Camp Hilliard, Chatanooga Ten
July 16th 1862

Dear Laura

After leaving Montgomery we camped in or rather near (in four miles of) Atlanta Ga - for four days. We had a very nice camp there, in a nice oak grove with two or three splendid springs near. We left that camp with great reluctance as we knew it was the best we would have during our term of service. We left (the 2nd & 3rd battalions I mean) Atlanta Sunday evening & got to Chatanooga about nine o'clock monday morning. Col Thorington was not along with his battalion & consequently Bolling was in command of the two battalions. He had some little difficulty when we got here in finding a suitable camping place, but succeeded at last in getting a tolerable good one about three quarters of a mile from town. We have tolerable good water but it is very inconvenient, being almost half a mile from us. Col Thorington got here with his battalion yesterday. We drew arms & ammunition yesterday

Two companies of our battalion got Enfield rifles, the rest muskets. Gen. McCown promised Col. Thoington we should have a place in the pictures when any fighting is to be done here. He said we would have a chance in a few days. Chatanooga is the same old place that it was 12 months ago when we passed through here. We are in about a mile & a half of Lookout mountain. It is a beautiful sight. Capt. Wise & Colon, the 1st Lt. are both sick, the latter dangerously, and the company had no one to command it at all. The men, all present, numbering something over seventy six, signed a petition asking the Col. to grant them an election of a second Lt. (stating the condition of the company) which election, or rather which officer being elected was only to go in power when the resignation of Jones (the present 2nd Lt.) is accepted. Bolling (satisfied that Hilliard would approve of it) ordered the election which came off yesterday. I was unanimously elected, having no opposition. Two or three wanted to

run against me but the company told them they would not get a single vote. Orderly Sg't Vinson & his brother John both wanted to oppose me but the men told them they would get no votes. If Jon's resignation is accepted I am permanent 2nd Lt. If not I go back to the ranks. I have no doubt but that it will be accepted. I have all of the duties of the company to perform now. I do all the drilling & all of the other duties of Capt. & other Lt's. I hope Capt Wise will soon be well. He is better to day. He tries to do all he can. My love to All. I shall write again in a day or two. I wrote from Atlanta. Direct your letters to Chatanooga Ten - Lt. J E Hall 2nd battalion Hilliard's legion. Write immediately if not sooner. We are getting on well

Your brother &c

J M E Hall

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MSS

P.S.

How is Sis getting on, be certain to write me about her. When did you hear from Tom & Jimmy

J E Hall

over

2nd

P.S.

One of our best & nicest Lts (from McIntyres Company) a very young man not long married, has just died. He was taken sick yesterday morning after breakfast & has not been sick two days. He is I believe from Ga - and is said to be of one of the nicest families in the State. His corpse will be sent home. No one knows what was the matter with him but the doctor thinks he had a congestive chill. He was perfectly well ~~[illegible]~~ yesterday morning at breakfast. Such is nature.

J S Hall