

1862
Camp 10th Ala Regt.
Near Richmond Va.
July 20th 1862

My dear wife,

Twelve months ago today, if my recollection is correct, I wrote to you from Piedmont in this state. What changes have been wrought in our short year. Then we had the Forneys with us and the lamented Martin and hundreds of others who have fallen victims to disease, or have sacrificed themselves upon the altars of their country. At that time, save the fatigue incident to two soon forced marches; I scarcely knew what war was. We were then impatiently waiting for the cars that were to bear us to Manassas and give us a place in the picture of that bloody plain. And when the news reached us that the battle had been fought and the victory won without the aid of our Regt. I nearly felt disappointed and thought it probable that peace would be restored before the 10th would have an opportunity of showing the [metal] of the true men who composed it. But how vain are human calculations – how little of the future we learn, even by studying the great book of the present. I find if I continue this strain I shall moralize to extensively. Suffice it to say, that since that time I have seen war

in all its horrors. I have time and again endured the fatigue of heavy marches – I have suffered all the inconveniences of exposure to the inclemencies of the weather. In the discharge of military duty I have almost melted in the sun, and have been half frozen in the cold – in sunshine & storm I have seen what was to be seen. In fine, I've seen war in nearly all its phases, and, I think in its hugest proportions. I have seen it in the camp, upon the march and up the bloody battlefield – in the wide spread desolation which it has wrought over a portion of the finest country in the world – and last, but not least I have seen it most horribly in the mangled bodies of our brave boys, who in driving the invader from our homes, fell at the at the very mouth of the enemy's guns. I mention these things not in a spirit of pining or regret; for "whatever is, is right." (How much longer I am to witness these things I cannot tell. Not long I hope. I think surely the recent successes of our arms will satisfy the world that we are worthy of a place among the nations of the earth – and prove to the North its inability to subjugate a people unwilling to be slaves. If Europe should continue to refuse to recognize us, and the Yankee government continues its efforts at subjugation, I hope the Good One will preserve my health and spare my life to witness many more bloody fights – spare me till my eyes grow so dim that I cannot see an enemy and my arm so weak that I cannot strike a blow for the deliverance of the South.)

I confess to you that I had rather be at home this evening sitting by your side chatting face to face than to be here, in a hot tent, attempting to talk with you through the medium of a letter. But for reasons stated in a former letter such happiness is impossible for me to attain soon. The fact is, since the late battles about Richmond there have been so many who wanted to visit their families at home, that furloughs (except to those who are badly wounded and will not be able for duty in some time) are about "played out." If there were other field officers with the Regt. I would not hesitate a moment to ask leave of absence to be present at my Aunts and in this way get an opportunity to [recruit] my health and see my family. When Henry gets back to the Regt. and there is another field officer appointed I think the "powers that be" will give me a respite. By the by speaking of Henry, I send you the enclosed scrap which will give you his whereabouts and condition. We look now for a general exchange of prisoners, I hope he will be soon restored to his family and to the Regt.

There is nothing new here. Maj Findley and [Judge Tumley] are still here. The old Judge is about as interesting and energetic as Dr. Francis. He applied to the War Dept. for a Cadetship in the Confederate Army for George. I endorsed it in very strong terms, he presented it to the President and has his promise that he shall be appointed to the first vacancy. I suppose it will not be long before he will receive it. This

will be a nice birth for George. It will increase his pay greatly and will give him an opportunity to make a military man of himself.

I heard yesterday that Billy Watson had died a few days ago in Hospital of fever. His wounds were getting well fast, but he was taken with fever and died. Sam Wyatt and Miss Renfro, I understand, will leave for home Tuesday Morning. Billy Looney, (Mrs. Payne's son, you recollect him he went to school with me) is cheerful and improving - it was thought at first that he was mortally wounded.

Your letter of the 16th of June came to hand day before yesterday. It was old, but like wine had lost none of its pleasantness from age. Speaking of wine reminds me of brandy. Anglin was here a few days ago and said he had about one gallon of that good brandy left put away for his own tooth but said he would let you have a bottle of it - As soon as you see him, remind him of the promise - send a bottle up & have it filled - pay him for it and the first good chance you have send it out to me. Speaking of good brandy reminds me of John Francis & Tom Hayden - they are both well. Tell Mrs. Grant that Lon is well.

I will write again by Maj Findley or Judge Tumley and I will send you \$200. You spoke of everything being high in Ala. My board is costing me not less than \$75 a month now. Bacon 35c lb Butter \$1. lb - Chickens \$1.25 apiece - eggs 75c doz - onions 10c apiece - potatoes 50c a quart - Coffee \$2. lb - sugar 90c but very nice. Beef & veal 45 to 70c lb - and everything else in proportion.

Write often my dear Mary - I have no other pleasure so great as reading your letters. Tell Mat I will write him soon. Kiss the children for me. Tell Lucy papa would like to have her in his arms this evening to hug & kiss. As ever yours
C.