

Bivouac 24th E.C.T.

Decatur Ala.

Friday Oct. 28th 1864

My own beloved Wife -

Here I am way up in Northern Ala, & on the Tennessee River! We have had most lovely weather until day before yesterday, when our march to this place was made most unpleasant by a constant, hard rain. Today is bright & beautiful. - Decatur is garrisoned by from 2 to 5000 men, is well fortified - Our Army has been in front of it since day before yesterday evening, but I see no preparations for an assault. - What is on the card I can't say. - We have marched 320 miles, to this point.

I sent you two letters from Gadsden Ala, where we stopped a day. Our mails come up to us, but we have no way of sending off letters yet. - Bowie has an affection today, and I write by it. My health continues to be good my darling. I received your letter of the 14th inst. while on Sand Mt. Thank you my angel for remembering me on the my birth day. - Did you think of it, that the 23rd inst. was Ddgy's birth-day? Dear fellows! He realises a perfect enjoyment of it, now. - I was not surprised at my defeat for the Legislature. - If my Va. friends & my own Company had given me only a tolerable vote, I would have been elected, but neither of them knew of my nomination, & therefore did not vote for me. - My German friends in Charleston gave me a very handsome electo vote, for which I am much obliged to them. - My friends here (Charleston) after examining the returns think I have nothing to be ashamed of. I do,

my dear sister my dear mother & brother
I hope you will be happy

as my vote was given me without a feather's
weight of effort on my part. - But this is my
first & last off appearance on the political stage.

In your letter of the 14th you did
not say when you expected to go to Cherry Grove,
but only that you would meet your sister & Dwight
at Branchville after they had visited Mrs. D & the
younger Mrs. Dwight. - I take it these visits will
consume most of the month of November, so that
I will direct this to Aiken. - In your letter,
dearest, you ask me what it is that troubles my peace
of mind. My darling sister, I am, in common
with thousands of my comrades, much on my mind
about, but I thank God, my sister, that my peace
of mind is fortified by His Grace which He
vouchsafes to me for Jesus sake. - I have every
thing to be grateful for my darling, & I am most
grateful to God for His goodness & loving kindness
to me. - You must not think me unhappy darling.
You & our little ones fill my heart, & if God
wills we again we will live for Him, &
be perfectly happy. -

Love to the family. And may God keep &
bless you & yours, & give us His Spirit for
this life & the life hereafter. -

My dear sister, my angel, adieu.
Your
Ellie