

letter I have recd from home (Call from Greeley & Ma)
since I have been in Va. I was rejoiced to hear
of the continued good health of our family, but rem-
ained uneasy by the proximity of Scarlet fever to my
home. I trust Ma will be successful in her efforts
to prevent its introduction on my place; & will be un-
easy in reference to it, until I hear of its disappear-
ance from the neighborhood. If you should have it, tell
Uncle James he will find some Chlorate Potash in my
Medicine Chest, & in Watson's Practice of Physic - page
1002, a formula for its administration - I regard this
as the most reliable remedy.

I have not seen Lieut Kaynis, & am not aware
whether he has yet come on - I hope he will deposit
my books & pants at some safe place in Richmond
where I can get them - If Johnnie will - he may
bring on my overcoat, & leave it at the Ala. Depot.
I regretted to learn of the continued drought, & the mea-
gre prospect for a provision crop - I hope the yield
may yet prove more favorable than yr anticipations.
If not, you must practice rigid economy, & endeavor to unprop-
on the negroes the necessity of such a course, Tell Viney
it was my intention that her house should be put in
the woods, out near the Cow pen - I wish it there, so

as to keep the little negroes away from the orchard
& that she may raise poultry for me. Tell Muel
James to exercise his judgement, in regard to the Cotton
I subscribed to the Confederate loan. I hope Ma will
be able to make, or buy cloth sufficient to clothe the
Negroes this Winter, as they must certainly be in
need by that time.

The recent operations of our Army at Manassas are
to some extent unknown - The intelligence we have
recd is indefinite, & unsatisfactory - We are notified
of a bloody battle - a victory, with heavy loss - but
the details come in with such tantalizing slowness,
as to keep us in an agony of suspense - From the
most reliable intelligence I can obtain - Anderson's
Division (ours) had not come up, so I infer was not
engaged - but this is a matter of doubt - I understood
that the 3^d Ala - had been transferred from Rhode's
Brigade, back to Mahone's - if this be true it is in
our Division. We are in obscurity as to the present
operation, or intentions of our Generals - whether it is
purposed to invest Washington City, or invade the
enemy's territory, & our Government & Military leaders
are so reticent, that not a glimpse can we obtain
behind the curtain to foreshadow their probable course.
All is vague conjecture, & busy mouthed rumor with

with her thousand tongues is engaged in, unpardonable
surmises - one says Gen Lee has sent to Richmond
for a number of heavy siege guns & hence infer his
intention to beleaguer the Yankee Capitol - another
that Gen Stuart has already made his appearance
at Frederick Md, & his object is to intercept commu-
nication between Washington City & Baltimore &
thus force an evacuation of the former - yet a third
another presumes our Army will continue its de-
torious march until the bitter chafe of invasion
which has so long ^{been} presented for us to smother - has
been pressed to the lips of the inhabitants of the
City of Brotherly love. Maintaining all in covered with
the shadowy veil of mystery & our Generals perceive
their plans silently, & with such efficiency as to en-
tirely preclude all knowledge of their operations, un-
til the blow suddenly falls. This is all very pro-
voking where so much solicitude is necessary, yet
but I believe it to be the part of wisdom & that time
will demonstrate the superior sagacity of such a course.
Let us have faith & watch. ~~God~~ - our cause is in the
hands of a just & merciful God, & if we demand that
favor, He will surely crown all our trials with suc-
cess - Let such a "consummation so devoutly to be wished" be
the sincere object of all our prayers - I think the begin-
ning of the end" has transpired, & that the eyes of the wor-
thy people are beginning to open to the magnitude of the
task they have taken on themselves, & doubts are infusing
themselves in their minds, as to their capacity to accomplish
it - The heaven is beginning to work, which I hope ere long
is to work out its legitimate result, of a cessation of hostilities.
I reckon you tire of my disquisition on this subject so I will
close - Keep the children many times for me & endeavor to inculcate
the seeds of piety in their hearts, which I humbly trust & pray
God will culminate in their early consecration to His service & result
in the salvation of their souls. This is my highest ambition
in their behalf. Billy P. is well & still with me - Tell the Negroes all
handy for me & tell them I expect one & all to redeem their
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Anderson's Division Hospital
Sept 8th 1862

Dear Sis

My last communication to you was dated 1st Inst, & it was my expectation then immediately to proceed to my Reg^t, but a few sick men, who were too ill to bear transportation to Richmond were left here, & unexpectedly I was ordered by the Surgeon General to remain in charge until they either died, or were able to move—so I am still here, but anticipate leaving to day or to morrow. I have heard nothing definite from the 44th since it left here, & expect quite a lively time in hunting it up— The route pursued by those who now go on to rejoin the army, is up to Gordonsville—thence to Rapidan Station, & then a foot march of upwards one hundred miles, through a country that has been desolated & denuded of almost every thing in the shape of provisions. All the luggage carried along must be borne upon our backs, so I shall leave most of my things except those essential at the Alabama Depot in Richmond, for the present. Yr letter of the 26th Aug—enclosing one from Ma, came to hand day before yesterday— This makes the third [new page]

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tirely preclude all knowledge of their operations, until the blow suddenly falls—This is all very provoking where so much solicitude is necessarily felt, but I believe it to be the part of wisdom & that time will demonstrate the superior sagacity of such a course. Let us have faith & watch & pray—our cause is in the hands of a just & merciful God, & if we deserve, His favor, He will surely crown all our trials with success—Let such a “consumation so devoutly to be wished,” be the sincere object of all our prayers—I think the “beginning of the end” has transpired, & that the eyes of the Northern people are beginning to open to the magnitude of the task they have taken on themselves & doubts are infusing themselves in their minds, as to their capacity to accomplish it—the heaven is beginning to work, which I hope ere long, is to work out its legitimate result, of a cessation of hostilities. I reckon you tire of my disquisition on this subject so I will close. Kiss the children many times for me, & endeavor to inculcate the seeds of piety in their hearts, which I humbly trust & pray to God will culminate in their early consecration to His service & result in the salvation of their souls. This is my highest ambition on their behalf. Billy P. is well & still with me. Tell the negroes all howdy for me, & tell them I expect one & all to redeem their promises of discharging their duty in my [new page, written sideways on front page] absence—I hope still to hear a good account from them & that all continue faithful & true. I trust that God will preserve us all safely through our trials & grant a happy meeting in the future—let us look forward with hope & faith to that auspicious moment Remember me kindly to all friends who are interested enough to make inquiries. My best love to Grandma & tell her I have not forgotten my promise of writing to her which shall be redeemed in due time— Uncle James occupies one of the securest places in my heart, which while it throbs will ever pulsate with gratitude towards him as a benefactor & unswerving friend. I know it is unnecessary to ask you all to remember me constantly at a throne of grace. I feel that such is the case, & as I nightly press a soldier's couch I endeavor to waft a petition on high for the loved ones far away at home. Do not think I am homesick because I write this Such is not the case, but these are but the calm & sincere sentiments of my heart & I have incidentally given expression to them without premeditation when I began— Write soon & give all the news— Has Cousin Mildred returned from Miss? My love to her—

Yr affectionate Brother. H. W. Caffey

[written sideways on the last page]

Kindest regards to Brother Sturgis when you meet him & tell him I intend writing him one of these days—When I last saw Howard he was in excellent health.

I also purpose writing to Uncle James when I get a good opportunity- I would be glad to hear from Clayt—have yet rec^d no answer to my letter to him – Did Mama get my letter. Remember me to Mr. And Mrs. Rost—

Our Army is constantly in motion so you had better continue to address yr letters to care of Capt. T. C. Daniel Co. G. 44th Reg Ala. Volunteers Richmond Va.