

from the fact that you have been so often
Chattanooga Tennessee

Sept. 27th /63.

My dear wife,

I suppose you have been in anxious suspense since you have been hearing of the fighting in front of this place. I would have written a little sooner but in the unsettled condition of things here there was no certainty that letters would go through. Besides I supposed you would rightly infer from what I had previously written that I would not be in the fight, our brigade having been ordered to remain here as a garrison for this post, all of which has been the case, during the three days fighting in front of us, which was not more than ten or twelve miles off, we remained here, gathering up stragglers who were falling back - some wounded - some lost from their regiments and a good many coming back from hard wardice. I am not anxious to be in the rear of any more battles! Here we were just flooded with all manner of rumors of disaster and defeat, every straggler had some terrible tale to relate, how that his regiment had been all cut to pieces, the brigade, or Division all scattered, generally killed the enemy outnumbering us 5 to one, &c. &c. It was a scene calculated to sicken any one, we could get no straight account, all we knew or could hear was the firing which appeared to be very heavy and continuous, until Sunday night when the General and his corps commanders all came into town, and ~~the~~ saw the troops followed, and began to form their lines right around in front of the town, when it did look like defeat sure enough, trunks, ambulances, disabled artillery &c were hurrying across the river with all haste, citizens almost crazy with fright - the scene was well calculated to fill one with dismay the dreadful uncertainty of what awaited us! if the stories were true, we must be almost annihilated. I still felt confidence in the result and would not listen to their stories, on Monday morning I was ordered to pack my train and be ready to cross the river, I did so, but I tell you my dear, I never did anything half so reluctantly in my life, the idea

of taking down my flag from that post where I had planted it
so triumphantly a few days before! It filled me with gloom, I
would not take it down until the last minute! but pretty soon instead
of going back across the river I was ordered to the front. I tell you it was
a relief. My men all marched out as cheerfully as ever they did any
thing in their lives. I took a position in reserve ready to go to any
point of the line where the reprimand might be most needed. It soon
became apparent that it had been determined to hold Lehattawoga!
The whole army had been the night before contracted around the front
of the town in a range of lines, our men had already thrown up
fortifications, planted their batteries, &c, rendering the position
perfectly safe - the whole army is in the best of spirits and ready to
fight the whole confederacy if need be. Rest assured we will
never evacuate Lehattawoga, not a man in the whole army
thinks of it! The trains were only sent across for safety, and the
confusion was such only as is usual in the rear of a battle, I don't
believe in any more wars! From all I can learn our army did
wonderfully fighting, but Bragg had been so rapidly reinforced that he
utterly overpowered us with numbers, and yet at the end of the fight
we held our position or nearly so, but being out so far from town
and for fear they would swing around our flanks and get in
old Rosey concluded to face back and hold the place which he
did in good order during the night. All is now safe, all their
ammunition combined can't take this place, it is one of the finest military
strategic holds in the whole country. We have as yet received no re-
inforcements from any quarter, Burnside is above us in East Lewis,
Sherman & Harbut are below us at Corinth, or somewhere down
there, we don't need them now, I suppose they may come at this
conclusion. The rebels are stretched along in our front on a ridge
in full view of us, during the past two days they have not bothered
us, everything is quiet in front. It is the opinion of all that they will
not attempt to fight us here. Bragg understands too well the

Strength of our position to try it on. I suppose all manner of stories
are afloat in the north about our defeat, but it must not be so regarded
in that light; their loss in killed and wounded is certainly much
greater than ours, and all ~~the~~ the prisoners we take say they paid
dearly for it. Loustreet's corps was here from Lee's army, the
flower of that army, we took ~~some~~ a number of them prisoners
they have got enough of western troops, they don't drive so easily
as the eastern, they say they got all the fighting they want for the
present. But at present my dear wife I cannot give you any very sat-
isfactory account of things, we have been lying out in the dirt and dust
for several days and nights and everything apace down, in a short time
probably we will get settled down again, when I can write more and better.
I have gotten some better of my cold but have lost considerable of sleep -
and feel out of fix, The town and its surroundings are and seem of
filth and dust, there having been no rain here for weeks, I have
been getting your letters pretty regularly, the last was of the 16th inst. When
you said you were getting ready to go to Perouse, I expected you
would probably write again before leaving as you did not tell me
where to direct my letters to, I will direct this one to Cambridge and
if you should be gone, it will probably be sent to where you are -
You spoke of Dr. Clark wanting to borrow what money we have on
hand, I think it a good notion, I prefer doing that, to talking Shavers
in the concern, so you can let him have it for six months, Repay-
ment, of course, for your present needs. I have been being
economical to dear wife, almost miserable so, I have no clothes now
that are fit to be seen, and will be compelled to get a suit
before long - or go naked, I don't spend a collar for anything that
I can possibly get along without, I must wind up this hurried and
unsatisfactory letter and promise to write again in a day or two
or more frequently. I suspect you have not received all I have sent,
but for the present that you may know I am safe is the principal
desire of your ever loving and faithful, Millard