

Stevenson Alabama  
Nov 8th 1863  
Sabbath Morn

My Dear Parents, Brothers & Sisters

I believe I wrote last sabbath and I thought you would like to hear from me again. Well I am in fine health and spirits. This morning is one of the most Beautiful I ever saw. the sky so clear the sun so bright and the air so balmy that Alabama seems a most appropriate name for the country. Some how this morning my thoughts are all taken up with thinking of Home and loved ones and wondering if the weather there is as congenial to their spirits as the weather here is congenial to mine. The rich music of Birds would complete the harmony in praising the great Creator for his loving kindness to his creatures. In Such weather as this in Spring but now this is one of the most beautiful of Indian Summers, the very Ideal of loveliness.

I would like to be at home this morning to hear two or three good sermons and to enjoy home comforts and I wonder if you are thinking of Charley this morning and what he is doing. Well I got up soon after the sun had climbed the hills and had reached the diminutive eminence on which we have founded our abode. built a fire breakfasted on Coffee Hardtack & Bacon and then I read some in my Bible and Sergt. Barnhart went and drew our rations. Corpl. Sweatland is writing too now. I cannot tell how soon we will get away from here. I learn that our regt. is within two miles of Chattanooga.

The week has been passed very pleasantly though it rained all day thursday yet we were prepared for it and enjoyed ourselves well through it all and the rain was as warm as it generally is in a July shower.

All quiet on the Chickamauga as far as I can learn. You examine the Herald of Oct 29th and you will get a pretty correct idea of what Rosecrans and his men thought of each other. Some of the people are really in a suffering condition and I have no doubt that the rebel army is pretty thoroughly Demoralized. Some refugees and Deserters came in the other day and they are a sight to look at I tell you but they are where they can get enough to eat & wear now. It is a pretty well established fact that the Rebel army here is reduced to but little else but corn meal or flour and but few blankets and a hard winter would tell tough with them. I hope they will be convinced of the hopelessness of their cause and be persuaded to yield and thereby spend the winter in preparing for peace instead of war.

*[November 8, 1863 continued]*

I have no desire to shed their Blood but the Union and the dignity of even the Lincoln Government must be maintained Now Frank look out I am going to prescribe how I hope they will Draft next time (if they do) If I were to dictate they should have all liable that were before and No man should be exempt except by furnishing a Substitute or was himself Positively unfit for the service. No 300 or 600 Dollars would clear a man from the service and if I caught any of the Provost Marshalls or their Deputies showing any kind of partiality I would make them serve in the ranks (Thats whats the matter)

Please keep this to yourself for it might not take all around

Please give my best Respects to Uncles folks and all enquiring friends & Remember me as

Your Son & Brother  
Charley