Before Chattanooga
Oct 19th 1863.

14 J L S

Dear Laura.

So long has it been since I have heard from you that I hardly know what to think has become of you. It has now been one month since the battle of Chicamauga since that event. We have only received two letters from home. Crenshaw got both of them (though that makes no difference.) One of those, the first was from father, the other from Bolling. The latest dated 6th Oct or 1st, we could not decide being a little blotted. We are very anxious to hear from home. Since father left us, we have had a tolerable hard time. Raining most of the time, we have been without shelters, and fared badly. Some nights we have been compelled to stand all night around a little fire in water and mud an ankle deep. Such exposure wears men out very fast. We had a day and night of this sort of weather on picket a few days since. It came very near wearing me

out. But it did not make me sick. We were on the advanced posts and had to stand three hours at a time officers and men were on post together. Yankees about three hundred and fifty yards from us. Col. Thoring-ton has gone on to Richmond, I understand to try once more to effect a consolidation of the Legion. I hope he will succeed this time. Capt. Jones (Gen'l Gracies A.A.G.) told us this morning that we are now in Polks Corps Buckners division. Preston having been ordered back to Virginia. Various rumors are afloat now. One that the third battle of Manassas has been fought, and that our Army was victorious. No particulars have been heard. I hope this may be true. Other rumors of fights in the west of Wheelers expedition &c, are circulated all of which are very good if true.
We wait patiently to see the address of the president to the troops hereafter the review, a few days since. I understand it is a splendid thing. I reckon we will get it to read on dress parade this evening. Capt. Wise is absent sick. I expect will have a tight speel before he

gets back. Lieut Jones has not returned
yet. He left the company at Lafayette
Georgia and went to a hospital. Some of
the men who have come in since then
say they saw him in Atlanta or some
other town trying to get the position of
Provost Marshal. Affecting to have the
rheumatism. I am in hopes he will get
his position or some other. Stewart is
here and does all he can, but that's little
at best. A good many of our deserters are
returning. Ten have already returned
and I understand others are on the way
here. Five have come to our company.
Deserters bother me more than any thing
else in the war. I can stand almost any
thing but desertion. To day is the first
real pretty day we have had for some
time. I wanted to go to see Jim to day.
But I have been put on duty as Officer
of the day, and of course cannot leave
camp. I have been to see him two or three
times since father was here & he has
been to see us two or three times. Jim
looks very well. Crenshaw's health
has been a little bad for the last

week, but is well now. My health is fine. I had fallen off some, when father was here, in consequence of fatigue from the late marches &c, but since that time I have fattened some, and I think am improving every day. How are Frank & Charlie? Debt [illegible] are well before this. What do you expect to do this winter? Write and give all the news. Ask father to send me all the Montgomery papers that have accounts of our Brigade in the last fight, by mail, if he pleases. Our flag has gone to the President. And Hiett, the color bearer, has his commission as Lieut in his company. I am afraid Bolling will not like its going, but I think Capt Dillard did as he thought Bolling would do had he been present. Capt Dillard is in Command & will do nothing but what he thinks Bolling would do were he here. Give me all the news. Direct to Chicamauga. Buckner's Division. Tracie's Brigade.

Your affect brother
[illegible]

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