Chattanooga " Tennessee

July 13th 1863

My " Dear " Sister

I received your letter dated June 30th Yesterday morning which I was more than glad to hear from you and was very sorry to hear of Cousin Toms Death I know Uncle Tom must take it to heart very much for he thought so much of his Son and Tom was such a fine looking boy and looked so promising that he justly Deserved all the praises that a Father could bestow upon a son, I am in hopes Aunt Matt will answer your letter and give you all the particular concerning his Death. Sallie My health is only tolerable good I have been on the decline ever Since I arrived at this place but hope it is nothing very serious nothing more than a cold, hoping this will find you and Sister and family all well I wrote to you on the tenth but did not write a very long letter will try and write more this time. I will give you a description of our trip on the retreat from Shelbyville we wear ten days on

The march which part of the time we had nothing to eat as my self I did not fare as bad as the rest of the company one of my Mess stoped one day to get his dinner and bought A chicken which we had for supper with out bread we boiled it in A tin bucket and had A little raw rice which we made some soup with and I thought it was the best soup I ever eat in my life it was then two days and one night that we had done without some thing to eat but thank God I stood ithe march so much better than I expected that I made out tolerable well considering. Sallie when I commenced this letter I thought I would write you long letter but my papper is so thick that I have come to the conclusion it would be best not to send but half A sheet I will send twenty dollars this time and if it come safe I will send the rest as soon as I hear from you, I want you to be sure and write to me as soon as you get this for I will be very anxious to hear from you. give my love to Sister and Ferde & all the children Direct to Chattanooga Yours afft Brother J. R. Riggs