On Trenches Petersburg Va
November 10th 1864

Dear Father

I received by express yesterday the $300. you sent me, with a letter inclosed - I also received by mail a letter from Laura & Bolling also one. The flannel shirts you say you are preparing for me, will suit well. I expect we will need warm clothing this winter. I have no idea that the campaigne will close before January. It may possibly last through the winter. The troops here are in fine spirits & confident of victory whenever attacked by the enemy or made to attack. Genl Lee gave our line a personal inspection a few days since. He hardly looks as I expected

not so handsome, but what any one would call a fine looking warrior. Very stout, with no surplus flesh, hair almost white, he wears very ordinary Col's uniform. Troops have unbounded confidence in him. We have some fighting up here nearly every day. That is, on different parts of the line. But our brigade has never been attacked yet. A few nights since the 41st Ala of our brigade charged the Yankee picket line, in their front, & captured all of the Yanks for a distance of about 300 yards. No neither party fired a gun. The Yanks were expecting nothing & our men found them nearly all asleep. A great many had to be kicked up by our men & you may imagine their surprise when

they found Rebs around them thick
One Yank was taking a good nap
when one of our boys came to him
& gave him a good kick. The Yank
jumped up crying, Oh lordy! Oh lordy!
He thought a mortar shell had hit him
but was astonished to find upon
opening his eyes that a reb had
hit him - Several very amusing
things occurred. In the darkness
and excitement of the time, two Rebs
(belonging to the same company) met
on the bank of Gen'l Gracie's Cel-
ebrated pond. Each took the other to
be a Yank. Both being of Rebel grit,
made at each other with gun in hand
at the same time commanding
surrender. Each disobeying, they
met & struck at each other with the

butts of their guns ([illegible] had positive orders not to fire a gun lest the yanks in the main line should discover the plot.) One hit the other & hurt him pretty badly. They then clinched and in the scuffle, both fell into Fracu's pond. The water happened to be pretty deep, eight or ten feet. They rose pulling hair & crawling out continued the fight, until the smaller one, thinking he was about to be captured. Cryed out for help. One of his comrades fixed his bayonett and ran to the rescue of his distressed friend. He recognized the one who had called for help but not the other. So made at the unknown Rebel & thrust his bayonett through his clothes, just glazing

his side. By this time, they had got near a fire, the yankees had on their picket line, & imagine their surprise when the light shone on the face of each, to find who they had been fighting. One had lost his hat, but this was soon replaced, from the head of a yankee. The yankees in their main line did not find out we had captured their pickets until nearly day & the capture was made 20 minutes before 12 o'clock. Our boys established a strong line where the yankees line was by throwing up dirt & using the yankees sand sacks & baskets & before day all retired to our main line except enough to hold the new line as pickets. The line is some distance in front of the

famous Sap Roller the Yankee used all the summer in front of the 48th Ala. of our brigade. Thus the Yanks have lost the prize for which they worked so hard & lost so many of their pets. At the same time that this attack was made, Genl Wallace on our right attacked the enemies picket line. Captured it but from bad management on some bodies part was unable to hold it. He lost about 100 men out of 200 engaged. Last night we changed position on the line moving to the right, so that now our brigade occupies the ground occupied by Wallace. We have given up our new picket line established by the 41st Ala. I was very glad we moved, for my corn

many had no shelters at all. I
knew we could not be worsted.
Now we have a very good place
I think. Tolerable good shelters
from a part of the time not much
troubled by mortars, the horror
of the army. The place we have just
left was a good one to fight from
while on the move last night. Musketry
opened on the picket line to our
right, in fast volleys. Immediately
several pieces of artillery in our
front opened so as to enfilade the
enemies line, should they be advanc-
ing. For some time we had right
pretty music. The mortar shells
filled the air like ascending &
descending stars, passing each
other on their hostile missions
& descending to the line of air

opponent & without doing any material damage as far as we could learn. We had moved some distance, but every company fell back to its old position & before you could count twenty every man was in his place ready for the Yanks. Soon things quieted down & we finished our move about 11 o'clock. As soon as we changed position the 60th Ala had one or two men wounded. The 43rd Ala two or three badly in the head & our regt. One killed & two others wounded in the head. Great dissatisfaction exists in our Regt with Col. Huguley. The majority (nearly all) of the company officers are talking of resigning & trying to join cavalry. It is really unpleasant to be in the regt. With such a man

as Brigadier to command Gen Gracie doing all he can against us, all the time. To show where his animosity originated, he passed through our regt a few days since, stopped in one of the companies (originally of the 4th Battn) and talking to some of the men, in the presence of several officers of the old 4th Battn told where the different Regts of his brigade had won their laurels. The 41st he said "won its laurels at Chickamauga. The 4th Battn at Beans Station, The 60th at Drury's Bluff & the 43rd at Petersburg on the 17. June. Thus you see he ignores the Old 2nd Battn altogether. It has never done any fighting. It is plain that all of this is meant for Bolling

The most perfect harmony exists among all the officers of our Regt except three who have sold out to Col Huguley. They, the rest have not much hope for. If something is not done by the War Dept for our Regt. I think the officers will fall quit, then I know the regt will never be fit for service, for the men will do nothing. I wish we could get into an other Brigade. Dupree brought the clothing all through safely, but lost all the letters he had together with his knapsack. I am very much obliged to you for attending to the clothing for me. It helped my company very much. I wish you would send my overcoat by Eulands when he comes on. If you can, I should

like for you to have it dyed (black) & have pockets put in it. Two inside & two outside. There are no pockets in it at all now. All rumors from Hood are good so far. I only hope expectations may be realized. Lee will hold his own there. If Hood & Beauregard will manage them in the west Lincoln, I reckon is elected beyond a doubt. We are in for four years more. Well, I can stand it. For my own account dont dread it at all, but I do feel for the many in our country who will suffer from it. I saw a letter from Ed Crenshaw to Bolling yesterday. He is at Drewry's Bluff, doing very well. Says he never hears from home. Told Bolling to tell you, He would send you the diary the

12

Kept while aboard the Tallahassee
He says he is coming down to see
us soon. I must close this to send
it to mail - We have just heard
that Hardy Nelson is dead.
Spurr the Children up about
writing. I have not written as often
lately as I wanted to, but have been
very busy. Making out Muster Rolls
& then duty being very heavy. For
a while now I think probably I can
write oftener. Write soon &
Give me all the news. Good bye

Your Affect Son
John E Hall

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