

Near Chattanooga Oct 29 1863

Dear Father,

Your of 16th was received some days since. The Col, Uncle William has not yet arrived and I presume has failed in his attempt to get here altogether. On the 27th I recd from him a short notice, dated Oct 23 Atlanta, requesting me to meet him in Chickamauga, specifying however no day.

When I recd it, as it was three days after it was written, I conjectured that he could not pass up on the business he had in view. This I had feared from what I learned from Green Baston, who was on a visit, to his son, here at the time.

He informed me that he had great difficulty in getting here; finally came through as one of the Atlanta relief Committee.

I told you to write you this & that Mr Monfie had also attempted to come & failed, being too unwell to write myself. I presume he could but too late for any good. We were all anxious to see Uncle Wm and especially that he should succeed in the business he was to come for. I suppose it will have to stand as it is awhile at least.

I am up as you can suppose & improving gaining health and strength as rapidly as I ought to expect. I had several days of severe sickness fever and some diarrhoea and got grain advised me to put it on

application for a leave of absence, then I would not do and am very glad of it as I think I shall now do very well.

Since you were with us our position in line has been changed twice. First to the extreme right of the Army Polk's Corps. A day or two since to the left of Hindmans Div the same Corps, & are now in that position and I suppose permanently. We are very near where Jim was when you were here; he is farther to the right; his Div being now the right of the Army. Being so near each other we see each other frequently. Jim was with us last night to supper. Jim & myself are in very comfortable quarters especially compared with others. We have our tent stretched about 60 yds up on the side of Missionary ridge and in a beautiful location both to see the Yankees and a formidable battery which bears this way; for them to see us well and for the cold winds to sweep over us & howl around us.

As I have said we are comfortable; in a day or two I shall hedge about us with brush and drive off some of this wind which is benumbing my fingers as I am writing now. While health lasts I have no complaint to make.

The right of the Army line has been weakened since I suppose the forces sent far around to the left. From indications I apprehend a retrograde move

in a few days. Provisions and forage are not found
whether it will be better to retreat I can't say. will
that procure us a supply? Doubtful.

of course you have heard of Rosecrans superseded
by Thomas. I understand Bragg thinks it is worth
ten thousand men to him.

There is occasional firing on the left below Lookout
Mountain. I do not know what is the point in dis-
pute there. There was, it is rumored, some musketry
fighting there a day or two since Hood's Division was
engaged and as the report goes was whipped; it also
says Benning's Brigade was captured.

I have heard no confirmation of these reports since a
day or two since. Genl Cheatham left several days ago
with his Div for further East at first it was said
for Charleston Tenn but since I have heard to make
some move against Knoxville nothing from him since
he left. We get the Atlanta papers every day or two but
none from Montgomery. I presume you are all easy
so far as the safety of Montgomery is concerned; there
is no immediate danger of an attack on Mobile.

I do earnestly hope that you may not have Sherman
at your doors, as it is so many thousands in the
Confederacy. Polk at last accounts you represented
as improving I hope he is still & that he may recover faster
than you all expect. I shall write him tomorrow; nothing
interfering.
W aff you
Couslaw Hall.

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[page 2]

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Yr aff son

Crenshaw Hall.