

College Lane, Tenn

My dear wife, Decr 19 1862.

A Mr. Throckmole who has been on a visit to some station in the Co. leaves on this day for home and will take this to meet family in time for Mr. Edwards on the Saturday after of Decr. I got some letters to my wife from Benj. indeed also the wife of Betty. I was well pleased to see his dear home waiting again as well as to find from you that you and all our dear ones were well.

I frequently have opportunities of reading letters of the dear children but am often so engaged as to be unable to write at the moment, and not one letter to write a letter & send it to you for it to be read it.

But Breckenridge who has been ordered to take command at Nashville and in whose Division I have been told, says that he regrets parting with me and shall ask when he takes command to have me sent to him.

This is a compliment, and offers some hope that I may get back to you, but I find a small snag, for he was unwilling to ask I might let me go without him as he said he knew he would refuse, and as he expressed it, it might be shot at.

This opinion is on the complaint from
Lieut. Briggs but I would rather disagree
with the complaint of being thought necessary
to the recovery of them.

I am united a good deal in my
Command, but much of it is no doubt from
a natural impatience of labor which I hope
to correct. The hardships of the service I could
very well stand if I were not persuaded that
many of them could be ameliorated by more
care and foresight with respect to our horses -
But when I reflect on the matter the consider-
ation is that we are entitled to keep up
our arms and supplies as powerful as we may wish
the National authorities - The spirit
and endurance of our men is beyond all
praise, and under God will yet be the means
of our liberation -

I do not think that I am selfish in aspiring
as I do, when so many men are worn off, than
myself had not doing their duty without complaint -

You will have left before I have reached
home - I have been awfully lame since for a long
while and suffer so much from complaint, and
am so fatigued, that I think he will not remain
long in the service if he can help it - Elmore
has the same complaint in an aggravated form
and will also take the opportunity of getting
out which will please Pleasants and you -

Pick has a fine military turn and will
make his mark of the war with glory and
I do not believe it would be a great affair
as he is a brave and affectionate young
fellow. I sometimes fancy that in a real
bloody battle if we should have an equal
situation we should be equal. I wish you
would if you were sent on the coast,
be almost as near a moment as many of
them as their parents better wishes and
had almost said so. As to the matter
and the matter by law I find myself as usual
about such things - I had the good fortune
to shoot myself through the foot with a bullet
which passed through a joint of the foot
and failed in doing you harm -

I think perhaps it
would be a good idea to get out of the service
by promotion, and as I am told Genl. Hardee
complimented me highly in his report it is
not beyond the bounds of possibility that some
Services, Major, Colonel, and some other friends
I have about Richmond might procure the honor
for me of promotion, which would detach me from
my Co. and give me a better opportunity of ultimately
getting out of the service. I wish I could do as Pick
for a few days to let the thing on motion -
You might assist an application to have
my Battalion sent to Mexico -

You see there is almost as much politics in
the Army as in Great Britain which you thought the
focus - We shall not be sent to Antioch, except
through some influence in Richmond, and if
Lord Melbourn should back the matter properly
I think he might effect it through his friends
and friends in Richmond -

My own health is now pretty good
The men are healthy - only one on the sick
list to day, and he ate a hearty dinner -

My plan is to take up some duties,
business, to send the necessity of procuring
funds for the troops & money that I especially have
an idea beyond Company matters -

Spending a whole, looking at some matters
making about 1/2 day written reports daily (think too)
they will read half of them, fills up the day & as we
luck could be but then we are done -

I am now visiting by a dick manufactured
by Green & Enock - It will as it was it will
begin to fail and I must say good night to
my darling - Love to all the children, your Father
Mother Fanny Sunday Ellen Susan & Mary - body.

A Happy X Mas to you all -

Your affectionate husband

H. L. S.

C O P Y

College Grove Tenn

Dec 19 1862--



My dear wife-

A Mr. Thornhill who has been on a visit to some relatives in the Co. leaves us this evng. for home and will take this to Montgomery in time for Mr. Hans' boat on the Saturday after Xmas. I got your letter to day with Bro George's enclosed and the note of Betty---I was well pleased to see his dear handwriting again as well as to find from yours that you and all our dear ones are well--

I frequently have opportunities of sending letters if they were written but am often so engaged as to be unable to write at the moment, and no one likes to write a letter & keep it waiting for a chance to send it---

Genl. Buckner who ~~has~~ been ordered to take command at Mobile and in whose Division I have been tells me that he regrets parting with me and shall ask when he takes command to have me sent to him---This is a compliment and offers some hope that I may get back to Ala, but I fear a small one, for he was unwilling to ask Bragg to let me go with him as he said he knew he would ~~refuse~~, and as he expressed it, he might be shot for it---This opinion is another compliment from Genl/ Bragg but I would rather dispense with the compliment of being thought necessary to the Army of Tenn

I am worried a good deal in my command, but much of it is no doubt from a natural impatience of temper which I hope to correct---The hardships of the service I could very well stand if I were not persuaded that many of them could be ameliorated by more care and foresight on the part of our leaders--- But when I reflect on the matter the wonder to me is that we are unable to keep up armies and defy so powerful an enemy with the material we have for officers---The spirit and endurance of our men is beyond all praise, and under God will yet be the means of our deliverance---

I sometimes think I am selfish in whining as I do, when so many men are worse off than myself and yet doing their duty without complaint---

You will have left before John reaches home---Jno has been awfully homesick for a long while and suffered so much from complaints real and fancied, that I think he will not remain long in the service if he can help it--- Elmore has the same complaint in an aggravated form and will also take the first opportunity of getting out which will advance Dick G. and Joe---Dick has a fine



Military turn and will ^{make} ~~make~~ his mark if the war lasts long, and Joe also likes it and will be a good officer as he is a brave and affectionate young fellow---I sometimes fancy that in a real bloody battle if we should have an exposed *situation* and lose a great many of our men I would if so fortunate as to escape, be almost as sincere a mourner over many of them as their parents brothers, sisters and I had almost said wives---As to Madame K and her worthy son I give myself no concern about such *persons*---~~He~~ had the good fortune to shoot himself through the foot with a pistol which produced him a furlough which *24 hrs?* had failed in doing for him---

I think possibly it would be a good idea to get out of the service by promotion, and as I am told Genl. Hardee complimented me highly in his report it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that Tom ~~Sammons?~~ Watts Chilton, and some other friends, I have about Richmond might forward the honor for my promotion, which would detach me from my Co. and give me a better opportunity *of definitely* of getting out of the service---I wish I could be in Richmond for a few days to set the thing in motion---

Tom might assist an application to have my battery sent to Mobile---

You see there is almost as much politics in the army as in Montgomery which you thought the *focus*---We shall not be sent to Mobile, except through some influence in Richmond, and if Judge Goldthwaite would work the matter properly I think he might effect it through Judge Campbell and our friends in Richmond---

My own health is now pretty good. The men are healthy---Only one on the sick list to day, and he ate a hearty dinner---

My time is so taken up with duties, serious etc., and the necessity of procuring forage for 100 horses & mules that I scarcely have an idea beyond company matters---

Mending a ~~box~~ ^{wheel} ~~wheel~~, looking at ammunition, making about $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. written reports daily (Thank God) they can't read half of them, fills up the day & as we lack candles bed time comes at dark---

I am now writing by a dip manufactured by Elmore & Enoch---Brilliant as it was it now begins to fail and I must say good night to my darling--- Love to all the children, Your father Mother Fanny Lindsay Ellen Louann & my baby.

A happy Xmas to you all---

Your affectionate husband

H. C. S.