Camp near Dalton Ga
May 4th 1864

We have just received orders to be ready to march at any moment - and as I promised yesterday to write you to-day I want to do so - although I am suffering so severely from sick headache that I can scarcely hold my head up. I sent my horses out to forage yesterday and they were turned loose near the Rail Road - a train came along stampeded Capt Garrity's horses that were nearer the track than mine - his horses ran through mine and the whole were stampeded - I have lost Jim permanently I fear - I have been riding all morning looking for them and it is the effect of the sun that has affected my head - It is a serious loss - Garrity lost six - I have some small man out still but I have but little hope of finding them - Darling my head is too painful to continue to write - I will try again after awhile - well Darling my head feels a little better and I want to try and finish this letter - when I received your letter of the 29th yesterday I read the enclosure from Mr Young first and when he mentioned the accident to Eddie you may imagine how startled I was - I hope the bone of his finger was not injured - if it is it will be apt to be deformed - Darling write me which hand and which finger it was - I hope it will get well very soon - Poor little fellow it must have been a most painful injury - Tell him he must be a brave little man and not cry about it - I can't imagine what the order to be ready for action on short notice means - I have not heard a gun to-day or yesterday and as far as I know every thing was quiet - But the two armies are so near together that a few hours any time can bring on an engagement - Since I have commenced writing the last time I have heard of four of my horses and if I get them I will be pretty well satisfied although I dislike very much to lose a single one - They are so scarce and hard to get - I have not heard any thing more from Bowers about his sending his horse home - I will enclose a short note to Mr Young about the horses - The weather is moderating and the sun has been very warm to-day - still the nights are cool - It is getting time we were having some summer weather now - I thought to have commenced with you some time ago - nearly every thinks that the collision so much talked of here cannot be postponed a great deal longer - I can not think that the enemy will attack us in front - They may attempt to flank one of our flanks and if they do I think Genl Johnston would attack them - Be cheerful Darling about the result - I think Genl J - will be victorious when he fights - and I trust the same kind Providence

who has hitherto protected me will continue to do so. I feel Honey that your visit to me this winter did me a great deal of good - I believe I am a better man than I was and Darling to you I owe it all under Heaven - I am reading your things also - I will read to morrow morning beginning at the 21st Chap - I do all my reading in the morning as I am unable to procure any candles now - Your Brave commissaries are not allowed to sell anything to officers now - and I have never been able to procure any - very often when I am reading I wonder where my Darling is and what she is doing - because we have always been accustomed to read the Bible together - George is absent after horses I have not told him yet of Eddies prayer - but I intend doing it - I see George reading his bible regularly now - and I do not think he did it before he went on furlough - we will be annoyed now constantly with orders to be ready to move until this fight is over - I do not feel at all like moving this evening but if I am right well in the morning and I hope I will be I don't care how soon we move out - I wrote to Ada yesterday - and so Darling you think I am beginning to write a little oftener - why Honey I have been writing every other day or nearly so and that is as often as I have ever written to you - well Darling it is now Thursday morning - I feel much better - but my head is very sore I hear this morning that the Yankey have retired from our front - and a good many think the order to be ready to move means that Genl Johnston intends advancing - If this news be true I think we will be moving in less than three days - all our cavalry are coming up from our rear I am a good deal moving yesterday - I have recovered all my horses but one - I am very sorry to lose him - He was a fine horse that I had just drawn - I expect a letter from you to day or to morrow - well Darling I must hurry up and close - The mail man is waiting - It is bright and pleasant this morning - Give my love to all the family - write as often as you can Darling - I am always so glad to hear from you I look for active movements here soon - Give my love and a Kiss to Eddie and tell him to be a brave little man with his hurt finger well Goodby Darling - much love and many kisses from your own loving husband

Robert

Mrs S. M. Dent

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