Sis is well B Hale

Ellerslie July 19th 1862

Dear Bolling

Yours of the 15th ult from Chatanooga was received on yesterday evening. We were pleased to learn that you had all reached your destination without accident. I do not doubt that John will prove himself worthy his position. I think that you ought to give to that company as much of your attention as you will can without omitting any duties to the [illegible] of your Battallion. I have thought in observing your action that there was too much severity and not enough of the "Suaviter in modo". A fault charistic of our whole family is hastiness of temper and consequently frequent utterances of hasty words to be regretted in cooler moments. Your Grand father (that is my father) nor myself were free from this fault. and it certainly is true that it has cost me many bitter moments. Had I always been able to command my temper

some of my failures would never have occurred I observe in your letter you speak of reporting Col Thovington. I with the information before me think that if he was remiss in duty — he should have gone before you. But what then? Should your surmises as to his reasons be correct — then it amounts to a confession of incompetency on his part and is complimentary to you. Now although the result may not be the one he aims at I would accept it and let it have its due weight in determining our respective values as officers. If you have superior qualifications you will of necessity be called on to do more duty than if they were inferior. The reason will be as apparent to the looker on as to those commanding. If these positions are accepted cheerfully it will create some feeling of gratitude in those whose incompetency it relieves. The hill of fame with its far off

of Temple is not to be attained by slow and easy marches. Toil, struggle, pain and self denial - all are virtues that must be endured and practised ere its proud portals are entered in triumph. Petty selfishness, Petty pleasures, Petty desires and Petty passions all must all all must be trampled under foot - sacrificed for the lofty ambition of glory and immortality. The limiting oneself to the mere discharge of duties never yet has given a world wide fame. To oblige and deserve the applause and appreciation of mankind sacrifices must be made. Human acts are measured by duty we judge that a debt only is paid - no gratitude no thanks - are due the payor. When they go beyond duty - then the act is noble - generous - and challenges applause. If from your position you are called to do more than your share - do it and do it cheerfully. From your age your great youth all of your acts will be watched more closely than if you were older. Your merits will

magnified your faults also. But Bobby
if you display a becoming modesty
in the main the world will be
disposed to judge leniently. and to pass
over errors that they will not in
a mature man. Youth may amend
age is impracticable. Dont be too
eager to claim all of your personal
rights as an Officer but never
yield them of your manhood. They are
truly more helpless in the hands of
their officers than children and
dont let any ever impose more
duties on them than is just. On
many subjects you are inexperienced -
dont debate them but listen to those
who are experienced and form your own
opinions. If you debate you will be
apt to put a desire for victory and
this mislead yourself in conclusion.
Dont talk too much. and let your
whole course be marked by that
gravity which should mark the
actions of one in whose hands are
reposed the fate of so many men.
But how if any man in the
Confederacy are occupying so

home - its joys and comforts its
ease and independence all were
not forgotten but & given up
for a season to endure the Winters
ice the summers scorching heat
to serve our County. Again you
have seen a few advertisements
for substitutes to serve in this
same army. Thousands of dollars
are offered for them and still
they do not come or if they do
it is the miserable hireling from
a foreign land These facts are
forever monuments of honor to
our Cause and County These then
are the privates in your ranks and
you by their confidence are clothed with
military authority over - that is desp
-otic power. I have written more
than intended I think not too much
I have great confidence in your
Bolling and do feel that you will
acquit yourself well Let me caution
you on these following points. Always
speak calmly. Always do a favor
When you can. Avoid all altercations
Give due respect to your superiors
in authority. Expect the same from
your subordinates. Be firm but
not imperious Be always dignified
and dont let yourself down. I must
stop this now. He heard from Jim
and Tom on yesterday (letters) Both
well Tom says he has seen the Elephant
and I add should not be surprised if

If he did not wear yet hand of the Shore They are at Saltillo 9 miles above
Tupelo Tell Cornshaw he has not written yet Hilliard & Staff leave to day B Hall

so responsible a position as yourself who are so young as you are. It is but natural that your friends should feel solicitude for you and you know that there is none who are more anxious than myself. You succeeded in obtaining the confidence of your Company while in Montgomery. Dont let them nor the others of your Battalion think you have forgotten that you were once in the ranks and have forgotten to sympathise with a private. You know that their lot is a hard one and that your men though poor are not mercenary hirelings and have come from the poor hills of Antauga Coosa and Randolph to fight for County and Freedom. Such men are worthy in their motives and God and men must honor them. One thing illustrates brilliantly the high honor and patriotism of our soldiers. You recollect how rapidly your ranks were filled how enthusiastically some eighteen thousand men rushed to the standard of our Country at when our Forts Fleets our armies our border lands and our sea coasts were rapidly being taken by one by the advancing hosts of the enemy. The bride of yesterday the wife of many years parents and children

N.A. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Drill hard Remember what I told you of your mens fighting without chile you will find it so
B Hall