C

Camp Mennninger
Jany 26th 1862.

My dear Wife,

I rec'd your letter two days ago & yesterday I rec'd the butter you sent me and the box with the Shirts collars & boots. For all of which I am greatly obliged to you, but still more for the kind gentle messages in your letter.

Stradman committed a fraud on me about the boots. He promised to make them of the same quality of leather of which he made the last, - fine calf-skin; these boots are made of common coarse leather. I would have returned the boots, if I had not become nearly barefoot'd.

Send the greater barrel of beef to S. S. Webb Jno, at Mobile, by boat. I bought it of them & I will make them refund the money.

We are here at Hall's Mills with six other Regiments. The health of the troops here has greatly improved. We still have a few cases of pneumonia. I have been continually in camp since I wrote to you last. Col. Garrott is now with his wife & children at a very pleasant house about four miles from camp. He will not be much in camp whilst his wife is here. But he has been so closely confined to camp since we left home

that it is only reasonable that he should now spend his time with his family.

I hope that you will be able to come down to pay me a visit about the last of next month or sooner. It would not suit for you & Mrs. Garrott to be here at the same time, as Col. G. or I must always be in camp. So soon as Mrs. G. returns I would be delighted to have you to spend a week or two in Mobile or nearer to our camp, if you can provide so as to leave home. You could stay part of the time in Mobile & a part with a very pleasant family about three miles from camp. I could spend four day with you in the City & go to see you every evening whilst near camp, provided the Yankees do not occupy my attention.

Mr. Jack W. Jones is still sick - confined to his bed. I saw her the evening I wrote from Fort Gaines. She then seemed to be in fine spirits, and I thought she was improving. She sent all kinds of pleasant messages to you; and a special invitation to you to stay with her when you visited Mobile again.

I have well nigh fallen in love with Miss Welch, not at first sight, but by description - "Modest, pretty, intelligent, young - an elegant girl". This is just the description of the girl I fell in love with, in Pickens, about twenty two years ago, & whom I have loved more tenderly every year since.

Present my compliments to the young lady. I was much pleased at your kind conduct towards her. I had rather see, in my wife, one such indication of a good heart, ~~that~~ than any number of merely brilliant characteristics. God bless you, my good Wife!

The day I wrote last I deposited, in the ~~Mobile~~ Bank of Mobile, One hundred dollars, subject to your order.

This is rather a pleasant place, and we are fast becoming as well provided here as at Camp Goode.

I got the slip on which Mollie wrote my name. It was well done. Give my love to her and tell her, I am still looking for the letter she is to write me.

I have heard nothing from Lucy since I wrote last. I presume she is in temper.

My love t. all. I infer from your letter that Mrs. Robinson will be in Mobile soon. You must let me know when she goes & I will go to see her.

Yours,

Edm^d. M. Pettus.

Mrs. M. L. Pettus,
Cahaba,
Ala.