

Camp near Dalton Ga,
February 21st 1864

My Dear Father,

I received a short letter from Rhines yesterday, the first in three weeks and to my surprise he wrote that you had not heard from me, in some three weeks for I have been writing punctually and have been wondering why you all did not write. I was delighted to hear that your Johnny had at last returned to get home.

It will be no news to you when I tell you that 4 divisions have left here for Sherman's benefit, - there are only three divisions here now, We are expecting to have to move in some direction soon, We can not expect to lie idle here.

Rumor after rumor comes to us concerning the situation of affairs between Polk and Sherman.

There is a rumor to day that Polk has fallen back across the Tombigbee and that Sherman is crossing the river. I dont see how this can be as Sherman certainly couldnt haul Pontoons on such a march and how could he cross without.

I have usually been able to keep cool in all crises heretofore and leave the management of affairs to our Authorities and trust to them.

But, Sherman is getting too close home. I find myself continually asking, what are our Authorities doing. It seems to me that either Sherman will take Montgomery & Selma or his army will be totally annihilated.

88 If he fails how can he get away
with a vigorous foe pressing him
and watching every movement, and
he having no base. I understand
that the people at Montgomery are
frightened. Why so? Montgomery
has enough of citizens capable of
bearing arms to make a good fight.
Cannot Gov. Watts arm citizens
enough to defend our houses in con-
junction with ~~the~~ the army. Surely
if a man will not fight for his
home he is not fit to have one.

I discredit all the rumors I hear
and trust to the reinforcements
we send you and to the citizens.

But I cannot help feeling very uneasy
while so large a force of the enemy
are near you, I pray God night-
and day to shield you. Oh may

you never taste of subjugation.
Of course I would like for my
command to be ordered down there
but, I am not master of my own
movements. I am in good health,
Ben, is well, I hope you have not
started up the barrels I wrote for
as it may be lost.

I hope to hear from you soon.
Before this reaches you I expect to hear
of Sherman's defeat. God grant it.
Give my love to all the dear ones
at home. I did hope that I would
be able to visit you on the return
of Lieut Myrick, but all my hopes
in that respect have departed.

Tell Johnny Hines, & Laura to write
farewell.

Yours Affec Son
Jos A Hall



Camp near Dalton Geo.

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Jas A Hall