

[written in top left corner] I sent this by John Green to be mailed at Rome, Ga

[written upside down in top margin] The ink with which I have written this is so [?] bad that I fear you can't read it.

Hd. Qs 10th Ala. Regt. [10th Alabama Regiment, Tenth Alabama Regiment]

Near Fredericksburg, Va

June 1st 1863

My dear wife,

I was delighted to receive this evening your letter of the 25th ult. I received yours of the 18th last Thursday and should have answered it immediately but as I was indebted to Walter a letter, I concluded to write to him in order that he might not feel neglected and by way of encouraging him to write.

I regret to hear of so much sickness in Jacksonville. It is to be hoped the affliction will not be resided long upon the town. Henry Forney learned a few days ago of the death of Dr. Hoke. This was an unfortunate death for his family, but this loss was his gain – he was a pure man and only now rests from his labors.

We are not free from deaths in camp, and ordinarily they occur without producing any imposition upon those who survive. This I suppose is right if not natural for it would not do for death in camp to incite as much sympathy & feeling as it does at home. We had however, a death in camp night before last that was sudden and extraordinary. Pete Green, who married Roger William's sister, came out a few days since and brought a substitute for his brother John. He had to remain in camp till the approval of Gen. Lee [General Lee] could be obtained for the exchange. Saturday morning Peter was taken with a chill,

[written alongside left margin] Tell Eliza F. [Eliza Forney] that Henry is well and [standing?] camp

and that night at Eleven O'clock he was a corpse, after having many deaths during the day from high fever and convulsions. All his vital organs seemed to be simultaneously attacked and in spite of all efforts of Dr. Taylor he died before he had been sick twenty-four hours. His desire to save his brother from the [chains] of death has opened the grave to himself. John takes Pete's death terribly to heart, and I really felt grieved for him when he saw death coming upon his brother, he prayed to the very agony of his heart "Oh God, take me, and spare my brother."

This whole affair looks very much to me, like a lesson from Providence teaching us that man may devise but God holds the issue in his own hand and that we should always do our whole duty and trust to him for the consequences.

Old Man Little, near the foot of Sand Mountain, has a son, his youngest, in our Regt. who poisoned himself the other day by eating the wild parsnip supposing it to be Angelico. He was a raving maniac for many hours – his eyes fixed & his jaws set as though he was in the last agonies of death – no one supposed he would live – nothing could be got down him – at last Dr. Taylor gave him Chloroform and when he awoke from do influence consciousness seemed to have returned – during his raving he bit his tongue nearly in two – he is now recovering by degrees and I have no doubt will recover entirely. It is hardly

necessary to advise you to counsel our boys against the habit of experimenting with plants that they are not familiar with.

You express great anxiety for me to come home, well, it is but right for me to inform you of what I have done. I wrote you sometime since that I intended to answer the document sent me by a portion of the Officers of the Regt. I weighed the matters calmly & seriously, determined to do nothing rash or imprudent. I wrote a lengthy reply – gave an explanation of the Cunningham affair and also of the motives which influenced me in not sending persons home on recruiting service. That part of their petition which affirmed that my conduct and bearing as an officer, was objectionable to them, I frankly confessed in the absence of specifications, I know not how to answer. I told them, what was true, that for my private and social relations with them there had never occurred anything of an unpleasant character, and that in my official capacity I had never offered one of the officers of the Regt. an insult or an indignity- if they thought I had done so, in the past, or should do so hence after, I hold myself ready to give them that satisfaction recognized among gentlemen. They acknowledged the receipt of my communication, expressed the highest esteem & regard for me, personally, complemented my gallantry in the battle field and asked leave to withdraw the petition. This of course was all the amends they could make. I returned the

the petition to them, and the whole matter now stands just as it did before the petition was written. I think I am, at last, at least even with them, and as I feel under no obligations, nor have I the inclination, to remain with men, who have, from any motive, stooped so low as to attempt to injure me as some of them have, I determined to resign, of my own accord, and leave them to better themselves if they can. Accordingly I sent up my resignation yesterday morning – it will be a week before I can hear from it. It may be that Gen. Lee [General Lee] will not approve it without the certificate of the Secty of State that I am the solicitor for my circuit. If so, it will take a month yet to determine the matter. If he approves the present application I will be at home, if I live, by your examination.

My pride and ambition and hatred for Yankee aggression & oppression all bid me to remain with the Regt. but my judgment after mature deliberation, sanctions the step which I have taken. But upon all these points we will speak when I see you. I have a copy of the correspondence which I shall preserve for future reference.

The news from Vicksburg comes in so slowly to us that we do not know what is going on there – but we are a little more hopeful for our army there than we were a few days since. The news from the 30th Ala is distressing – but, Mary, I fear our people are doing injustice to Col. Shelley [Colonel Shelley]. You will find it so when all the

facts are known – he is a gallant man and I am greatly mistaken in the man if he forsook his regt.

The Yankees in our front have been very busy for three or four days or rather nights – hard at work, throwing up [battens?], digging rifle pits and felling trees forming an [abates?] in front. Our Brigade has been under arms all the time, not knowing but that they anticipated another crossing at this place; but I believe from the amount and charade of their work they fear an attack from us and are preparing for the defensive.

We have just been informed that our Division (Anderson's) has been transferred from Longstreet's 1st Army Corps, to A.P. Hill's Corps [3rd?]. Jackson's Corps has been divided between Hill & Ewell who have been made Lt. Generals.

You asked me to say what had become of Col Crook's son – Lt James Crook, well, I presume he has written to his father before this. He was taken prisoner and paroled or exchanged – I understand he has been in Richmond several days – suppose he will be with the Regt. soon.

On my way out here, I saw Mr. Houston at the Greensboro Depot and requested him to ask Passons to write you and let you know who his agent at Jacksonville was so that I might begin to pay him something on the notes

I never intimated that I was ready to pay him the whole amount. You needn't write to him at all – I will write him by tomorrow's mail and what I can I will pay when I reach him.

I hope by this time the little fellers are getting better of the whooping cough. I fear they will wear you out nursing them – how I wish I could be there to help you.

I am grieved to hear so unfavorable an account of the boys. I feel disapproval that they are doing so badly. This is another strong reason why I should be at home. I can never expect to do more for them than to give them an education and if they throw away their present opportunities I can never do that. But when I get home I think I will take them in hand and try and root out some of the brambles & briars that have sprung up in their minds & hearts. Don't despair, Darling, let us work on, work [ever?] try to do our duty and I believe success will crown our efforts.

Glad to hear that [Jno Stule, John Stule?] health is improving my compliments to him – love to Mat & Kate – kisses for all the children & tell Lucy she mustn't let Brother Ed love pa the best. Good night my dear one and may the Good One, in his mercy, grant us a speedy & happy reunion is the prayer of your affectional husband.