Camp of Woods Brigade

My dear wife Dec 9th 1862

Your letter by Phil Sayre came forward to-day gratifying me greatly. Our Battery is with the advanced Brigade of the Army (infantry) and yesterday I rode [illegible] by order of the Genl to view the ground to the front. I went to within 400 yds of the enemy up to the line of our extreme cavalry outposts and returned without having had a shot fired at me. To-day they conclude that heavy guns should not be so far advanced and I am ordered to leave our section (2 pieces) here, and retire with the other 4 to the main body. As they intend sending forward a man who would be in command of this section as well as his own battery who is given to drink I resisted on being left with my section at this place as I took him and would have the command and thus be able to protect my men from any ill consequences which might result from one of his drunken fooling. Jo John & Elmer will go back & I remain here with the Center section, with Dick Goldthwaite. I dont much think we will have any serious engagement here unless it is forced in us, and the enemy never fight except on ground selected by themselves.

If this reaches you before you have for Clarke I wish you to say to Mr Pollard that I prefer his selling enough R.R. stock to pay Mr Boyden 7000. I have concluded it would be well to have my affairs as little involved as possible, and this is one of the debts I don't care to owe. I would prefer not owing anything to one of my own or your relations.

We have the usual troubles of soldier life, and in addition have had a march of 14 miles through a driving sheet of snow. The snow remains after 4 days still, in shady places, and the weather though milder to day has been very severe. Tents frozen in the morning so stiff as to stand without poles or ropes. The men seem to do very well except a few cases of rheumatism which have been painfully aggravated.

I have lost two men by death since the campaign commenced, both of whom died from exposure and insufficient medical arrangements & want of tents in our first month at Knoxville.

I think a winter campaign would reduce us about 50 per cent. I manage to keep myself astonishingly well of all colds &c, but continue to suffer from diarrhoea which nothing will check at times but whiskey which it is impossible generally to get. But being known as a temperance man many ask me to drink who would ask but few

The Camp diarrhœa is a singular disorder which seems to be little influenced by diet, but I find that hearty meals are apt to bring on a relapse into it — You suffer no pain but a slight nausea, and the indications to go to the rear are irresistible — I have gathered on the house as I now weigh 10 lbs more than I did up in Ky. 182. if may better clothes however —

Willie Stell told me you wished a written consent to take Lindsay —

I inclose it but if you can manage to keep him at home now — May you had better do it —

I have the reputation of being very severe, and tyrannical men, in my company, but in the army I have the reputation of being very careful of the comfort of my men —

I am conscious that my amiable temper has become a little sourced, but I shall endeavor me to correct it — I am so much absorbed and occupied that I have but little time to talk to the men and be with them except on duty, and I shall hereafter attend less in person to company business & give my lieutenants who have had a pretty easy time of it more to do —

I do so wish every day that this war was one & I could once more be a little quiet — I think I shall never have anything to do with any body except in a business way, except my friends

and shall endeavor to devote myself less to business than ever —

I scarcely can see any daylight as to close of the war so — Peace seems almost impossible except by Foreign intervention, and the prospect of that is about as remote as ever —

How are you all off for clothes? will your handywork at the loom stand dear Caroline and Darcy in stead or are your fabrics too heavy? By the By two of our Guns are named Caroline & Darcy and I thought of them and you as we were loving them — A shot struck in 18 inches of Darcy's night wheel twice while I was sitting on my hub near by — I shall name the two I will have with me [illegible] Mr J Harvey — [illegible] I can see no way at present of indulging my wish to be with you but shall keep it constantly in view —

Your affectionate husband

Harvey C. S. —

Camp of Woods Brigade

Decr. 9th 1862

N.C. DEPT. ARCHIVES

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DEPT. ARCHIVES & MRD

suffer from diarrhea which nothing will check at times but whiskey which it is impossible favorably?to get -- but being known as a temperance man many ask me to drink who would ask but few-- The camp diarrhea is a singular disorder which seems to be little influenced by diet, but I find that hearty meals are apt to bring on a relapse into it --- We suffer no pain but a slight nausea , and the inclinations to go to the rear are irresistible -- I have fattened on it however as I now weigh 10 lbs more than I did up in Ky. 153 . It may be the clothes however --

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I enclose it but if you can manage to keep him at home until May you had better do it ---

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I am conscious that my amiable temper has become a little soured, but I shall endeavor now to correct it -- I am so much absorbed and accupied that I have but little time to talk to the men or be with them except on duty, and I shall hereafter attend less in person to company business & give my lieutenants who have had a pretty easy time of it more to do --

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Your affectionate husband

Henry C. S.