

Jan'y 28th - Two inches of snow on the ground
and it is falling very fast. I am much
better this morning - Camp near Shelbyville Tenn
will be all right soon - H. - Jan'y 27th 1863

My dear Darling

It rained nearly all day
yesterday and all night last night. This morn-
ing when I awoke I found it snowing quite
fast and has been doing so ever since -
This is fine weather to jump into after my very
pleasant time at home. It is cold and muddy
disagreeable and nearly every thing else that is
bad and in addition to other dis-comforts
I feel ^{un}well - I have diarrhoea eating corn
meal without any sifting - ground very coarse at
that - and fresh pork - I will I hope get used
to this in a few days - I tell you Darling it
goes very hard with me - harder than ever before
we have a very poor place for a camp - muddy
tent floors &c &c - I hope this weather will soon
clear up - I think a few hours of sunshine would
make me all right - I do not know that you will
be able to read this letter - I am writing this letter
in a tent where I have some fire and the smoke
makes it so dense that I can hardly see -
There was a party in Shelbyville last night a
sort of ball - It was an ugly night but a
good many were out so I hear - I was honored
with an invitation but as I had no good clothes

I respectfully declined - But I don't mean by that to say that I would have gone if I had received my uniform - Robertson wore my coat as better than any thing he had - not my uniform - we are not much in dressing up in our concern - I am decided the best dressed man in the company - when I get my uniform I can afford to put on some - and go out to balls and parties - This party was given principally by artillery officers - Genls Cheatham McCown and Preston Smith were at the ball - How I would like to be laying back at home before a comfortable fire with you by my side or in my lap reclining your head on your old dear's bosom - I think I darling you would like it too - while I was at home I somehow got it to me in spite of myself that there would be peace in the spring - but since I have returned here I can't see what to base such hopes on - and I have come to the conclusion that the war will last at least through Lincoln's administration - There are some sensation dispatches about movements in Kentucky - but what they will amount to I have yet to learn - our army here will soon be in poor health - There is a good deal of diarrhoea already and the diet they have will not improve it - I found every thing I left in pretty good condition - my horse is in very good plight - except his hind foot

which was sore when I left and is still no better
otherwise he is very well - I left off here for some
time - but will now try and finish - I feel better
than I did an hour or two ago and I hope I will
be better soon - Some of my friends have been to see
me notwithstanding it is so disagreeable - The
snow has ceased to fall - but it is very wet and
muddy - Richardson has been giving me a glowing
description of the ball last night - about thirty or forty
Ladies there - were variety of style and position in
society - I am glad that he says if I do not think
I would like to see any of my Lady friends at
such a place - When Mr Pope goes home she will
be able to tell you a good deal no doubt - She went
inside the enemies lines and will be able to tell
a great deal - I feel very much like I had been
transported to another world it is so different here
to what it was at home - I wonder when this war
will end - Would not the announcement of peace gladden
many a sad heart? and make many families rejoice?
Let me know where Henry went to and when he left -
I feel to day like I am very sick of my place and feel
almost ready to take a staff position - Robertson
is still with Genl Polk or rather in his staff although
he Polk, is not here - Polk is very anxious to retain him
and Robertson says he will not remain with him unless
he gives him the position of Colonel - I will know
as soon as Polk returns - In fact I expect Robertson
will return to the Company any way as he said he

would not take the position until the appointment
came. I confess that my promotion has been de-
ferred so long that I have ceased to feel much interest
in it - and am perfectly indifferent whether it comes
leaves or not. The Company has been behaving very
badly since the fight and it will take me some time
to regulate things - particularly in the pig I am in. I
have not felt at home or natural yet - but perhaps it
will come all right to me soon. How does our boy come
on - does he seem to miss me any yet. I hardly think
he was with me long enough. I shall look for a letter
from you soon - direct to Shelbyville and otherwise
as before - Every thing is quiet along our front and
so far there are no indications of an advance on the
part of the enemy - we may therefore remain here
some time - I hope your Columbus friends
all got well - write me about them - don't be
worrying about me Darling I write three or four
times a week to you - I have not seen any of the
M'Kee's party to the line and I expect he
delivered it - I see Congress is about to repeal
the twenty regt exemption law - It will
bring in some of the regular fellows - Give my
love to all the family - I miss them all so much
and love them all so much. I received A.D.'s letter
and will answer it as soon as I can more like
writing. There is a good deal of dissatisfaction
here with our struggle among some of the prominent
officers of the army while the remainder are
satisfied - It would not surprise me if there
would be a change here in the head of the
army - and Darling I close much love and
many kisses to you and the boy - I dreamed
a good night before last - such a pleasant dream
I thought I had you in my arms - May it soon
be realized - your boy - God bless you - Herbert

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Eufaula boys since I came back – I gave [--]
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