

[1863]

Univ of Alabama Tuscaloosa  
May

My Dear Father

I will again write to you as I have time, to-day being Sunday. I wrote a day or two ago and mentioned that false alarm we had up here the other day. Since then all sorts of rumours are in circulation concerning the future action of the University authorities in regard to the Cadets. Dr Garland has gone to Columbus Miss on some errand but no one knows what it is. It is very seriously thought of also by the authorities that we will be retained here until the 15<sup>th</sup> of Sept. I learn that Gov. Shorter has written to D. G. his desire to that effect as Gen Forrest called on him and the Gov of Georgia for reinforcements. News has also reached us that 3000 Yankees are advancing on Talladega. If that is so, we will in all probability go there. Another rumour has just originated that a man <sup>has</sup> just arrived from Selma for the special purpose of stringing Dr Garland to get the Cadets to go there. I think we are certainly getting pretty tight pushed. Certain. If all the reports as to the whereabouts of the enemy are true, this Corps will not remain here idle, but be ordered immediately into active service.

I think our country is <sup>in</sup> a dark hour. If the enemy are in possession of the Jackson and Vicksburg Rail road and invading Alabama and Georgia we are undergoing one of the severest trials of the war. If they are not checked very soon I think we will have to bid farewell to freedom. But will not the great battle impending between Bragg and Rosecrans decide to a great extent our destiny? If Rosecrans is victorious will not his vast armies invade our country and crush out the rebellion by starvation as they march triumphantly along from our North Western borders to the Gulf of Mexico? When you write again tell me what you think of our future. But on the other hand should Gen Bragg be victorious (or Joe Johnston) the enemy would again be expelled from our State and I hope from East Tennessee. I have always stood up for Bragg and sincerely. I always felt safe and easy under him - as if I was under the man who would take care of his country's cause as well as he possibly could, and now I feel confident of success to our arms under him in the coming struggle. If all his men only had the confidence in him that I flatter myself I have, a reverse to our arms, would be almost impossible. But I am hopeful that they will all do the best they can. I have only received one letter from Brother James. He then seemed to be in fighting spirits and said his whole company were ready

to meet the enemy at any time. The 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Regts  
ought to make splendid fights now as I understood  
from Ed Consham just before I came up here that  
they numbered about 12 or 1400 each and ought to  
be (if not) well disciplined. How is Genl Stanton  
succeeding, and Mr Lary?

I do not think it will be long before we learn what these  
rumours are which have sprung up so lately and which  
have been traced up almost to reliable. As soon as we  
do know I will write to you immediately. Perhaps it  
may amount to about what the excitement did the  
other day, i.e. to nothing.

I have not had that certificate of Deposit returned yet as Dr G  
is absent, having slipped off secretly the day I got the  
certificate or about the same time. The Quarter Master  
says it cannot be attended to in Dr Garland's absence as  
he will himself have to endorse it, but will be all right  
when he returns. I will have to pay  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the collec-  
tion of it which will be \$3<sup>75</sup>/<sub>100</sub>.

Tell all to write, and say love to sister. I am now  
rather doubtful whether I will see you again in June  
as it seems to be the opinion of many that we will  
have to remain here till Sept.

Your affectionate son  
Thos B Hall



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*[page 2]*

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