

Write my dear
Mary as often
as you find
time. I shall
be at home, if the
Lord will, some
time in February, & you
& I can come home
with them, may
the Providence
of Heaven direct
attend you, and
conceal a happy
meeting in my
prayer
6.

Adj. Ins. 10th Ala Regt.
Near Fredericksburg Va.
Dec 3^d 1862

Your letter of the 15th Nov, reached me
day before yesterday. The pleasure I realized upon
its reception, was equalled only by the sincere gratitude
which filled my heart, to know that you were all still
alive and well.

Would that I could, on this bright, beautiful December
morning, seize your hand, instead of my pen, and greet
you with a kiss. Methinks you would forgive seeming
neglect, forget "perilous times" and be content to sit quietly
down that we might have "a gay time" together. But, alas,
this cannot be for the present. Let us continue to hope
that the time will soon come, when, the Good One, having
spared us from all dangers, will grant us a happy re-
union around our own fireside.

I know from the tenor of your late letters that you
have been sorely disappointed at the non-arrival of my
letters. You have even chided me for negligence - and,
your "dreams" have half way made you believe that
I have forgotten home, & wife & children. Nothing
could have surprised me more than to hear that you

had received none of the letters which I have written
to you in the last six weeks. I have written four that
I can now call to mind, and I believe more. — One by
Klover, from Manchester, containing \$200. — One by Genl. Sides
to be mailed at Salladega, also containing \$200. — One
by Com Hayden to be mailed at Richmond — and still an
other by Roger Williams to be mailed at Richmond, in
the event Roger did not go on immediately to Ala. I handed
him at the same time \$200, to give you. This amount,
if he did not go on, I presume he gave to Mr Carpenter
to hand to you. I don't think, under this state of facts,
you could convict me of negligence or forgetfulness, be-
fore any fair minded jury. But after all, My dear Mary,
I don't blame you for chiding me — you had not received
what I had written, and of course, were not in possession
of the facts. I try to write, at least once a week. Night
used to be my time for writing — when every other eye was closed
in slumber and stillness brooded over every thing around —
but that time has passed — there are no longer any candles
in the Confederate Camp either for men or officers. — So, I
am compelled now to write what little I do, in the day time.
I assure you I have but little time for any thing except
what belongs legitimately to my position as Commander of the
Regt. There is not, nor has there been a "filed officer," except

myself, with the Regt. since the 27th day of June last. I have
everything to do, and no one except those who have been sim-
ilarly situated, knows anything of the vexatious troubles
that surround the place.

I can give you no news from this place. The two armies
are facing each other - nothing but a river between them -
and yet they seem no nearer a battle than they did a
week ago. No one can conjecture what the issue will be.
Burnsides has a very large force with him, but the passage
of the Rappahannock will be attended with so many difficulties
that I hardly think the Federal General will attempt it
in the face of our Army. It is possible that we may con-
tinue "to shake our fists," in each others' faces, till a Vir-
ginia Winter forces us into winter quarters - or the move-
ments of the enemy may carry some of us to the sea board
to defend our Southern cities from attack.

It is "a Camp rumor" that Gen Forney has petitioned
the Department to send "Melex's Brigade" to Mobile, ^{Florida}
that be nice? If we were to go down to our own Gulf City,
you could afford to pay a body a visit - Could'nt you?
But of course, there is not a word of truth in the rumor.

You have doubtless heard, before this, that there is no longer
any doubt as to Capt Whalley's death. He was killed on the
battle field of Sharpsburg - shot through the head. This news

comes to the Regt. through St. Oden of Talladega who was badly wounded in the same fight. He was talking to Capt Whalley when he was shot. He says he prevailed upon a citizen to bury him where he fell, so that the place can be found whenever desired. Go to see his poor wife as often as you can - console her as much as words & kind acts can - but who, however kind, can bring consolation for the loss of a loved husband or wife?

I saw old man Thompson, of Simontone Co, Sunday evening. He has a son in the 9th Ala Regt. act. Surgeon. Do you remember the old man? He overreased for Dr McLean six or seven miles from Mowville. He had seen Mr Harris & Eliza the day before he left home. He gives a gloomy account of things in North Alabama under Gantke's reign - He says he believes the loss of some fourteen negroes, and the anxiety about his sons, will kill Major Harris. He says he is reduced almost to a shadow compared with older times.

I am glad to hear of the prosperity of your school. As everything else has advanced in price I think you & Carrie ought to raise the tariff on "brains" and increase the rates of tuition. What say you to submitting the proposition to the board of Trustees?

I hope "Sus & Grace" had a pleasant time of it in J. but I hope more sincerely that he has redeemed his promise and sent you the present of coffee. I trust it won't turn out like "old Grad pa's" cow that you were going to get.

Tell Pat & Johnny to write to me. I enclose a little letter to Lucy in answer to hers.

I got the socks & red pepper - I carry the pepper about in my pocket and allow no one to use it except when I am at the table with them. The socks fit exactly. You said in one of your letters that you had forgotten my face well, I am glad you remember so well the size of my foot. Remember me to those who enquire.