

Camp in Lookout Valley  
Dec 18 1863

My Dear Parents

I believe the Campaign is now over and a prospect of some rest is before us the Lord has greatly blessed \_\_\_\_\_ departure \_\_\_\_\_ Victory may he graciously see fit to give hearts of thoughtfulness and penitence to the Rebellious that they may return to their allegiance and bring peace and plenty again to our distracted land \_\_\_\_\_ I do not doubt \_\_\_\_\_ condition and whereabouts the Regt has been within about 12 miles of Knoxville and I went with it We broke camp here Nov 22 and went out the plain before Chattanooga & on Monday about 3 o'clock an order came for roll call in an hour The roll call that was then has not come off for us all but many a poor fellow has gone to answer to the last great roll call Our Regt. came under fire first Monday the 23 and we were fighting or marching with 2 exceptions every day since till day before yesterday (17) We passed through the towns of Graysville Cleveland Charleston Loudon Philadelphia Athens Sweetwater & Louisville besides little out of the way places and through some of the finest country I ever saw You wont wonder that the Confederacy offers spring planting and harvesting of corn on the plantations when I tell you that the stalks grew to a height that with fixed Bayonet a man could reach as high as he could with his gun and not reach the top of some of the stalks and some of the corn would go 2 bu of shelled to 3 bu of ear

Did you recieve a letter written at Athens I wrote one there but do not know whether it would go through all right or not that would give a good description of what I saw We lived most of the time we were out on the country and had enough to eat and my boots held out till I got back to camp when about 4 miles from camp one of them gave out but I am snugly housed with Banardus Felton Dudley Beadle & Fred Swartz all of them are well John Willson is well Perry Wheelock is well and the boys generally feel well We had only three men wounded in Co E William Covey was shot between two of his fingers very slight W O Case was hit on the shoulder ditto Clark Ash was wounded in the thigh pretty bad

This morning (19) is splendid and the sun shines beautiful it is the coldest day we have had. we have not had any snow here and snow is not expected to fall here to the depth of more than two or three inches this winter

Your letters have all come through all right I believe besides some others which I must answer soon and what is more I find a great deal of enjoyment in my Bible and I want to live close to my Savior he has done much for me and I feel that I owe him much and as the Poet says Love so amazing so divine demands my life my soul my all and I hope the time is not far distant when I can enjoy quiet sabbath and sweet communion with friends in the Home of my Childhood and the home that I love

*[December 18, 1863 continued]*

Give God the praise for giving us the Victories we have had for he was with us the rebs had an almost impregnable position on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge but the Lord was with us and Victory crowned our efforts  
Please remember me in love to all and I remain as ever

Your Affectionate Son  
Charley