

Camp 3 Dr. S. Chattanooga Oct 19 3/63

My Dear Mother

Just received yours of the 22nd ult and
Father of the 11th Dist. being my first from Pat in some
time am very sorry to hear of your sickness and hope the
frost has invigorated you and Herbert. Am afraid that
Father will over-work himself thinks he ought to try and
get a good clerk if possible. I rec^d a let from Charles
last Monday (12th) and answered it today. Monday about
11 o'clock I was sent with a dispatch for Col Forest
over about Tusculum, with orders to carry it to Trenton
some 20 miles from here & give it to a Col there who would
forward it. I found him gone; and so had to carry it
myself as far as Brunton (Marshall Co Ala) near
Cantonville some 105 miles. just returned yesterday
evening, a trip of 4 days. Money gave out, so I had to
sell my \$50 in Gold for about half its value in
Confed. All the bridges were washed away by the rains
last week; and the Co was four days without rations.
by being on my long trip, I escaped that. though I did
not fare as well as a King, as I went through an awful
poor country. corn for my horse was harder to get than

my own rations, notwithstanding which, he stood it remarkably well. I traveled part of the way up here with a quartermaster who went with Wheeler in his last raid into Tennessee. He crossed the river some 50 miles above here, captured and burned a train of 1000 wagons loaded with commissaries clothing &c killed about 3000 or 4000 mules and brought out about 1000. burned a large quantity of stores at McMinnville and Shelbyville. & captured some 1500 prisoners. the latter though, he paroled. which counts nothing. excepting their arms. His loss was 3 pieces Artillery & about 600 men killed and missing. At Shelbyville he was surprised & his whole command ~~was~~ stampeded; that was where the loss occurred. The yanks followed him to the river bank but he got over all safe. crossing at Muscle Shoals. Don't think as much of Wheeler as I used to. but he is a favorite of Gen R. Believe Forrest to be worth two of him. I. W. wrote Father Saturday (17th) in which he said something about my being missing but I am all right now. My shoes, the ones I wore from home, are about used up and don't know when we will draw any. half of one of my feet is

on the ground. Ask Father to get my boots if there is any possible chance pay most any price as I shall suffer without them. Mr. H. Leary had a pair made at Warrenton by Butson. We hear rumor of a fight in Virginia in which Lee was victorious; hope it is so, but as we get no papers, at present, cant tell.

Suppose the next tug will be at Charleston; dont think the yanks will get the city - but am afraid we will loose it.

Our Tennessee army is lying in sight of the enemy doing nothing and present prospects look very much as if we were going into winter quarters. Gen R - is having a brick chimney put to his tent - looks very much liked staying.

20th Commenced this yesterday but as we had to draw sutures did not have time to finish it. shall have to close shortly.

If Ben Reynolds does not come shortly Mr. H. speaks of sending his boy home for these things has not made up his mind yet.

I dont think there is any express office at Chis - awaugh Station consequently could not send them that way.

It is reported & believed here that Forrest has tendered his resignation which has been accepted & he is going to take an independent command in the west;

am sorry to lose him but he is

no favorite of Gen B. & it must be hard for
him to be under Wheeler. Sam Fink arrived here
about a week but has not joined the co so far sup-
pose he is waiting to consult Punwell, who came with
Wheeler, as to which company to join. Give my re-
gards to all the darkeys & love to all white folks &
hoping this will find you well I remain

Yours in haste
Alex K

Camp 3 M.S. Chattanooga Oct 19th 1863

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[page 2]

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[page 3]

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[page 4]

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Yours in haste
Alex K