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J. W. Henderson to Sarah A. M. Henderson (28 August 1862)

John Watson Henderson

Sarah Anne Means Henderson

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Camp 6 miles beyond Chattanooga in the mountains
Thursday evening, August 25th 1864. My dear mother,
I am glad to tell you that I have just read & fully enjoyed
the contents of your very affectionate letter of the 14th inst.,
I am very glad to hear that you & that sweet little Ellen
are both doing so well - hope you will continue to do so,
you must be getting along remarkably well to be able to
write me a long letter & to have only one week old.
Oh! dear how glad I would be to get home & spend a
few weeks with you & those sweet little girls, but I must
be denied that pleasure for a while yet, I do hope it will
not be a very great while, I do hope will force the Rebels
to make peace before many more months, we stand now
in camp today that Kirby Smith, our general about the
Cumberland Gap had telegraphed the our quarter master at
Chattanooga not to buy any more wagons & teams that
he had captured so that he thought he would not get more
& he thought that because the army would be captured
before long if we succeed in that, the enemy will cer-
tainly begin to do something towards making peace they
are a great while if they don't we will drive the last
one of them across Mason & Dixie's line & then we will
have all our territory back again & if they don't give it
up soon, we will invade their country which,

... I think I shall go to the ...
... I am very much ...
... I can stand it if they don't ...
... I can't tell what has got the matter into ...
... sometimes fear it will turn into the chronic diarrhea;

My dear mother
I have not been regular only a few days at a time since
but the spell of the influenza we first got in Dupelo
from Corinto. It must be the diet we have to eat, we are
living mostly now on corn bread & fresh beef, & my old teeth
get so sore eating beef that I can't more than half chew
it & sometimes think that is the cause of it - but we will
have to eat on our march. Perhaps I will get well
but the only spell I had ^{had} without passing some or less blood,
I had the diarrhea all the way from Dupelo to the
Panama. I do not want to be shut in a hospital, unless there
was some chance to get fresh from home & I know that would
not be the case. If ever I get such a thing to be sent off
to a hospital, for any length of time, I would rather get
a discharge & be sent home, for there are very few hospitals
but what are crowded with boys dead - live, & I tell you I
don't want to be sent to any of them. I have seen & Martin
just got to camp today from the hospital at Sandstone
skins below Dupelo, they have been there nearly 3 months,
I did not see Martin, he was behind in a wagon but you
looked very well, she tried hard to get to take Martin
home but they would not let him, they are getting awfully
tight these days about letting a soldier get home
sick or well, I hardly expect to get home till the new
year unless I take some disease that will discharge me or I
get wounded in some battle, but I am going to live in hopes

Dear mother
I received your kind letter of the 15th
and was glad to hear from you
and to hear that you were well
I am well and hope these few lines
will find you the same
I have not much news to write
at present
I have been thinking much
of late
I wish I could see you
and tell you how much I love you
and how much I am thinking
of you
I shall be glad to hear from you
again
I am your affectionate son
John
P.S. I hope you will be
able to get home soon
I shall be glad to see you
again
I am your affectionate son
John