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My dear Wife,

We are now near Vienna on the Savannah River - the South Carolina and Georgia line. Since I wrote last the Brigade has been disbanded, and each man is following his own mode of travel.

I have not been able to walk or ride on horse-back, since I was wounded. I do mean that I cannot walk; but the Surgeons say that to do so would inflame the wound and render me unable to continue the journey. The wound is now doing well and I hope I will be entirely cured by the time I get home.

We are travelling by way of Covington, Griffin (in Ga.) and Selma, Tuskegee & Montgomery Ala. My companions are Capts. Gould, Erwin, Girard and Lt. Cocke, Dr. Stuart. They were all acting on my Staff and considered it but right to see me safely home. Dr. Stuart was assistant Surgeon of the 23d Ala Regt & lives in Dallas near Bentonville. He offered to see me safely home - as I might need a Surgeon on the road. Besides our horses we have one four-horse wagon and an ambulance. I ride in the Ambulance & have a comfortable bed. We make about 25 miles a day. I would take the cars; but I am not able to stand the ride in that way, unless I could get a bed. I expect to reach home in about 25 days. I will write every chance.

I have heard nothing from home since the Yankees were in Eufaula. So I am tormented by every conceivable conjecture. As a soldier and as a patriot I have lost all, ~~but~~ save honor - I believe I have done my duty. But our dear country is a conquered province. It may be that our little property has all been destroyed. I fear it is so. But if it is we have still much for which to be thankful to Our Father - We have good health our dear children and with cheerful industry we may be comforted and happy.

God bless you, my dear wife, and our dear children - and give you all courage to meet whatever tides which may be in our future.

Your affectionate husband

Ed W. Pettus.