a tree, struck him in the cheek, and passed out of his mouth taking with it 2 jaw teeth. He was talking at the time, & so fortunately his mouth was open. He is a great talker & the boys laugh at him for it. He was never very good looking. This may improve his appearance.

The clouds threaten rain. We need it very much but it will add greatly to the discomfort of our army. No shelter & the trenches after a shower have to be bailed out as there is no way of draining them.

I recd. an amusing note from Mr.Dickson yesterday which I will enclose in this.

I am very well. I do not say quite well because none of us are fully so. The life we lead is not consistent with perfect health.

I will not say a good bye until the mail arrives, when I hope to get a letter , but will only have time to say thanks.

God bless you.

The mail has arrived but brought no letter from you. I must hope for better things tomorrow.

Love to all. God bless you & keep you in the peace of God,
ever prays ,

Your devoted-

Husband.

Trenches, Aug. 5th, 1864

Dear Liz;-

Yesterday I went to the rear to change my clothes, & wash up, after which I rode to Beauregard's Hd. Qrs. with Genl. Hagood, & from there went to inspect our Hospital. Returning we rested & dined at our wagons. This used up the day & in consequence I did not enjoy a chat with you. On my return however I found yours of the 31st, which after three days of silence was most acceptable. I also found one from J.R.M. As you say that you do not consider your letter of 31st as a reply to my two (viz. 24th & 25th) I look confidently for a good long letter by this day's mail, and a good cheerful one showing me that you do rely upon my accounts of myself & that you are not permitting yourself to be annoyed by unnecessary anxieties. I am almost quite well - as well as I expect to be under existing circumstances. I am thankful that I am able to perform my duties & enjoy much better health than many of my comrades. Goodness and mercy continue to follow me, and with all my unworthiness - blessings yet crown my days. I appreciate your anxiety arising from suspense & do all in my power to relieve your mind in this respect & I reproach myself whenever a day passes without some token of my remembrance of thee which knows no forgetting & which finds sweet employment in the only means left under our present circumstances of communicating with you.

I fear my box is going to give you more trouble than I anticipated & am tempted to countermand the order, but I will trust to you not to allow it to give you too much trouble. Mr. Dickson received one a few days ago but it was a pitiful sight

Trenches, Aug. 5, 1864. Contd.

according to his description. I think however that much of the injury resulted from improper packing. Perishable things ought to be kept separate from such as are liable to be injured by their decay. I was only candid & perhaps too candid when I begged you to make some of the collars of a different pattern of calico. My taste is at fault, for every body admires that very much. Take no unnecessary care to send other patterns. That will do famously.

As to Andrew (you see I am answering your letter seriatim) I am amused at the Irish you display. You say you defer to my judgement yet you do not agree with me. I cant understand exactly how being at school keeps them out of the heat of the day , if they come home at 12. And with regard to employment, it seems to me that amusement would be better. It is just that, that I apprehend. The brain is more exercised than it should be. (I dare say you will smile at the idea of the contents of that little^{head} being overtaxed by the very little duty required of it) but I am so thoroughly convinced that great injury is often done in this way when those in charge of the child are totally unconscious of it - that I much prefer erring on the safe side. Until the child is nine or ten years old there need be no anxiety on the score of learning & if the general health and physical frame are improved they will actually acquire more between 10 & 12 than would be learned from steady schooling from 6 to 12. Andrew's frame is small & delicate & needs development. This can only be gained by unrestrained out door exercise. The confinement of the schoolroom will increase the evil & develop itself in restlessness & irritability. Let him take

Trenches, Aug. 5, 1864. Contd.

the dogs & run rabbits - anything that will amuse him & give exercise. Let him play with the boys in the neighborhood. They may teach him some mischief, but he will learn a great many useful things from them which a city boy seldom acquires. Dont check him too much. He is timid. Avoid scolding him. This will increase the evil. Pass over mere misdemeanors, only point out the error. Punish him as seldom as possible. I have no fears as to his courage. He will be brave enough in time. He is tender hearted, but I dont think chicken hearted. I really think it will be better to take him from the school & if there is any particular hour in the day that you desire to keep him in it will be a recreation to you to teach him. If you still differ with me I will be perfectly satisfied. You are on the spot and fully capable of judging what is best. You mothers are the responsible ones in such matters & I am perfectly satisfied that for wise purposes the education of children is left to them. I esteem myself most fortunate in having for the Mother of my children such an one as thou art & they are greatly blessed.

Speaking of Mothers, I will enclose an extract from a letter from a Virginia matron- a model of patriotic devotion expressed in a most elegant style.

Ah you did not know yourself. You feel much more disappointment about my promotion than you anticipated. You women. Well to encourage you I will say that it is not impossible but that I may yet obtain it. The President only says that the appointments will not be made until

Trenches, Aug. 5, 1864. Contd.

further orders. Nobody knows why. The bill authorising the appointments passed Congress & was approved by him & it is said that the bill was framed under his own supervision. I am satisfied. All will work right. I am not ambitious & only desire to do my duty, & am gratified when my services are noticed & appreciated. Promotion will come at the right time.

I am very glad to hear that Uncle Billy and the rest are better. Remember me to him & all the rest.

Ella's conduct is very provoking. She is a strange character, but I know her thoroughly. I heard indirectly from Charlie through Mr. Dickson yesterday. He is improving but regains his health slowly.

I see Jamie Ross every day. He is well. He looks better this morning than he did the day he arrived. I have no doubt the change will be of service to him - for a while at least.

Since the fighting of the 30th everything has relapsed to the former condition of quiet. Grant has failed in the open field. He is now trying the underground way to Petersburg. He succeeded in blowing up a part of our lines, and inflicting heavy loss upon us, but he not only suffered ignominious defeat, but lost far more than we did. Our loss is 1280 Killed, wounded, missing. They admit that theirs is between 6500 & 7000. This may be an over estimate, - but they certainly lost 5000. Their killed was nearly as great as our total loss. It is generally thought that Grant is

Trenches, Aug. 5, 1864. Contd.

going on with his mining & we are counter-mining. Our Generals look with indifference upon this attempt, & feel the utmost confidence in our ability to check mate him in the game. Everybody here is in good spirits about the campaign. Grant has accomplished nothing. It is believed that Sherman will accomplish nothing more, & as soon as Price can get within striking distance Sherman will be compelled to fall back. God grant that these hopes be not disappointed.

I pray not for the destruction of our enemies & will never inflict personally any injury to any falling into my hands, but I do pray God to destroy their purposes, to strike fear into their hearts & to turn them from their errors & sins against us & to grant us Peace & independence. I cannot even enter into many of David's prayers against his enemies. I seek for mercy. The Lord will be merciful to them that are merciful.

Next Sabbath I hope by God's blessing & under his protecting care again to partake of the sacred & blessed ordinance of the Lord's supper & I trust you will be with me in spirit. I have sought to be blessed & look forward with hope to a day of privilege. Oh I need so much. I am so empty, so weak, so poorly provided against my enemy, so easily turned aside, so unfaithful. Lord strengthen me by thy might - is my constant prayer. Remember me always & seek for me humility & divine strength.

I will not seal my letter until after the arrival of the mail - hoping to hear from you.

4 P.M. The mail has disappointed me. No letter from

Trenches, Aug.5,1864. Contd.

you. I felt sure I would get one. I will only look more confidently for one tomorrow.

I enclose one from Charlie, just recd. It will give you all the news I have of him.

The flies are intollerable. I have never seen any thing like it-they bite as bad as mosquitoes.

I also heard from James. He is quite well.

Love to all. Tell Bessie I am glad she likes her letter. I hope to be able to write again tomorrow.

Do I make my letters too cheap ? My Mess laugh at their length & frequently suspect to see them published as a journal posthumously.

God bless you, my dearest one.

As ever yours,

George.

Hd. Qrs. H.B. in Trenches,
Petersburg. Aug.6,1964.

Dear Liz

These daily attacks upon your time & patience are I hope acceptable to you as they are pleasant to me - if not I pity you & especially so if by irregularities in the mails, they come upon you " en masse ". But I flatter myself that apart from the relief they afford (as designed) they afford in addition some entertainment although they contain so little news. I have this morning an item which will figure in the papers north & south, and although I generally prefer to fill my sheet in the familiar chit chat careless style, which characterises my past letters to you however inelegant they may be as productions, yet I must also tell you of the events transpiring around us.

Yesterday was comparatively quiet. The sharpshooting even was continued in a very lazy way until about 4 P.M. when both sides began to show more than usual enterprise & at length the firing became heavy. Suddenly a deep heavy rumbling explosion took place upon our right & those who happened to be looking in that direction saw clouds & masses of earth ascend above the trees & as suddenly descend. This was followed by sharp infantry fire which spread along the entire line of both sides. Soon the heavy guns came in with their deep bass & the full roar of a heavy battle continued for about an hour. We- during this time not knowing exactly what was the cause or meaning of the whole affair. Soon conflicting reports ran down the lines. We had sprung a mine. The enemy had sprung another mine, & so on. It was late in the night before we learned the real state of the case & even now we have no official information. It seems that at one of the points

Hd. Qrs. H.B. in Trenches,
Petersburg. Aug. 6, 1964.

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Hd. Qrs. H.B. in Trenches,
Petersburg. Aug. 6, 1964.

at which we were countermining, we discovered a gallery being worked by the enemy & to prevent any nearer approach on their part & to destroy their work, we blew up in their neighborhood & it is thought succeeded in our object beside inflicting some loss upon him. The effect too will be good. The underground road will be considered unsafe. The actual results - I suppose - will not be known for some time as for the most part we will be dependent upon northern papers for information. They will, I have no doubt, at first treat it as a great failure on our part & perhaps laugh at our mining. But the truth will eventually creep out. We have good reason to believe that Grant has a number of other mines progressing & we are countermining. The impression seems to be that no such work is going on in our front - the nearest point along our line at which it is at all likely for them to make such an attempt is sufficiently far to make me feel sufficiently secure. At all events it does not interfere with my sleep when the time comes for me to lie down. The same hand which has been my shield from bullets & shell & from pestilence can preserve me from even this horrid means of destruction, if it seems good in his sight, and while I seek protecting care I also pray for childlike confidence & trust & the submissive spirit of a child.

I enjoy the Psalms greatly. There are so many passages appropriate to my every day experience. So much to encourage my hopes. So many songs of thanksgiving in unison with my feelings. Such deep acknowledgement of sin and earnest appeals for mercy, as seem just suited to my case in many instances.

Hd. Qrs. Hagood Brigade in Trenches.
Petersburg, Aug.6,1964. Contd.

Oh who will deliver us from this body of death. Your little book has a good thought on this point & shows indirectly why God permits (as it were) sin or rather the use we are to make of its existence in our hearts, " Though indwelling sin does not produce the grace of humility,yet it beats down the natural pride of the heart, & makes us cry with Paul,- O wretched man that I am." How soon we would esteem ourselves righteous if we did not discover daily, this law in our members, which even while striving to do good discovers the evil nature of our hearts. We must only pray and trust that where sin abounds grace will more abound.

The mail has just arrived & brought me yours of the 2nd with collars- very acceptable all- especially the letter although it is not only not the long one I looked for, but what is worse is the reason why it is not. I sympathise with you & hope you will have entirely recovered & may be able to write the promised long letter which I will look for in tomorrow's mail. I fear you have interpreted my remarks about the collars too literally. They are very nice indeed & most acceptable.

So Annie does not like a liberal construction to be put upon her illiberal remarks. I am glad if she has so seen her hasty speech to have been wrong.

I do not envy you your Okra Soup & vegetables - but oh how I wish I could enjoy them with you. We get none here & I have a constant longing for them. But I will gladly endure more than this for a continuation of the mercies which have followed me.

Hd. Qrs., Hagood Brigade in Trenches,
Petersburg, Aug.6,1964. Contd.

I do not think I misunderstand you about Andrew, but I wrcte fully on this yesterday. I am surprised that you received no letter from Sunday until Tuesday - at least you do not acknowledge any. I write nearly every day. I am sorry that I have to wind up my letters in haste. The mail will close in a few minutes & I have to hurry.

So far I see nothing to prevent my going to Church tomorrow & I trust that I will be permitted to enjoy the sacrament. I should be & I trust I may go there with a grateful humble heart. Many who saw the last first Sabbath of the month will not see this in this world. I shall think of you as present with me. God be with us & help us & cause his face to shine upon us. And upon thee & all we love may the comforting influence of his blessed spirit abide with you & in you all - is the constant prayer of your devoted

Husband.

Petersburg, Aug.9th,1864

I hereby grant power of Attorney to Mr. John R.Moffett for
the sale or purchase of any bonds, stocks etc. and for the
signing of checks, notes, drafts, etc.

G.H.Moffett

Signed in my presence
this 9th day August
1864.

Jas.H.Rivers,
Notary Public
& ex.off. Magistrate.

Bonds 4% sent to Richmond
by Capt. Carson Nov.22 d/64

| | | | |
|---------------|--------|---|-----------|
| Feby. 29th/64 | No.134 | | \$ 3,400- |
| March 11/64 | 386 | C | 600- |
| March 12/64 | 105 | E | 500- |
| March 18/64 | 316 | G | 1,400- |
| | | | ----- |
| | | | \$ 5,900 |

Trenches, Aug. 11th, 1864.

My dear Liz

At last that "good long letter" all about home has come & I unfortunately have but a few minutes to write in reply. I will make the pen fly & say as much as I can in the few minutes.

I am sorry to know that dear little Anna is sick. Tell her I was very glad to get her sweet little note & to see that she was fond of such pretty hymns. I hope she will be diligent & learn as many as she can. I often wish that I had learned more when I was a little boy - trying hard now to recall them. Tell her I remember the hymns she is so fond of & like them too.

I am mortified to hear that Andrew is reported Lazy. Tell him he must change his reputation. It makes me sad to hear such a report of him. How much better it would be if his dear Mama could write as favorable an account of him as of dear Bessie. Tell her it makes me quite happy to hear so favorably of her. I am glad to hear that she was so kind to her dear little sick sister.

Tell Anna nothing would make me more happy than to be in bed with her if it was only for a few hours.

I am glad to hear such good accounts of the horse & congratulate you on your share of pluck. Can't you get new traces? Send to Columbia & try. They will be worth the cost, or write to John R. to get them. I judge that it is in them that the deficiencies exist as I left with you perfectly new britching straps.

I was amused at Andrew's adventure & hope it will teach him a good lesson.

Trenches, Aug. 11th, 1864.

You need not caution me to look out for the box. I think about it a thousand times a day - anticipating the pleasant surprises you have doubtless prepared. One of Mess recd. a box yesterday which had been on the road 13 days. Tomatoes , Butter . Cake. Apples - all fresh in spite of the long journey. I hope I will have equal good luck.

I lost my last hdkerchf yesterday. I hope you have sent a supply. I blame myself for not furnishing you a list instead of telling you my wants in scraps. So it will be my fault if anything be left out.

You have never told me how the Lilac dress I bot from Bee Co. made up & how you were pleased with it. Now is the weather for it & I hope you are enjoying it. What did you do with the shoes ? How are you off in this respect ? What provision have you made for yourself & the children for winter ?

Oh with what longing eyes I look forward to that season - as it is then we hope to return to So. Ca. & I to have a precious time with you all. The weather is very hot here.

The impression seems to be gaining ground that Grant is moving northward & that the campaign here is virtually ended. All apprehensions of his mining schemes are almost entirely dissipated. The Sharpshooting has diminished & shelling much less frequent. It is thought that our Brigade will not go with the rest of the Army to No. Va., but remain here until danger to Petersburg is passed, & then in the early winter return to So. Ca. There is no telling how this will be. The complications at Atlanta & Mobile may change every hope & disaster there will cast a heavy shadow across the

Trenches , Aug.11th,1864.

bright prospects which have for so many months been cheering our hopes . Here the wise heads all think that we are prosperous here & will continue to meet with success

My hope is in God. He will work out in his own good time our deliverance. Praise him for the past & trust him for the future. He is our rock & defense, our shield & strong buckler. Oh that he would speedily stretch forth his arm and deliver us & restore peace & happiness within our borders & around our firesides.

I have heard nothing from Charlie since his letter. We are looking for him daily.

Jim Ross is quite well & looks better than when he arrived. I see him every day on my rounds of inspection.

In addition to my lesson in Psalms, I am at present reading in James & a chapter in Revelations, besides occasionally in the Gospels. Notice how many & rich rewards in first, 2nd, and 3rd Rev. are promised to them who overcome. Look in the Commentary & see what the meaning of the White Stone in Rev. 2-17 & the Morning Star in 2nd, 28th.

I must close. God bless thee and all our dear ones & make thee a possessor of all the blessings promised to them who overcome the world & love God- This is the earnest fervent prayer of your devoted

Husband.

What becomes of my letters ? You acknowledge none in this last.

Ordinance Wagon, August 12th, 1864.

Dear Liz

I have come back to our Ordnance Depot today to make out my Inspection Report for which I have no convenience in the trenches. I have taken a breathing spell in my work to spend a few minutes with you. They will be but a few & if my letter is a reflex of my feelings it will be dull indeed. I am suffering from a sick headache & feel out of sorts generally. Very little that I eat agrees with me. If I could only share with you the nice vegetable diet you are now enjoying with an occasional glimpse at a broiled chicken, I would get well in a few days, but restricted as we are to Bacon (Nassau at that) & Biscuit or rather dough, I do not expect to feel entirely well until cold weather with its bracing influences gives fresh strength to my whole system. I am not sick enough to lay up, so do not feel the slightest uneasiness. I am only telling you my grievances hoping that the mere telling will produce a good effect. But O how much better it would be to tell all this by word rather than through this blank medium. I have to take it for granted that the sympathy flows, but how different when it can be seen in the eye & in the touch of the hand & glowing countenance when like electricity it fills the very atmosphere & permeates everywhere. Every added day of separation now becomes harder to bear & my heart is ever breathing the wish "Oh that I had wings that I might fly". Three long months & nearly a fourth have passed since we parted. They have abounded in daily yet hourly instances of the goodness of our Father. Mercy has overshadowed me here & loving kindness has been poured out upon thee & ours. And when permitted again to meet with added mercies we will

Ordinance Wagon, Aug.12,1864.
Contd.

have much to be thankful for. Our debt of Gratitude already heavy calls for outpourings of love & obedience & praise.

Everything here is perfectly quiet - both parties on the defensive - or if either is taking the offensive it is in the underground way- which time alone can develop. Grant certainly can accomplish nothing by his mining process. We are prepared for him at every point where it is at all likely that he will make the attempt. He may succeed in springing a mine at some unguarded point but his work only begins then for unless he can penetrate our lines by troops through the gap thus made he does nothing more than kill or burry alive a few men. His last attempt was successful as far as it was a mining operation, but the disastrous defeat inflicted upon him in his attempt to break our line ought to teach him that any further such effort is madness & worse.

Genl. Early's movements are causing him much uneasiness & as badly as it will look for him to withdraw from his present position, I think before many weeks his army will have moved further north. Genl. Lee has reinforced Early and is in a position to continue to do so & will as the necessity arises. Grant will be compelled to send more troops to check the operations of Early, for as soon as he has finished gathering the rich crops of the Shenandoah he will assume the aggressive. In this way it is thought that the campaign will be moved to the old battle fields of Va. until winter freezes both armies.

In Georgia things look as if my. A success there would certainly terminate the War.

Ordinance Wagon, Aug. 12, 1864.
Contd.

How disgraceful was the conduct of Anderson in surrendering Fort Gaines. It is the blackest deed of the War. He must be a traitor. These villainous acts prolong our struggle. Our only hope and trust must be in our God. And in spite of all these seeming hinderances, he will yet bring us out of our difficulties & we will yet praise him.

I hope you are not having such hot weather as we are. What about peaches? You have never you have never said that the crop had proved a failure. Have you had none ? I have bot some Tomatto for dinner today- 2\$ a quart. My dinner will consist of Tomatto sauce & sliced tomattoes with biscuit. I cant eat the bacon. Oh for some Okra soup.

I hope that Anna is better.

No letter from you. I fear I take up too much of your time in reading my daily long winded effusions. You have done very well lately , but oh you dont know how much good a letter does me. To-day one would have been particularly acceptable. I have laughed over Andrew's adventure several times & pictured to myself the figure he cut before and after the fall & the woe-begone expression of countenance which must have resulted. Tell him not to mind it . He will have to be thrown several times before he is a good rider. And when peace & good times come we may be able to have a nice little pony for him & then he can teach Charlie to ride. That little man excites my curiosity. I have lost all recollection of his face & would not know him in a strange place. You will have to take him to Columbia & have his picture taken & sent to me.

Ordnance Wagon
Aug, 12, 1864. Contd.

Charlie has not yet returned.

Jim Ross is quite well. He never comes to see me, but I see him twice a day on my rounds. Remember me to his folk when you write

Love to all. Kisses to the dear little ones & all that a fervent heart can wish for be yours,

As ever Yours

George.

Trenches near Petersburg,
Aug. 13th, 1864.

Good Morning:-

Only a pop call. Pleasant things these "Pop Calls" when they are not merely to gratify idle curiosity, as in the case of Mrs. Jones who wants to know the meaning of that large tray carried to your house in the morning by the Pastry cook or the cause of the unusual number of messengers pull at your bell from her window across the way, or to gather any bit of news which her idle craving mind may need to satisfy or fill its emptiness. Or to indulge in gossip or tittle tattle about other peoples concerns. These are scourges in social life & those who indulge in them are pittyable, scarcely less so than your fashionable visitor with whom there is a needs-be that this & that visit must be paid. What slavery. How empty are they all. But there is a genuineness in the deed when done by the true and faithful, which is free from ostentation & full of satisfaction. The sincere look of the eye, the beaming countenance, the warm pressure of the hand & the whole manner imparts profound pleasure to all concerned & leaves a perfume sweet to be remembered. Cant stay but a moment. No news. Nothing particular to say, just dropped in to take a look at you & the dear children to see how you were all getting along. Could not pass without stopping. Only a few words about sweet trifles pass, & the Pop call is over. No not over. She has infused a cheerfulness by her hearty good morning. She has broken in upon the regular routine & perhaps dispersed some cloud just about to gather which undisturbed would have overshadowed the whole day. She has let in the sunshine of

Trenches near Petersburg,
Aug. 13th, 1864. Contd.

the outer world from which perhaps you have been too much excluded. In a word she has left you feeling much better than you did before she came & you are glad it was she rather than Mrs. Jones who professes to have called because she loves you so dearly &c &c. I am afraid that I am taking Mrs. Jones' place. My popcall is becoming very prosy. The fact is that I nothing particular to say to you this morning - my dearest - except that I would give almost anything just to see how you & the dear children were getting on & that this constant longing make me use up a sheet of paper every day when really at its common cement I wonder how I will (in many cases) fill the first page. It is not merely written for writings sake either, as you no doubt often suspect & with good reason, but the day seems long unless I spend some portion of it in this way, however busy I may be, & I hate to think at night that I have not taken advantage of opportunities to let you know that I am quite well or otherwise. And I will have to grow very old & frigid to be content with "I am well & hope you are too". On the contrary it is pleasant to sit down pen in hand & run on in an unrestrained way giving utterance to whatever is suggested at the moment. How you would be blessed if in addition to this propensity your husband was gifted with a fertile brain & fancy. I know you do not value his productions less for this deficiency, for in your loving heart you welcome even these dry leaves & give them a freshness not their own, But I often wish for the gift of composition, that

Trenches near Petersburg,
Aug. 13th, 1864. Contd.

while I am gratifying your affection by writing I might at the same time entertain your mind by pleasing thoughts & reflections. Even this much regretted deficiency does not deter me from indulging my pleasure in this respect.

A damper has just come over me. The Mail man & no letter for me. None Yesterday. The one recd day before yesterday reported Anna sick in bed. I have restrained my natural anxiety, but felt the utmost confidence that I would hear from you today. Am I too exacting?

We have no news from any quarter today. It is supposed that Grant is still moving troops to counteract our movements in No. Va. There is a goodly number in our front yet and although generally speaking more quiet prevails yet once or twice during every day heavy firing goes on & the air is filled with the hissing of bullets & the booming of shell, sure tokens that the enemy has not yet given up all hope of success in this direction. We heard heavy firing early this morning on our extreme left, in the direction of Bermuda hundreds, which as yet remains unexplained. Beauregard's Army will be the last to move from here even should the scene of strife be changed to No. Va. & from present indications the enemy will continue to occupy their present lines in sufficient force to keep us for many months. I don't think that Grant will abandon his position on our front until compelled to do so by urgent necessity. Not that he can gain anything by persisting in his present line of operations, but to withdraw, will be to admit defeat, & this he can not afford

Trenches near Petersburg,
Aug. 13th, 1864. Contd.

to do. Lincoln's cause cant stand it. Gold cant stand it,
& the people in favor of prosecuting the war wont stand
it. God only knows how the campaign will terminate. Our
hope is in him & if we trust him faithfully he will bless
us with success.

There is blowing today a sweet breeze which re-
lieves us to a great extent from the piercing rays of the
sun.

I took tea with Joe Adger last night. He lives well.
They get boxes from home alternately. We had nice rolls, Black
berry jam & Tea. Adger Smyth told me that his eggs were most-
ly spoiled by the trip of 5 days. You do not say if you sent
me any. His were scalded before packing 7 then covered well
with the grist, but for all this 2/3 were useless. I hope
for better things. I expect mine on Monday. My mouth runs
water in anticipation.

Andrew is quite well & remains with his Uncle at the
wagons.

The blackberry jam was very nice. Their butter too
was very sweet.

I am obliged to be very careful with my diet. Bacon
is out of the question. I am saving my rations to exchange for
milk or fresh meat. Today I expect to dine on a chicken to cost
8\$, two \$ for the tomatoes for sauce. My new boy is much more
handy & useful than John. He bakes biscuits very nicely.

Do compare 2nd Peter 1:19 last clause with Rev. 2nd
28th in the Commentary. Look also in the morning's readings

Trenches near Petersburg,
Aug 13th, 1864. Contd.

Psalms 68:13 & verses preceeding. Is the figure "Wings of a dove covered with silver & her feathers with yellow gold" merely an eastern figurative speech or is there some peculiar significance in the expression ? Does it mean that the glad tidings from the church shall be borne by a messenger as peaceful as the dove & adorned by plumage so purely beautiful ? I would like to hear an exposition of it. I was struck by the figure.

The mail man is waiting on me & I must close. I could spend an hour more with you my dearest running on with my little talk. Tomorrow D.V. I will spend mostly with you as I will not be able to go to Church. I look certainly for a letter to reply to. I wrote to Mother yesterday. They dont write me often. Stir them up.

Love to all. Kind remembrances to Cousin John & Cousin Nancy & all other dear friends. Kiss the dear children for me . May grace & peace & love with the comforting assurances of the blessed Spirit be abundantly administered to you

prays your devoted

Husband.

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 14, 1864

Dear Liz

I almost envy you today so great is my longing for a quiet sabbath at home where under our own vine & fig tree we might together celebrate the praise due to our God & make mention of all his loving kindness and mercy. Such a day will be a happy one to me & I must yet look forward with strong hope. I bless God however & cannot be sufficiently for the Sabbaths I have by his grace enjoyed under these seeming unfavorable circumstances. It is the way by which he has led me, the way by which he has made me feel my dependence upon him for everything. Oh how cold our hearts- my heart. It should overflow with praise, for the Lord hath done monderful things for me. He hath set my foot upon a rock. He hath made me feel that though he slay me, yet will I trust him. Often times the way is dark & I seem to be alone without my God, but I cling to the sure word of promise- "I will not forsake thee". Yet not I but his grace helping me, oft times cast down & almost discouraged at the knowledge of the sinful heart & corrupt nature still rebelling against matchless love and mercy. And often my poor efforts to pray seem mocking, wandering thoughts, & worldly desires seem uppermost. The conflict is great. The enemy is legion. The battle never oer, but thanks be unto him who giveth us the victory. He encourages us by his promises & makes us feel that his grace is sufficient for us. Pray earnestly for me that I may have grace to overcome all obstacles & enemies, & that perseverance unto the end may be granted me. That neither things present nor things to come may be able to seperate me from the love of God which is in Christ

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 14, 1864. Contd.

Jesus, but rather that I may have fellowship with the Father, My Father, communion daily & constant with my Savior & joy in the Holy Ghost my comfort. Oh we none of us live near enough to God. "Draw nigh unto me & I will draw nigh unto thee" What a precious invitation. Nigh unto a reconciled Father, in whose presence is fullness of joy & at whose right hand there are pleasures for evermore, whose ways are ways of pleasantness & whose paths are paths of peace. He sitteth upon the flood, yea he sitteth King forever. He will give strength unto his people. He will bless his people with peace. He turneth our mourning into dancing. He will gird us with gladness. His mercy is in the heavens and his faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. They that put their trust in him shall be abundantly satisfied with the fulness of his house, & he shall make them to drink of the river of his pleasures. With him is the fountain of life. In thy light shall we see light. In fellowship with him there is peace of conscience & joy in the Holy Ghost, glimpses of our heavenly home & that hope which lightens the burden & shortens the journey. These are some of the rewards promised in his word-- one jot or tittle of which shall never fail. Oh then why do our hearts not soar aloft & delight themselves in the Lord. Let us strive to look up & enjoy the blessed privileges which have been bought for us at so costly a price. Let us not fall short of enjoying all the promises. Yes let us walk with him and he will make our hearts to burn within us as he openeth to us in his word. Let us treasure those precious words which are his gospel & then learn of him wisdom, & knowledge & righteousness & truth & so grow like unto him. Let us seek

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 14, 1864. Contd.

enjoyment in all his ordinances & sacraments especially in that dying memorial of his love. There he loves to meet his disciples. Our privileges are great. Let us not draw down condemnation for neglect of such precious provisions of his love.

I have been spending my morning in rereading what I read in my daily lessons of the past week. They are full of precious promises for us, pure pearls which need only to be strung, precious jewels which we only need to gather to make crowns of rejoicing. Such are our comforts & sources of joy on the way, but who can tell the wonders of that glory which is to be revealed when hope becomes fruition, when having passed through the dark valley and across that dim uncertain stream, our last enemy vanquished, we shall stand face to face with him who having bought us with his blood, sitteth upon the great white throne. The city of the great King with her streets of gold & shining hills & streams of living waters, that glorious throng washed white in the blood of the lamb, with shining wings & brighter crowns, mingling with angels & archangels around the throne and joining in songs of sweetest praise ascribing honor & glory & power & dominion unto Him who sitteth upon the throne & unto the Lamb forever. Who can comprehend the brightness of the glory. There is no night there for the Son is the light there of. No night there for the weary having rested are weary no more, but rejoice for ever in the presence of the King. No partings. No sorrow. No sin. Oh did we dwell nearer to God here, even in this life we would have brighter glimpses of the Golden City than we do. The reward would appear more sure. Our home seem nearer, & hope here grow so bright that gloomy doubts would seldom rise to dim

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 14, 1864. Contd.

the prospect which faith reveals. We can obtain bright views of the promised land if we but climb to the hill tops of privilege which God has revealed for us in his promises. Oh for grace to press forward & upward. Hand in hand let us journey on helping each other by counsel & prayer, & though the narrow stream may at last separate us, we will reunited meet in our Father's house, & there forever dwell in peace & joy & perfect love. God be merciful to us & bless us & cause his face to shine upon us & hear our prayers & answer us -- for Jesus sake.

The mail has brought me your affectionate letter of the 9th. I can't understand why my letters are so long on the way & so irregular in arriving. I have them mailed regularly by a careful hand. This one will not be mailed until tomorrow as I began too late to finish it for the mail & have been interrupted several times. I am glad that you enjoy the readings, & thank you St. Moore's private devotions. I have enjoyed the Crumbs, & have divided it out as the Psalms for daily reading.

I am looking anxiously for the box. Some hope to receive it tomorrow. I am so sorry I did not beg you to put in some magazines or other light reading. You will have to make up another box soon, as in six weeks if we remain here & my life is spared, I will need my wool shirts, overcoat &c &c. I sincerely hope that we by that time may be able to move south, but at present there is no prospect. I told you yesterday my bill of fare. I enjoyed it richly & again today. Let me tell you a discovery. I want you to try it for breakfast. Tomato sauce on toast. I accidentally made the combination yesterday. It is delicious.

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 14, 1864. Contd.

Let me know how you like it. You have thrown too much mystery around that box. I am imagining all sorts of nice things. I hope there is some butter & I hope for all sorts of other delicacies. I hope your next letter - which I will expect tomorrow - may relieve my mind with regard to Andrew, Charlie, & Bessie. I hope it is not bilious remittant fever. I think you were wise to order the salt. John will find the means to pay for it. By the way, get Mr. Brice to endorse in my favor the Bond you have, & send it to John.

You need not worry about the knife & fork.

I am much better today & will get quite well now. This morning was one of the hottest I ever experienced. About 8 AM a very refreshing shower fell & the clouds have shut out the rays of the sun- so that the afternoon is quite pleasant.

I must again scold you for cutting down your letter sheets. I give you full size, write very closely & every day or nearly so. I have with but for several interruptions spent the day with you. It has been very pleasant.

Next Sabbath (if spared) I hope to go to Church. They have begun to grant on a very small scale furloughs to enlisted men. One in every fifty for duty. No provision made for Officers. Sam Dibble whose mother is very ill will start in a day or two, he having applied for a furlough. I will try to send a letter by him to be left at Youngues.

I have heard nothing from Charlie. I wrote to him yesterday, and will let you know as soon as I get his reply. I told him I thought he should have written to some of you as you were very

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 14, 1864. Contd.

anxious about him.

Jim Ross is quite well.

Army news-- there is none. Grant -I judge - is mining.

We are counter-mining.

Love to all. Kiss the little ones. I wish I could help
you nurse them.

God be with you & cause his face to shine upon you & fill
you with the fulness of his presence.

As ever-

Your devoted Husband.

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.
Aug 17th, 1864.

Dear Liz

I am sorry that I will not have time to send a suitable reply to your good long letter, today as it is not far from mail time. You must give me credit for the long ones I have lately been writing & in this account you ought to remember that I write closer than you do. But I do not wish to take credit to myself for an occupation which is now my greatest pleasure & chief recreation. In it I realise something of that communion of spirit which as you say approaches spiritualism. And if I can do no more than make mention of God's mercy toward me & thus relieve your mind of the anxious cares which would otherwise oppress you I am glad to write even ⁱⁿ haste as [^] was the case with my letter of yesterday. It is hasty enough to excite you.

I went out to the So. Ca. Hospital after I had gotten through my work & sure enough there were Charlie & Ella. Charlie is looking thin & pale & still suffers from the disease. He did not speak of obtaining a furlough & I don't think he will. He will remain for some days at the Hospital. I don't consider him fit for the kind of duty we are now doing. Should he return here he would certainly be made sick again. The fact is I don't think his constitution is adapted to this life of active campaigns. Ella looks remarkably well. They met with unbounded hospitality, of which it is rich to hear Ella talk. the trip has certainly benefitted her & Charlie has no doubt been improved. She is doing her best to persuade him to apply for a furlough.

I have been very home sick the last few days - a

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.

Aug. 17th, 1864. Contd.

regular attack - which as time wears on will I expect become chronic. It is a weary time - now going on four months and but little prospect of improvement. I endeavor by God's help to live from day to day, upon daily supply. How important it is for us so to do. Though as believers we have put on Christ for all purposes of pardon & justification, sanctification & eternal life, yet we should for our comfort, enjoyment, love & joy put him on day by day refreshing our memory by his past mercies & blessings encouraging our hearts with his precious promises & thus be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might according to his glorious power unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness. In this way alone can we obey that precious command - "Rejoice in the Lord alway" - neglect of which dishonors him who gave it, robs our own souls of the comfort & joy to which we are invited & for which he has formed us. If we but believe (and Christ's word is " Be it unto thee according to thy faith") that His blood has flowed for the remission of our sins & that our justification is complete in him before God. Then have we a perfect title to glory in His perfect righteousness, to feel assured that we are accepted in the beloved & our consciences thus being at perfect peace with God, we are lifted up to that mountain of privilege from whence we can enjoy continual joy in God, praising him for all the way by which we have been led for all the mercies & blessings by

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 17th, 1864. Contd.

which our path has been strewn, for the precious promises which have encouraged us to look upward & press forward, & which still are as beacon lights ahead inviting us to the green pastures & still waters. Having therefore these promises, how careful should we be daily to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh & spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Lord teach me daily this heavenly art. Our work is not finished so long as sin remains in us, and although our dear Redeemer by his one sacrifice has removed the guilt of sin from us & by his own righteousness has removed the condemnation of the law in the sight of God yet sin still remains in us. He knows the natural pride of our hearts, that we need a constant sight of our deep depravity to humble us before him & to excite love & gratitude toward him for his finished work & cause us to glory in him. The Lord our Righteousness & though by his grace promised to us sin can no longer have dominion over us yet we must daily seek this grace to overcome the power of that indwelling sin which still dwells within us & hourly seeks to make us dishonor God our father & wound our Crucified Redeemer & offend the blessed Spirit who sanctifies us. Therefore we must be diligent to make our calling & election sure, diligent to grow in grace & knowledge, looking for & hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein will be revealed to us a new heaven & new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, wherefore looking for such things we must be diligent that we may be found of him in peace without spot and blameless.

The Mail man cuts me short, & I have not only not time

Trenches near Petersburg, Va.
Aug. 17th, 1864. Contd.

to acknowledge another good long letter from you dated 18th
but have only half read it. God reward you for it & the love
which prompts it.

Love to all. In haste

Yours as ever

George.

Trenches, Aug. 18th, 1864.

Dear Liz

Your good long letter arrived in time yesterday to receive a hasty mention at the close of my note of yesterday, the morning has flown by so rapidly that I fear I will only have time to send you a few hasty lines, a poor return indeed for your last two affectionate letters, but as I know you would rather this than nothing, I will cover as much ground in the few minutes as possible.

First of all let me say that your reasons for Andrew's continuing at school on the scale now maintained for him are entirely satisfactory. Only urge upon Anne that he fall not into listless inattentive habits of study. Keep him hard at it while he is studying, & then give him rest.

Dont worry about my box, & dont mind about the missing knife, fork &c. I will do very well & would not have sent for them if a box was not on the way.

Genl. Hagood has gone to see Charlie & Ella today.

We have had a very quiet time since day-light. scarcely any firing. Just now however I hear heavy firing on the extreme right some 6 miles away, which sounds like a fight in that direction.

I am I humbly trust my dearest one receiving every day clearer views, more enjoyment in God & his word in prayer & in meditation. Your little book of Crumbs has been of much service to me. It abounds in useful wholesome suggestions, & I have daily reason to thank you for sending it to me. Many of its brief paragraphs are sweet fountains. It is a commentary on a small scale. Dont ever forget me at a throne of grace.

Trenches, Aug. 18th, 1864. Contd.

Pray that I will not given over to self-righteousness or false hopes. I enjoy more & more the morning & evening reading of the Psalms.

I am interrupted, & you must take this as my letter for today. I regret that it is so brief.

God bless you & fill you with the fullness of his grace & truth & perfect you in all righteousness & peace & joy. May he in his abundant mercy soon restore us to each other.

Love to all. Kisses to the dear ones. Tell them I pray always for them & hope when God permits me to see them once more to find them obedient, loving & meek.

God's blessing on you all.

Your devoted

Husband.

Ordinance Wagon,
Aug. 20th, 1864.

My dear Liz

I heard last night that the box had arrived & I came to the rear to examine & rejoice over its contents & then to write you a good long letter of thanks. I enjoyed some of the Grist for breakfast & Anna's nice fresh eggs. She is a dear little girl to send them. I had just got through a thorough examination. All came safe & well but the catsup which burst its cork & spread a little over the potatoes. The Ginger nuts are very nice & everything very acceptable.

I was just about to write you when I recd. word that we were to move to the right to report to A.P. Hill who fought the enemy yesterday & gained great advantage over them, capturing over 4,000.

I am just about to start & have only time to write these hasty lines. I will lose no opportunity to write.

Trust in God with a firm reliance upon his promises, & take encouragement from past mercies.

God bless you my dearest earthly treasure & our dear little ones & soon reunite us.

As ever

Your devoted

Husband.

Trenches, Aug. 20th, 1864.

Dear Liz

I wrote you a few very hasty incoherent words from the Ordnance train supposing that I would not have another opportunity before marching to the right of our line to support A.P. Hill who expects to attack the enemy this P.M. As I have a leisure moment after returning here I must write again.

I am delighted with my box & enjoyed hominy & eggs this morning for breakfast & then went down to examine the rest of the contents. The Grist will be very valuable to us. The dried fruit a delicacy, & the contents of the bottles very acceptable. My eyes were delighted at the Kerchiefs & collar. The Ginger nuts come in first rate for today. The Potatoes are in good order. The Apples are spoiled but yet very nice & the little book of private devotions not the least acceptable.

An accident happened to my little treasure - the Crumbs - which I fear will deprive me of it. It is very wet. I actually mourn over it. It has suggested to me so many comforting thoughts & guided me in many doubts which disturbed me. Do try to get me another. It is by far the best of its kind I have ever seen - really valuable - yes precious.

I suppose my dearest I will have been in battle before this reaches you. I commit myself to my faithful God & seek the shelter of his wings & look to him as my high rock & defense. Let your trust be there also until you hear again from me. My duties this time will remove me from the thick of the fight, & in this far safer than usual. I commit you my dear-

Trenches, Aug.20th,1864. Contd.

est & the dear ones given to us now as ever to a covenant keeping God.

Do not let my letter excite undue apprehension in your mind. I write now in this way & will always before going into battle write in the same way that you may feel that I go forth not in my own strength but relying upon him who is able to save.

God be with you & bless thee and all dear to us.

Love to all.

Your devoted

Husband.

My dear Liz

My last was in the form of a little note to Daisy. I left the beautiful vale of Llangollen a few minutes after it, and after a short ride reached the beautifully located town of Corwen. The little sketch above gives a very faint idea of its beauties & of course can not give the lovely view which stretches out in the fore-ground. The town is famous in history for being the dwelling place of the great Welsh cheiftain Owen Glendwyr, the last of the defenders of Welsh independance . I strolled about enjoying the views in the evening twilight, & after a sound sleep rose again to fresh pleasure in looking upon the surrounding Hills. After breakfast I started on the outside of an old fashioned coach for this place. That was Thursday. The road at first wound around the sides of the moorland hills which lay before us - at one time passing below projecting crags, then over stone bridges which spanned picturesque & lovely glens,- then suddenly emerging upon some open space of barren moorland, the distant mountains rose clearly to view,- and again reaching some point higher than the rest, a glorious panorama stretched around the entire horizon - then reaching the flat top of these peculiar moorland hills , & riding over a perfectly level road in a direct line, a bleak & somber scene alone presents itself. We stopped to change horses at a spot said to have been the scene of the capture of Carachams. In a very few moments the scenery changed with incredible surprise. Reaching the head-waters of the Conway River, the road descends into one of the most beautiful valleys I have ever beheld & winds its way through scenes of ever changing

beauty & majesty. On every side in every direction is presented something to admire & to charm & our e-xclamations expressed what language could not & can not. These seem to present themselves with such suddenness as almost to startle you. The stream which just now has been running quietly along the road side, suddenly rushes with great force and beauty over an abrupt & craggy descent. A sudden turn in the road suddenly brings you face to face with views in perfect contrast with those you have just been admiring. To compare great things with small,- it is like a Kalediscope, ever changing, all beauty ever changing, not to be compared with one another.

The Coach halted at 2 P.M. at this little village, Bettws y Coed, which means the hamlet in the wood. I dont dare attempt to describe its beauty. But will tell you something which happened to me here (very pleasant) instead of any attempt at description. For indeed it is impossible for anyone however skilled with pen or pencil either in poetry or on canvas to convey the faintest idea of the beauty which lies profusely in every view.

I was glad to hear on getting down from the Coach that lunch was ready. I therefore at once proceeded thither to satisfy my unreasonable wants. A group of ladies were seated at the table,- a Mother & three lovely daughters. As soon as I looked at the old lady I was satisfied that I had seen her before, & began to remember her as Robert Hall's Mother-in-law who had so kindly entertained me in Llangollen 8 years ago. But not being certain & feeling somewhat abashed by the presence of the three elegant ladies, I did not speak.

After finishing my lunch, however, I went to my room & inquired who they were, & was on my way back to make myself known when I encountered the old lady who came in pursuit of me, her youngest daughter being convinced that I was the same person she a little girl 8 years ago had seen in Wales. Was it not strange. I told her I was about to make myself known as I had just learned that she was Mrs. Holt. She feared that I was going on with the Coach & came to speak to me. She then introduced me to her daughters, & upon my asking for suggestions for points of interest in the neighborhood, they at once offered to be my guide, & in a few minutes reappeared with skirts well tucked up & stouter boots - ready for the road. First of all they took me through beautiful lanes from which were continually being presented charming pictures compelling a pause for admiration. These ladies I must tell you visit Wales twice every year *****

Birmingham, May 26th, 1861.

My dear Liz

I returned night before last from a pleasant visit to the classic ground of Warwick Castle, Kenilworth, and Stratford-on-Avon. ~~I will not-for~~ I can not-attempt to describe either of these places. Scott, Irving, & Bulwer have attempted it, but have conveyed no real idea of the beauty of either. They fire the imagination of all who read them & create in all as each one of them created in me a longing to visit the scenes they describe. I can only say that I was delighted with each & can not say with which of them I was most pleased.

-- Warwick castle however there is the peculiar blending of modern with ancient. The interior is to a great extent modern with enough of ancient relics to increase the interest. Upon walls splendidly adorned by modern carvings & frescoes are hung the weapons & armor of feudal days. By the side of the Earl of today in the court dress of this age is hung the portrait of his ancestor all clad in steel & surrounded with the weapons of his warfare. At the side of a superbly carved buffet-a triumph in wood carving- stands erect the complete armour of the second Earl of Warwick & the Marquis of Montrose - in perfect contrast. The beautifully frescoed ceiling overhangs the strangely interwoven oaken floor of midieval ages. In some of the appartments however you lose all trace of antiquity in the elegance of modern display in superb furniture, beautiful sculptures, & exquisite painting by the great masters. The collection of paintings are very valuable - many of them by Rubens, Van Dyke, Teniers, Murillo, Salvator, Roca, Vandervelde, Guido, & a few by Rembrant. The old walls and towers of this monument of feudal

Birmingham, May 26th, 1861. Contd.

days remain intact except here & there to prevent decay a little has been done to the masonry, but not to any extent & not in the least interfering with the general effect. Looking at it from the outside it looks to be fit only for a great goal - that is if one could divest his mind of the historic associations connected with it. Much however has been done to render the interior an elegant modern palace, but throughout you can perceive that an effort has been made not to detract from the peculiar antique effect. I strolled about the grounds which Bulwer made so much of in the "Last of the Barons", and climbed to the top of the tower in which the old astrologer watched the heavens & contacted the superstitious. I could not subdue some vain regrets, but I assure you I in spite of adverse circumstances enjoyed the visit exceedingly, the sensations both here & at Kenilworth were peculiar, a sort of local inspiration which I suppose I will never forget. Leaving Warwick for Kenilworth, I stopped a few moments at Guy's Cliff - famous for a legend of Guy Warwick but now more famous as a lovely spot, the residence of a nobleman - Lord Percy - who has added all that wealth could supply to a spot in which Nature has unfolded her charms with lavish profusion. One writer speaks of it as the abode of pleasure, a place meant for the Muses, - another the very seat of pleasantness. Upon three sides of it the River Avon flows or rather meanders through highly cultivated fields, & on the fourth wealth has lead her waters into a beautiful basin in which beautiful swans circle about. The ground is undulating & spreads out on every side the most pleasant prospect.

From here I rode to Kenilworth & now I am dumb. Its old ruined walls of red sand stone, the clustering Ivy, its delap-

Birmingham, May 26th, 1861. Contd.

idated towers, the remains of once noble windows & gothic arched passages - speak in a language which no tongue however eloquent can utter & which no pen though dipped in poesy itself can depict. You are struck with the immense thickness of the walls & the wonder is how even time could cause them to decay. There was one little thing which struck me which I suppose few visitors notice. In one of the towers belonging to the portion of the building called Leicesbars, away up to what once was the third floor- there remains a single rafter. This is the only piece of wood-work left about the building & there it hangs between the walls of that tower - solitary & alone, the only remnant of its compeers which supported the floor on which Amy Robsart walked. I could not but gaze at it. The picture which heads my sheet represents the only perfect door remaining. You will see it also in Andrew's leading to the Banquet Hall.

From this peculiarly interesting classic ground, I went to visit the old Abbey of Stoneleigh, now the possession of Lord Leigh. Thence back to Leamington, a beautiful town. Thence to Stratford-on-Avon, which must be visited to be appreciated.