Cumb^d Gap
March 4 1863

Dear Lom

Your letter received yeste
day & I hasten to reply.
I am really glad that
to Tuscaloosa. Your ti
is valuable at your age
neglect to improve it now
will always be a source of regret
you hereafter. I would advise
all the students there to remain
and graduate. They can do the
country more good by so doing
than by enlisting now. I how-
ever differ from Dr. Garland in
saying that they will be told by
the old volunteers that they are too
late. I, for one, would always wel-
come them with open arms. I fear
that it will yet be necessary to fight
even by their side this war for
freedom. We have no prospect
for peace now & in my
the students at Tuscal
yet have a chance to
even though they should co
us in college until they grad
Those in the war who have intel-
ligence enough to see the real in-
terests of the country do not con-
demn the students for being out
of the war but while I am of this

this way of thinking I know that there are many intelligent young men who conscientiously think that now in the hour of trial "he who dallies is a dastard & he who hesitates shall [illegible] damned" & judge that their duty [illegible] them to leave everything else [illegible] for the safety of the country. For such I can but entertain the highest feelings of respect as I would always for any one who conscientiously carries into execution his ideas of duty. Being a graduate myself of Tuscaloosa I of course desire to see the college prosper though I must say unless there has been a great change since I was there that some of the heads of departments in the college are not exactly the right men in the right place.

I suppose Maj Stubb. has done nothing at all. You know I sent him to get four Companies to increase the Batt. to a Regt. I told [illegible] to tell the men that I would give them a Major, an asst. Surgeon (pay $110 per month) and a Commissary, (who ranks as captain with the pay of $140 per month)

I believe if I had three Companies I could get one of Reeve's Co. to make a fourth However I suppose there is much chance now. I think Stubb.

will go under anyhow.

We are still in Statu quo at the Gap under Gen. Gracie. My command is getting finely org-ised since I got under him. You cannot imagine [illegible] fence. While we were [illegible] liard though the influence [illegible] bad example my men were too demoralised but now every thing wears a new aspect.

Thorington has I learn gone to Richmond to try to get the Battalions consolidated into Regts. or to get ~~the~~ a commission as Col. of the Legion. It is not probable that he will succeed sed tempora mutantur & there is no telling what may happen.

What has become of my old friend Madame Deloffre? The old she devil used to give me h-l sometimes to [illegible] an extent that I felt aft[illegible] introducing my toe to [illegible] appendage but still I shoul[illegible] like to see her. If you know her give her my love & be sure to do it in the presence of Monsieur for I think the old cuss used to be rather jealous of some things I said & did to Madame.

It has been snowing here all day & is now cold & disagreeable.

Gen. Gracie started on expedition of cavalry & infantry yesterday to make a raid into Kentucky & to get some beeves as meat is scarce here. They are having a bad time now without tents or even a single wagon to carry provisions along. They are totally dependent on their foraging parties to find something to eat while gone.

Recollect what I say to stick to college & study hard. Write often.

As I have no stamps convenient I will frank. The next time I will try to prepay postage

Yr Bro
Rolling Hall Jr.

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MSS

P.S. I have succeeded in getting a stamp de epreuve, R.H.