Camp 7th Ala Cavy
Pollard Oct 17/63

Dear Captain

I have at last taken the opportunity of fulfilling my long outstanding promise to write to you. Allow me in the beginning to express my gratification at your safety from the recent battles, and, at the risk of being accused of flattery, to extend my congratulations to you on the praise and compliments your merit and gallantry achieved on the bloody field of Chickamauga, and on the promotion you so well deserve, and which cannot be long delayed. Captain I am proud of the success of one whose good will and friendship, notwithstanding the difference of ages, I have been fortunate enough to secure - and to whom I am grateful for many kindnesses and much consideration received during my service with you - I hope I shall continue to deserve your esteem.

I am glad to learn from Dick of the gallant and notorious part played by the Battery in the recent fights. Gen Hill's Corps must have had from all accounts very unfavorable ground upon which to manoeuvre and operate. & I am surprised that the Battery had so few seriously injured. If it would not be asking too much of you please give me a graphic description of that battle, as from your position you have a fine opportunity of comprehending the whole situation. And can enlighten me as to the cause of Gen Bragg's not making a more complete rout of the enemy and reaping more the fruits of a great victory. Did the tardiness of Gen Polk and the inexcusable disobedience of Gen Hindman, like the unfortunate conduct of Gen Huger at the battles around Richmond, prevent the annihilation of Rosecrans army? and render our hard won victory bloody but empty? Excuse my inquisitiveness, for I feel great interest

in the recent battle near Murfreesboro fought it, whom I admire beyond all others, heightened no doubt by his unpopularity with the popular head.

All of the old members of your Battery in this Brigade are doing well - and make good officers. As a general thing this command is but poorly officered - and with such little discipline that there is no prospect of improvement. However they were received a day or two since and presented quite a handsome appearance. Gen. Manny complimented them - but that is no criterion of merit. It's so easily obtained on all sides.

Tom Raoul says he wrote to you in August but has heard nothing in reply. he supposes his letter never reached its destination - he requests that you will forward his final statement.

Since being Captain I begin to appreciate the duties and responsibilities of commanding

officers - only an idea of which I had when acting as your first Regt - I have my hands full at present with Courts Martial, I am a standing member of a General Court appointed at this post - and have preferred charges against my 1st Lieut for inciting insubordination and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline - besides I have two of my men under arrest on charges of Desertion, a crime very common and pernicious with this command one I will prosecute to the utmost of the law - he not only deserting himself, but induced others to accompany him - Officers in this [illegible] have been shrinking from their responsibilities and allowing [illegible] to go unpunished, an example must be made and I fear it will be from my company - With many wishes for your continued welfare I remain your grateful friend and servant.

T. C. Randolph -