It has been very disagreeable weather for several
days cold and rainy, reminding me that I find it difficult
to write with any pleasure. It is too cold and wet to be out around the log fires or
doors and we have not put up any chimneys, not
expecting to stay very long at this place. In a few days we will
move up perhaps to Alexandria or somewhere. In fact we have
done nothing for the last week but receive instructions from Davis
and Sherman and chew over it and discuss it. We know
the whole of Lee's army surrendered or captured two or three times
for my regularity with occasional hints that Joe Johnston's
has gone off two or three way or it will all be extinguished
but enough is done at least to cheer the heart of the soldier
and never times we have been in the winter home we are
light as confessing to a speedy termination of the war. In fact
I can see no reason in the world for Lee holding out. The
great bubble has been pricked and forms to continue only
wind. It is now a poor vaporous thing hanging before our
victorious host with no certainty of my place or even name.
themselves in case any "here at least and safe" Little Phil
Linderman has cut them off from going anywhere and if
they go towards Lynchburg they will not be there long
and they find themselves confronted on all sides and facing
must go up. The further prolonging of the struggle and the
further offering of blood is now little else than cold blooded
murder on their part, but the confidence blazed here among
the highest military authorities is that their wills screw around
the whole thing and give it up. But that as it may, if he
should succeed in cracking Lynchburg he will be so far
straitened by his loss in men and matériel of war that the
latter will he only think they can do nothing, only enough.
Our way looks pretty clear now and the boys are eagerly
counting the days and hours versus that three hopes before
they are ministered out. I am greatly in hopes that the whole
army may be ministered out at the same time, it would
be so grand to see our whole army coming home crowned
with victorious wreaths, and purple again with their
blessings so long foretasted and forestalled. Wouldn't it, love?
I received a letter from you two days ago, the first one
I've had since leaving Chattanooga, so hope's all Hood's
are just going ahead in the baby business and although
there were no war in the country, perhaps they are
preparing for the great war, raising recruits to avoid the draft.
Just let them go ahead who cares? we wouldn't give our little mite for all that's worse we. I am glad you have
concluded to keep home, I think it better you should do so, and save yourself and mother as much as possible, you
might have time to read a good deal I should think,
By the way, do you get anything to read that is interesting or
profitable? Send to Cincinnati and get whatever you want
in that line, you have the names of the books from there,
if not, you can get them in the defendant, even
what you want to be cut off express and keep enrolling.
I have been reading a novel this week the only one
I have read for a year and a half, the Memoirs of Orleans
very exciting, you know, I don't read anything serious but
I had nothing else to read, and it helped to pass away
the time. We may sometimes profit by reading them
of the better class, if read in the proper way, we often get
beautiful ideas and a comic use of language, if we
read for that purpose and then to be like among Gt's
embassies of the tale.

To Burnett and wife, I was going to send some words
by train, but he started off and didn't keep pace
here. Wait is a fine fellow if he would not be in
some.