Near Palmetto Geo
Sept 26th 1864

Dear Father, -

I wrote to you by Wm Myrick on the 24th. He came to us on the 28th & returned on the 24th. He says that he did not call on you as he had not time. Maj Pierce also returned on yesterday. His health seemed to be very bad. Our surgeon says that he will never be fit for field service. He says that himself and captain P- have set aside several days to visit you but that something always occurred to prevent - but he says that he intends to visit you yet. - was very sorry Bolling & Crenshaw went off so suddenly as he was anxious to cultivate their acquaintance. I suppose Maj P- will see you before this reaches you.
President Davis is here and reviewed the army to day. The enemy seem to be perfectly quiet. We are now building as

line of breastworks I suppose to be ready for the enemy. I understand that our Cavalry has been crossing the river and making for Blue Mountain. I think an effort will be made to flank the enemy out of Atlanta. Exchanged prisoners who have come through from Atlanta state that the Yankees say that Hood can flank them out of Atlanta whenever he gets ready. Since the fall of Atlanta & McClellan's letter of acceptance I have been somewhat low spirited - it seems that we must make a fresh start for another 4 years of war. I am sick sick of this war but as much as I wish for peace - I prefer war to a dishonorable peace.

I am very much dissatisfied here. I have no respect for my Col^n or Brig Genl. I have no relations anywhere near and all my particular friends have left the regt.

I wish to get my company out with me if possible. If I cant do this I am almost

persuaded to resign and go into cavalry as a private. Why should I remain here, isolated from all friends & relations. My rank is nothing I might offer in an enterprising command never attain to as high position. But one tie I dislike to sever. I have been with my company in all their troubles and dangers through 3 long years. I can say to them "I've shared all your hardships" My dreams of peace have been attended by ~~waking~~ dreams of the ties that would exist between myself and company afterwards. It is hard to contemplate the severance of such ties – the dissolution of such dreams. Sometimes I ~~ab~~ wish that you had not induced me to remain when at Tupelo in '62. Please write to me on this subject, and if you can do anything for me please do it for I am not only dissatisfied here but isolated. the sense of my loneliness at times weighs heavily on me. To be conscious that there is no one

in the vast multitudes around to whom you trust as a friend to know that you might have no friend to care for you in sickness or death, or to whom you would wish to entrust last messages to Father, to brothers & Sisters - this is the sense of loneliness.
I do not know whether this will reach you as it is reported that the authorities are tearing up the track between here and West Point. I had hoped that I could communicate with you more frequently, but it seems. You had better send Lem on as soon as possible as we may get out of reach of you. Tell Laura to write more frequently I enjoy her letters very much. We are faring badly for something to eat.
Love to all at home, Tell Carrie to write to me, Farewell for the present

your affec Son
James A. Hall

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY