

Near Marietta Ga
July 17 1864

Dear Sister

I am glad to sit down this morning and write you a few lines It does me good to write home but it does me more good to hear from home It is some time since I have heard from you or any one else I suppose you have written but for some reason the letters dont reach me. This sunday morning is real beautiful. The sun shines bright and the air feels cool and refreshing Black Berries are ripe and the boys enjoy themselves picking them We have laid here now about 11 days and during this time it has been quiet but this morning and yesterday the War Dogs Bellowed some. I wrote home about some of Co E being wounded James Quilliam is dead so one of the Nashville papers report Since I left Lookout Valley I have not heard but one sermon preached and how long it will be before I hear another I do not know I would like when you get the report from Conference to send me a copy of the stations to where the Ministers I am acquainted with are assigned. I would like to be at home to day to hear a sermon I would like it much. How are all the folks and how are things prospering and how are the times. perhaps these are questions Frank can answer best Tell Frank I want to know the name of that "Fair Lady" who has captured his heart and whose words create such queer flutterings under his "vest pattern" If he dont tell me I guess I will have to go to one of those Cincinnati Mediums and find out I suppose she lives in the same state

In 9 weeks from tomorrow my time will be 2/3'ds gone and should the Lord be pleased to prosper me as he has done I will commence to count my remaining service by months. But I pray that we may not have to fight all that time for we have had over 3 years war and for more than 2 months this campaign has been one of unexampled activity and part of the time fighting unequalled in duration and fury has been done Can the organization Lees army be broken and his forces scattered like chaff and this army is of but little into the Confederacy already we have driven them a hundred miles and from as strong positions as the country affords still they are in powerful fortifications but our extended flanks will soon roust them out of there when Billy Sherman says go

The Old Kearsage did a good job and I hope he will run on to the other and do another clean thing and if any of Johnny Bulls pleasure boats interfere to _____ two or three 11 inch shells in side of her door yard it is a piece of rascality deserving the severest punishment

I would like to know how the Johnnys make it in Pennsylvania I suppose the people are awful scarred about the prospect of things I _____ particularly much to fork over

Well keep up good courage the same as I do and hope for the best

[July 17, 1864 continued]

My love to all
Charlie
please answer soon
Direct
Head Quarters
20th A.C.
Care of chief Quarter Master