

Atlanta, Ga.  
Sept. 9, 1864

# 43

My dearest Lis,

The railroad has been cut between Chattanooga and Nashville so we have no communication with "God's County" for the past few days, but now I hope this may reach you in due season--and I am especially anxious that a mail should reach us once more for I feel sure that I shall have a letter from you then. How I do want to hear from you!

The papers have informed you long before that of the whole particulars of the capture of this place and of our corps occupying it. The real battles of Atlanta were fought near Jonesboro--Hoods Army was very roughly handled on both occasions but I have not learned the particulars--but this I do know that we captured a large number of prisoners--say 4000 or 5000.

The whole army are falling back to this place and will have a rest of 3 or 4 weeks--meantime the troops will be paid and clothed and furnished with new Blankets, tents, etc. and the Skeleton Regiment recruited (The Army of the Cumberland--viz 15th, 16th and 17th Corps will occupy East point and Decatur and the R.R. connecting the two places beyond the Chattahoochie River). The Cavalry will, of course, be on the rampage to draw the attention of the Rebs until "the Grand Army" is ready to move again.

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Here we think we see the beginning of the end. I think the entire reb Army will be concentrated at some place in North Carolina between now and the first of November for a last great struggle and we here feel it a "Manifest destiny" that we will succeed,--"Triumph Gloriously" in that final contest! With a Union Victory at the polls this fall everything will be closed up before winter--on the basis of a "permanent peace".

*Antique Shop*

As soon as there is a possibility of getting a resignation accepted I shall be home. I cannot go through the hardships of another winter in tents. I am usually well and the health of the Regiment is quite good. In rambling about the city we found a number of citizens from Cattaraugus--old John Boutwell and family and his son John and family and Harriet and Emily, daughters of old John B, formerly of Little Valley, are all here. Emily and Harriet are married to original genuine Rebs who have been in the Army since April 1861--and I think the loyalty of none of them is any the best. Prior to the war they were engaged in a large Iron Works here that belonged to a Mr. Winship, a brother of Mrs. Boutwell and also brother of Dea Winship of Little Valley, and I think from appearances were doing well. But the war has blasted and desolated everything here as they are pretty poor now. When the war broke out the "Winship Ironworks" were employed in making "munitions of war"--shot, shell and cannon and the Winships all left with the Southern Army.

*Pavilion N.Y.*

A few years contact with Slavery and a mere grab for the almighty dollar completely demoralized these "Mass. Puritans" and they are rebels against the freest and best government ever instituted among men!! Their treachery will prove a bitter (to them) as the treachery of Judas!

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I should think they were about 4000 citizens who remain here when the rebs evacuated the place. Made up of renegade northerners who expect sympathy and protection on account of their birthplace--but who have aided the rebellion in every possible way and are now earnestly praying for McClellan's election!!--poor foreigners who have been blessed with a multitude of children and who have had a terrible struggle with the world for bread and whose stake with the government was only small and who would be equally content with a free government, a despotism or an anarchy of the "Democratic Party" only administered affairs and wealthy virulent old rebs who, to save their property, are willing hypocritically to take the oath of allegiance and are clamoring for a safe guard and what is humiliating these rich ones whose influence and teaching have brought all the woe upon the nation are generally protected so when the poor who have been the dupes and victims of these wealthy scoundrels are comparatively given over to the tender mercies of the soldiers shame on such administrations of Justice--and such craven flunkysm!!

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The weather is mildly warm with frequent showers and magnificent thunders. You will hardly believe me when I tell you that this city is almost in a wilderness. In fact the native dense forests stand unbroken within a half mile of suburbs of the city!

*Pavilion N.Y. -*

This is a fine country for gardening and fruit raising--everything of that kind growing to perfection all the Democratic Party will have to do to secure "McClellan's election is to send here and get a sufficient number of these galvanized Union men of the first water to emigrate north and the thing is done. They are all eminently conservative and clamorous for the Constitution "as it is" and the "Union as it was" and are all rampant McClellan men. They want Treason a flowery path--Rebellion a downy bed and they are earnest that their return to their "fathers house" should not lead them near the Valley of humiliation!! These are the chaps to get! for he can rely on their hearty fidelity!!

Write often etc. etc.