

4 Miles South of Kingston, Georgia.

My very dear wife,

May 21st '64.

At length, after three weeks constant marching, cornier marching, fighting, skirmishing, watching and anxiety of mind after capturing Tunnel Hill, Dalton, Resaca (fighting a battle at the latter place) and then moving right on and capturing Rome and Kingston, we have gone into camp to rest a few days. So I will now avail myself of the first opportunity to write more fully to my own dear one. It has been a great source of annoyance to me that I could not send you a letter regularly as of yore, well knowing that you would be full of anxiety. You must not think that we of the 99th have been engaged with the enemy all the time, in an army so large as ours the Divisions, Brigades and Regiments only fight by reliefs, while the rest all stand ready, if needed in supporting distances. I have just been reading a long letter in the Liberator, commencing giving an account of an investment of Dalton which is very full and accurate, a much more satisfactory account than any one officer could give, since each one has his place in the line and can know but little of what is going on at other points especially when our line was some 10 miles in length. I hope you will get that paper regularly while this campaign continues, as it is the most complete and reliable in its details, well I have seen what I

me trusting Miller's

considered strong military positions, but I have never yet seen anything to compare with that occupied by the rebels at Dalton. Nature made it almost impregnable, while every assailable point was carefully provided by substantial fortifications. But old Sherman found an inlet and took advantage of it and followed up his advantage so capably that Mr. Lee had to abandon their chosen position falling back out of their works to fight us on even terms. Previous to our occupation of Dalton we took a position on the crest of Rocky face mountain, and on the 9th together with Harker's Brigade attempted to charge them off it; but found it very much to our personal comfort to get back as fast as possible, and threw up breast works, where it was so steep a man could hardly stand. Here we remained two days and nights. On the morning of the 13th we learned of the evacuation and our corps moved around the works and marched into town, but did not halt long, moved right on until we again formed a junction with the rest of the army near Pisaca. Here we came upon the enemy in force, the evening and forepart of the following day was spent in getting into position and feeling the enemy's lines. I never went through such woods in my life. I had charge of the skirmish line a part of the time, in shifting round through the brush wood I lost my overcoat cape, but was glad enough to get off that well. On the morning of the 14th we found the enemy's lines and drove them back a mile into their breast works throwing up the night before and held them there while Hooker swung round on the left and wound their flank, we now had them as

we thought, in a very tight place nearly surrounded, on the 15th which was
Sunday & hoped there would be ^{no} fighting, but we had taken their first line
of works and were so close that firing was kept up almost without cessation
all day from both sides, we continued to pour such a stream of fire into
them that the next day when we passed through, large trees 40 feet
high were literally chamed to pieces with bullets, the ground for some
distance back of their works was full of little pits where each man had
 dug in the ground to hide himself from our fire, not daring to lift his head.
The river was on the south side of them but they had one point for crossing so
strongly fortified as to be impossible for us to take it - But for this, we would
have gobbled their whole army. They retreated Sunday night, Monday
morning we pressed right forward after them stopping an hour or two in
Resaca, here I got the first view of Genl. Sherman, he is very different
from what I expected, "he hath a lean and hungry look" But such are
"dangerous" you, at least the rebels think so. Thomas is the finest looking
General we have, we all like Genl. Howard very much. Stanton also
behaved very well, Here our intrepid Col. Left us for "home, sweet home"
he started the morning the fight commenced but Wagner charmed him out
of it. I sent a note by him to you, did you get it?

From Resaca our corps took the advance, about 8 miles above Kingston the
enemy made considerable resistance at a place called Adairville, after
another Brigade had exhausted their ammunition and we went to the front
to relieve them just before sundown, this was about the hottest place
I have been in, we kept up the firing until after dark and then

remained on the ground until morning. I have been very careful, I don't expose myself unnecessarily - only when duty absolutely requires it. While I have a duty to perform to my country I never for a moment forget that there are very dear ones at home whose claims upon my life, fully as strong as those who in the midst of battle ever seem to be whispering in my ear "spare yourself for my sake". At Kingston, the enemy made but feeble resistance and we swept down through its deserted streets like a hurricane. This is the point where the rail road from Rome connects with the main road to Atlanta and prisoners reported the enemy intended to make another stand here. Finding them gone we turned in for a little rest before proceeding on to Atlanta. We have now gotten pretty well out of the mountain fastnesses of northern Georgia in the open southern country which contrasts favorably with that through which we have passed, I am ^{glad} of it for I am very tired of the interminable mountains. Though it is getting quite warm, we are not suffering in that regard yet.

Your letters have reached me pretty promptly thus far, yesterday I received the copy of the Atlanta you sent me. I am quite much pleased with it, especially the poem on the veterans. It is indeed a source of joy and pride to me to know that while I am here fighting the enemies of our common country, I have a dear wife who enters so fully into the spirit of the cause as well as the reality of the personal sacrifice as to send me that mother's sentiment towards her son, changing it only to the holy relation which you and I sustain to each other my darling! I indeed am very proud of such a spirit and such a companion! and earnestly hope that the fact's prediction will soon be realized, that this war soon be over and we can nestle together in our little home casts as in the days of yore! How indeed will we be happy - how I would love to be with you this morning, this lovely May morning while ^{nature} is wearing her most winning smiles. I know our little home which looked so comfortable and calm through the bleak winter must now be more lovely. we could now rally out with our "little swan" without the danger of taking cold and being laid up for weeks, in consequence. I am pleased to know that she knows all her letters, she will be a bright little star in our home pinnaunt, won't she darling? Have you heard anything more from Miss Cook? or from any of our boys, Belark, Frank, or Jimmy? I would like very much to hear. I suppose Belark & Frank are with Sigel's command. poor Jimmy, I don't know where his got to. you wanted to know if I got back with all my things safe. I did. I saw quite a curvairy on Rocky face mountain the other day. The sweet scented shrub growing wild in great abundance, also what is called the brings flower, a white flower very fine, but I don't get to devote much attention to such things. We have passed some beautiful farms and shaded woods, much better country than about Chatterbox.