

near Florence Ala  
Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Mollie - I do not know when I will have another chance of writing to you especially if we are here as soon as I expect. I have written to Annie and given her all the army news so that I can't promise you an interesting letter. I have just seen Capt. Brannon who sends his kindest regards to the family and spoke of the time when he & Mrs B took tea with you. Florence is a small town on the North bank of the Tennessee river. It contained I suppose about one thousand inhabitants before the war. It was a fine building formerly used for a male school. I understand there are a great many good Ladies here and the place has been quite gay since the occupation by our army. You must all be having plenty of beaux just now. I do not know how I can put that brother in the forefront of the battle. I have tried to get him in several times and found it very difficult. He is certainly the greatest command I ever saw and I think the only way to dispose of him is to have him shot for cowardice. I wish you could see him. He is quite a character. I heard three or four days ago that he <sup>is</sup> was quite devoted to you and very constant in his attentions. That you rode out together every evening. How say you guilty or not guilty? I wish I could see him again. I would talk to him about his brother and see how he talked. I asked Pat W. one day how came there such a difference between him and his brother. He said he was the oldest and that his Father kept

him at home and in such a state while the others  
were sent to sea. I have seen much truth there  
is in the account made I can't say - Some  
of the crew told me that. But he had written to his  
brother to make him a nurse in the Hospital  
there - but his brother had declined and told him  
to stay in the boat where he was. But enough  
on this subject. The Presidential election comes  
off to-morrow. I think Lincoln will certainly be  
selected and four years more of war for us  
to go through with. I have almost made up my  
mind to the fall of Richmond and a good many  
other disasters - but I feel more than ever confident  
of the result and it may be that we may escape  
better than I anticipate. But I can see no sign of  
peace yet. I should like to know where Sherman  
is and what he is doing. Hood remains here much  
longer than any one expected. I suppose he is getting  
the clothing and supplies he can and will then  
take up his quarters and start for Miss. Tenn and  
perhaps Kentucky - I hope Hood will do well  
but you all must not expect too much from  
our movement - Stockton & Gingle have  
gone to Iowa - but I hardly think they will bring  
any news. Tell Ada my next raft outside of Kan-  
sas will be taken and I may not write until  
I get into Tenn - I am afraid I will not see  
you all this Christmas - The chances are evidently  
rather bad. I do not know how about your  
visit to the army this winter. But if we remain  
long enough I will build a hut and prepare for a  
visit from Annie and whomsoever she may bring  
with her. Well I must close good by love to all  
write me soon and all the news. Has Mr  
Cottrell left yet, if not remember me to him -  
again good by your brother - Herbert

Camp near Florence Ala

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Mollie – I do not know when I will have another chance of writing to you especially if we leave here as soon as I expect – I have written to Nannie and given her all the army news so that I can't promise you an interesting letter – I have just seen Capt Warren who sends his kindest regards to the family and spoke of the time when he & Mr B took tea with you – Florence is a small town on the North bank of the Tenn river. It contained I suppose about one thousand inhabitants before the war – Has a fine building formerly used for a male school. I understand there are a great many young Ladies here and the *[tear]* has been quite *[tear]* since the occupation by our army – You must all be having plenty of beaux just now I do not know how I can put that brother in the forefront of the battle – I have tried to get him in several times and found it very difficult He is certainly the greatest coward I ever saw – and I think the only way to dispose of him is to have him shot for cowardice. I wish you could see him. He is quite a character – I heard three or four days ago that he <sup>Dr W</sup> was quite devoted to you and very constant in his attentions. That you rode out together every evening. How say you guilty or not guilty - ? I wish I could see him again. I would talk to him about his brother and see how he talks I asked Pvt W. one day how came there such a difference between him and his brothers – He said he was the oldest and that his Father kept

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write me soon and all the news. Has Mr  
Cottrell left yet, if not remember me to him –  
again goodby your brother - Hubert