

Tuesday Evening

Tusculum Ala. Dec. 1st 1864

My ever dear Wife -

The army reached this point on yesterday. - We have rested today & will probably rest here tomorrow. - Our men need shoes & clothing which I hope will be issued here. - We cross the Tenn. River opposite to this town, at Florence, & take up the march for Tenn. What our programme will be, our leaders alone know. - We were promised a mail here today, but none has so far arrived. Our march from Decatur to this place was along the Memphis & Et. R.R. & through the ample & beautiful valley of the Tenn. But the broad, noble fields are overgrown with long, brown & brown grass, and the tall isolated chimneys of these once towering plantations, stand amidst the blackened ruins of homes once beautiful, speak to my heart a sad, sad comment on this great struggle. The fields are ~~so~~ level, & the settlements (the few remaining) located off the road & in groves of oak & orange, remind me of St. Johns. - I need not add my dear one, that with every view which brings you, old home, to my mind, you, dearest, sister, are always on my heart. - It is a great trial to me not to be able to write you every day. - But we have no mail, & have been, until reaching this point, shut away from Rich. & Co. Now the line runs from Corinth to within 16 or 18 miles of ^{this} place. - I read this by an officer who goes to Richmond. Get an abrac & look out the long, round, a-bomb way from this town.

Tuscumbia Ala. to Corinth Miss. Corinth to
Meridian Miss. From Meridian to Memphis,
Selma, & Montgomery Ala. Then on to Opelika^{ala} &
Columbus Ga. Macon & Augusta! It would
take six days to go from Tuscumbia to S.C.
I send you a little note by which you may see
how many miles we have marched, & how con-
stantly we have been on the go since we
left Palmetto. - I have not had the op-
portunity to study a line - I hardly have time
to read my proper book. - Our starting hour
is daylight, & we get into camp from 4
to dark, every day, tired & dirty. -

Wednesday November 2^d 1864 -

My darling Lotie -

This is a damp, gloomy day. -
Just such a day, dear Lotie, as makes a fire
side cozy & how dear & precious one minute
would be if we were permitted to enjoy it. - But
all such pleasures are adjudged secondary to
the great first duty which the people of the
South are doing for the North, all covered with
blood & tears as he is. - I have not received
the package you sent me by Priest yet - Willie
has it, & he has not yet joined the battery. It is a
great disappointment to me. - Christian P. Beal-
Burgessford's Staff, promised to get it for me
but he has not so far. - My bundle is with the
S.C. Relief Society at Macon. - What was in it?
It will be a long time before I get your answer to
this question. - Well, my darling Lotie - it will
some time before I get a chance to write again.

We cross the Tenn. tomorrow or the day after, & I think we will march on Nashville. If Sherman follows us we may have to give him battle, but which would our Generals confidently expect to beat him. If he vacates Atlanta & Rome & Georgia, we will have gained the object of our Campaign. - My God grant it.

My health continues very good. - I send you in this \$20. which is a small sum to send you, my darling Wife, but I send all I have. I have been obliged to try a horse. - Herd's time & my own horse have both failed. - I have walked a ^{good} deal on my march. - Will Frank Paine name his new horse Woodfin, after Grandpa's fine Rockaway here he used to ride & ~~drive~~ drive his Anderson. - I gave \$1900. for Woodfin. - I hope he may take me safely into Selma. - Let me know, my darling, how you are off for money. - I want you to write a note to Mr. Cadwell, at my request, to say that he need not send me the books loaned by the Bishop, as I can't possibly study on this Campaign. - When I wrote for them at Greensboro I had no idea of this active Campaign. I hope my precious note, that you will receive this letter in good time, & that those sent you from Sister Moore's, Cedar Grove, Eadsden & Decatur (six, including this) have arrived safely. - If I get a chance while in Tenn. I will knit out to write you my dearest. - If I get a letter from you before I leave Proscumbia I will acknowledge it by telegram. - I will write to Dr. Maxwell at Mecon

and get him to ~~send~~ take care of my bundle
for me. - Maxwell is now a Surgeon in one
of the Hospitals at Mason - Fair Grounds Hospital
No. 2. - I send you a note from him to
read, which I rec'd by hand today.

I must say farewell my dear
Lottie. - This absence is painful to me, my
precious wife, but my hope is in God. - He
doeth all things well. - Kiss my little one
for me my Lottie, + give much love to the
family. - My God keep + bless you. -
With all my heart, my
own dear Wife,

Your devoted

Ellis

Mrs. E. Capers
Aiken S. C.

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have their votes (which are the principal votes) ought
have the appearance of being defeated, for I
have no idea that I was elected by the
vote of the people at home, though Bowler
showed me my name on eight tickets in
the Couriers of the 8th inst. I desire it to be
understood that the nomination was made with-
out my knowledge, & came too late to be either
with-drawn by me, or to meet the vote of
my friends in the Army. — Besides, it is a
line of duty inconsistent with my purposes for
the future. — If I should ~~be elected~~ have been
elected though, I will endeavour to be serviceable
in that capacity. — Myport, who has been to Wash-
ington, has just come in, & reports Great on the way
with a bundle & letter for me. — I will write
you again when he delivers them, my darling,

and make two letters for you, by different
hands, so that if you miss one, you may
get the other.

Goodbye, my dear Fannie.

My health is excellent. I have no time for
study, & barely time to read my prayer
book, night & morning. - Kiss my dear
little ones for me. Much love to the
family.

May God keep & bless you
my precious wife, & hasten the time
of our reunion.

Your devoted

Ellis