

long, loaded with warm clothing etc. for the poor soldier, on which you pardon Bragg is all a myth, not one twentieth part ever existed. Some goods may have been brought, but there was not much<sup>24</sup>. I did not see it myself, no one that I can find has seen more than twenty or thirty wagons at the utmost, and I have not seen the Government issue a suit of clothes or a pair of shoes since our return, which were got in Kentucky. My darling, don't believe one half, nay one fourth what you hear. Bragg's policy in retreating can be justified by higher and more important reasons than the saving even of 40 miles of wagons, the salvation of his army. \* \* \* \*

What do you think of my giving three dollars for a loaf of home made light bread? Having to diet myself alone induces me, I assure you to such endurance of the extortion. If i had been well I would never have put up with it, but it gives an idea how the "loyal" citizens of Tenn. extort the soldiers.

In the spell of cold weather you suggested a very appropriate companion for your frolic. I heartily wish he had been there to have participated in the sport. I am afraid that we should have been tempted to prolong it rather longer than did Auntie and yourself. \* \* \* \*

Col. M. & all rest of the field and Staff quite well.

Col M. still in command of this Brigade. Probabilities of his promotion as distant as deserved. \*\*\*

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XXXIII

Headquarters 4th. Brigade. W.D.R.C.A.T.  
Near Shelbyville, Mch. 10th. 1863.

\* \* \*

I have not heard from you since I last wrote, but as ten days have passed since then I will not keep my darling any longer from a letter – I would have written sooner, but we were sent out to the front and only returned yesterday afternoon. the Yankees have been quite independent lately and drove in all our pickets on the Unionville, Lewisburg and Columbia, Pikes, in fact on all the roads leading to the N.S. So our Division was sent out to re-establish our line of outposts, and if possible capture a few Yankees. But when we got to our line of Infantry Pickets, we found that the enemy had retired and our Cavalry occupied positions nearly up to those from which they were driven. But Van Dorn made a little circuit around the Yankee forces on the Unionville Pike (the same on which we advanced) and thought he had got to their rear and our Division was moved up to attack them in front, but when we had gone 7 or 8 miles, in advance of our infantry pickets,

we received a dispatch from Van Dorn saying that the enemy had escaped him – so we returned to our camp of the former night and next morning yesterday, returned to our Camp, here. Our loss in this raid of the Yankees was the destruction of a few commissary stores and of the camp equipage of one Regt. of Cavalry and a few prisoners. As an offset to this we have Van Dorn's surrounding and capturing a Brigade of the enemy, numbering twenty two hundred men<sup>25</sup>. In this affair the enemy was completely surprised, they had out pickets in front, but non in rear, so Van Dorn makes a circuit, gets in their rear, places his artillery in position, dismounts his Cavalry to act as infantry, and opens fire on the enemy before they were aware of his presence. They surrendered at once, with their arms etc. I think on the whole we got rather the better of the enemy. The Arms alone will pay for all we lost, - not to speak of the prisoners - All is now quiet in front, and will probably remain so until it stops raining; which happy event seems as distant as ever. It has been raining here for the past two months, and it has not stopped yet – nor is there the slightest chance of its stopping until summer comes, or the war ends. I think this is quite a blessing, it puts off the operations of the enemy, and every day that our Armies remain quiet is one gained for us and lost to our enemies. If it will rain all spring and keep the enemy quiet it will benefit us much.

I thought that a short time ago I could see the beginning of the end, but I was rather too hasty. I believe that the causes which will effect the close of the war and the restoration of peace, are beginning to act, and make themselves felt in the North, but I looked for the end to soon; I did not allow sufficient time for these causes to act, but I hope to eat a Christmas Dinner with you this year, and expect it to be a right merry one, too, so look forward to this, my dearest. I think it is fully time for the war to end. I am completely worn out in all except body and spirit. My clothes are rusty, dusty and torn – my bridle and horse trappings are falling to pieces, and I can't get to any civilized place where I can replenish my outfit<sup>26</sup>. I write home for what I want and get it about six months after I write. I write for summer clothes, and by the time they arrive it is winter, and vice versa, so I think that either the U.S. ought to take compassion on my dilapidated condition and stop the war, or Genl Bragg ought to allow me to go home to refit. One however, is about as likely as the other, although the former is more preferable. I have one consolation I will have home on my route when I return so I can make my appearance before you like a gentleman.

I am happy to say that I am quite well again, and hope never to miss another day's duty while I am in the army.

I have been extremely fortunate, the period of this sickness of

mine, which kept me from duty a little more than two weeks, is the only time I have missed a day's duty from any cause, since I have been in the Army. I certainly have a great deal to be thankful for indeed, when I think of the sickness and death around me. \* \* \*

Your own dear

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XXXIV

Hd. Qrs. 4th Brigade W.D.R.C.A.T  
Near Shelbyville, March 17th, 1863.

\* \* \*

All is quiet on our front now, and if I am not mistaken something is going on within their (the enemies) lines. You will remember when I last wrote the enemy were pressing us hard on our whole front, and it took a very large part of our force to sustain our outposts, also that the enemy were pressing us very hard on our left, now they have all withdrawn and it is certain that they have not even an outpost five miles this side of Murfreesboro and our scouts report that the Yankees advance post is only two miles south of that place. The conjectures as to the meaning of all this are many and conflicting. I don't know enough to judge myself, but patiently await the unfolding of events.

I hope it may mean that Rosen-

cranz has fallen back, and that the demonstrations last week were intended to cover the movement. It really does appear strange that if the Yankees were at Murfreesboro, that their pickets, which had hitherto been 12 miles off, should be drawn in to two. Two armies must be very near each other that their pickets should be drawn in so close; we know that this is not the case, therefore, what is it? If other pickets (cavalry) are as far from their army as heretofore, then they must have withdrawn. But as I said before, I don't know enough to judge, therefore why should I argue on the probabilities. Therefore I will let it alone, if the enemy has retreated, you will know it before you receive this.

I was interrupted here by the Col. who wanted me to look over the tactics of "Brigade Drill" with him<sup>27</sup>, so you may thank him for cutting your letter short. \* \* \* \*

Your own dear

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XXXV

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade, W.D.R.C.A.T

Near Shelbyville, March 22d., 1863.

Yes, you shall hear from me "very soon" or as soon as the mail will convey this to my own \* \* \* - Yours of 14th. inst was received this morning, Sunday, and on Sunday my thoughts always

wander to those happy days of yore when I saw my \* \* \* certainly every Sabbath, so as I cannot be with my dearest in person I will approach her by means of my pen. As there is no news in this exceedingly dull place, I cannot do otherwise or better than answer your letter. The tornado which you wish to know whether I enjoyed or not did not do any damage but in a portion of the town, and as we were out on a little expedition to the front at the time, did not experience its intense violence. The wind and rain certainly awoke me, and as I lay listening to its beating on my tent, and thinking of the poor men who were without tents (only 1 wagon being allowed to Hd. Qrs. and none to the Regts.) I heard a tree not more than twenty feet from my tent begin to crack and finally came down with a tremendous crash. I knew the direction the tree was going to fall, which was from the tents, so I was not alarmed, but I must admit I felt some anxiety, for perhaps I might have been mistaken or perhaps the wind might "misdirect" it, or perhaps, etc., etc. – but his thoroughly awakened us. Soon the colonel called out to know if there was any water in my tent. I told him no – not dreaming of such a thing, when what was my astonishment a few moments after to find my whole tent flooded by the rain, which had come down in torrents, and the ground was too flat to drain it off sufficiently fast. I was on my

cot, my clothes were on a chair, so after making a bridge to put my boots on, I soon after dozed off. This little incident was one of the pleasures of Camp life, a little better however than riding in the rain, as I had been doing all day.

\* \* \* \*

Answer this letter as promptly as I did yours, Au revoir.

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XXXVI.

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade,

Near Shelbyville, April 3, 1863.

\* \* \* \*

Everything is very quiet out here, both parties are preparing, I suppose, for the summer campaign. The only item of interest is the capture of eight hundred of the enemy by Forrest within 9 miles of Nashville<sup>28</sup>. It is considered quite a feat to have got, as he did, so completely in the enemies rear capturing the prisoners, and then to have brought them off so successfully. Getting in the enemies rear is frequently accomplished by the daring leaders of the Cavalry of the army of Tenn, but the bringing off of the Infantry prisoners, they having to move comparatively slowly and making the circuit of the enemies forces in safety, is an act which entitle the Comdr. to much praise.

Your \*\*\*\*\*



## XXXVII.

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade W.D.P.C.A.T.  
Near Shelbyville, April 10th, 1863.

\* \* \* \*

When I left you I expected to go the Charleston and probably to have taken part in the gallant and so far successful struggle at my beloved home. Yes, the long looked for attack at Charleston has commenced and with the assistance of God we have been so far successful, and this success makes us confident of ultimate defeat to our enemies. We have dispatches up to last night. I wish that it had been our lot to have partaken in the fight. I would rather risk my life there than at any other point. \* \* \*

But if I had my choice now I would rather remain with the Army of Tenn., bonded as we are together, by common sufferings, the blood shed at Murfreesboro, than leave it and its gallant commander and go even to the defence of my home. I think, perhaps erroneously, that this is the best army of the country. Its valor has been shown at Perryville, Shiloh, and Murfreesboro, its endurance by the Kentucky campaign, and its discipline in both, admitted by all. I will always be proud to say that I was "of the Army of Tenn." I hope that the results of its future deeds of valor may be more fruitful than that of Murfreesboro, and of this army I am proud to belong to the finest Division, a gallant and ably commanded Brigade, of which I am an officer and the finest  
Reg-

iment in the Army. I rather look upon the Regt., however, as an old but absent friend, I have been separated from it for so long, and see no chance of returning to it soon. As to the Army Commander, I am one of his most ardent admirers, and I hope some day to make you agree with me. \* \* \*

Yours as ever,  
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XXXVIII.

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade,  
W.D.A.T

Near Shelbyville, April 19, 1863.

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We are all quiet here, nothing new except that they are getting the army on the same amount of transportation and camp equipage as we had last summer in Kentucky. I don't know that this means Kentucky again, but any move, except to rear, would be a change not altogether disagreeable.

\* \* \*

Your own

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## XXXIX

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade, W.D.A.T.

Fall Creek, April 25, 1863.

\* \* \*

I have not heard from you since I last wrote, but as I have a good opportunity now of writing you I could not let it pass neglected. It is assuredly a pleasant and perhaps a profitable way of spending this, the Sabbath evening. We are still out on Picket Duty as you see by the superscription and since I last wrote have spent a very pleasant time. When on outpost duty we have our Hd. Qrs. in a fine (for this country) house and have a better opportunity of providing our table. Those however are the general advantages; the special pleasure for the past week was a dinner that our mess ventured to give. Are you not surprised at a regular course dinner, in the face of the enemy, and while on outpost and still more particularly after the representations I have been making you of our fare. But in spite of all these disadvantages we really presumed to undertake the enterprise, and to crown our presumption, invited several ladies to honor us with their company. We arrived out here Monday-Tuesday and Wednesday we sent out in different directions to obtain the requisite supplies. The house was cleared out, one room for a parlor, and another arranged as a dining room, a table was put up in the

dining room, and on Thursday morning we breathlessly awaited the arrival of our guests. At last the ambulances drove up and the following ladies made their appearance, your friend, C.I.W. doing to them the honors of the house. Mrs. W., in all seven. After the necessary introductions and warming before the fire, the violin was brought in and with light fantastic toe, we amused ourselves until Dinner. About 3 P.M. the momentous hour of dinner arrived and we were marched into dinner by the violin. I give a bill of fare, Soups, Gumbo Fille, and Vegetable, - Fish, Stewed Oysters, - Boiled Fowl with white sauce, Roast Turkey, - Side dishes, Rice, biscuits and corn bread. Desert – Cake and Custard. Capt. M. our Brigade A.Q.M.<sup>29</sup> was specially charged with that part of the entertainment, and he did his part well, and exactly correct. The only trouble was that the interval between the courses was rather long for we only had one set of plates, and the changing of them occupied some time. After dinner we danced again until it was time for the ladies to leave us, which they did very early, as they had six or more miles to go home before dark. Of course ladies did not like to be out after dark when within the lines of so large an army, particularly as it was one in the immediate face of the enemy. \* \* \*

All is quiet here, the enemy show no disposition to advance upon us, while our army is not being placed in the lightest

field order. We are again cut down to the Kentucky allowance, and many expect that Kentucky will be again the theatre of our summer campaign. I would like this, for I am getting tired of staying in one place and doing nothing. If the Yankees persist in staying at Murfreesboro, I think Gens. Johnson and Bragg will feel themselves called upon to do something to get him out of the place. I do hope that the coming Summer campaign will be more successful to our arms than the last.

Hope that this will find you well,

Yours fond \* \* \*

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Headquarters Manigault's Brig. A. T.

Near Shelbyville, May 9th, 1863.

\* \* \* \*

We are still near Shelbyville, though not camped on the same ground from which so many of my letters have been written you. We are now on Lewisburg Pike, and in a very beautiful camping ground, I assure you. And as we are doing outpost duty on this road we are excused from that at Fall Creek, so we remain in the same camp all the time, instead of going out one week in every four.

I received your letter of the 28th. ult. a few days since

but the inclemency of the weather prevented my answering it as soon as I desired. I am reduce to using a "fly" for an office, and the weather changed very cold and rainy and we were obliged to build a fire near the front of the fly, and only leave it when actually called off by business. In fact from the number of persons around the fire, if I had attempted to write, I could not have succeeded, and the tent was too cold to admit of such a thing. So you'll excuse me this time, for, as soon as the weather has become more reasonable, I sit down and write you this.

We are spending a very pleasant time her now. I was at a picnic last week, one the present week, and expect "Bragg volente" et "Yankee volente" to have one in the Brigade next week and hear of another to be given the following week. You must understand that we only invite the "Secesh" ladies to these picnics. I must say that I did not enjoy myself at either of the two preceding ones as much as I expected. They were too stiff; they had too much talking and too little dancing and music. When we give ours we intend to show the quiet unsophisticated inhabitants of Shelbyville what a picnic should be – nothing but dancing and music – and we will endeavor to avoid every appearance of stiffness. \* \* \*

I see no prospect of any movement on the part of our army for some time yet. "Rosy"<sup>30</sup> is either not able or not wil-

ling to advance and we are very much in the same condition, though I must admit, more willing than able. I am very well satisfied were we are, although I am getting tired of remaining so long in one place. If we have to be stationary, Shelbyville will do very well, but to an army which has moved about as much as ours, quiet is to say the least, unnatural. Bragg will wake the enemy up yet, if they don't look out.

I am very sorry to hear that you have given up your horses, - your old friends. Never mind, we will reap a rich harvest for the privations endured during this war. \* \* \*

Your own dear \* \* \*

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Headqrs. Manigault's Brigde. A.T.

Near Shelbyville, May 17th, 1863.

\* \* \*

"From the fulness of the hear, the mouth speaketh." so, as I have not forgotten quite yet, a most delightful picnic, given by our Brigade yesterday, you must excuse me if I give you a full account of the affair.

Several of our officers, among them your most devoted, etc. etc. have attended the picnics near Shelbyville, and we cam to the conclusion, after mature deliberation, that the primitive and trans-

itory inhabitants of Shelbyville knew nothing about giving picnics, so we (flattering ourselves) determined to give them a picnic, to demonstrate the principles of "picnic giving", and more particularly to excel the Artillery, who pride themselves upon such things, among many other sources of conceit. The momentous questions having been decided, i.e. "That Manigault's Brigade should give a picnic to surpass anything of the kind during the war times in Shelbyville" preparations were made to carry out the design. Your humble servant constituted himself Chairman of the committee in general, and Capt. M.\*\*\*, our Brigade A.Q. M. was upon the same authority made Chairman of Dinner arrangements. We called in certain officer to assist us, and the whole affair of the Committee was arranged, certainly satisfactorily to ourselves, and I have reason to believe to the public generally. The Country, the town, and the Comsy. Dept. were foraged assiduously under direction of Capt. M., and a place was selected and arranged by my Committee for the picnic.

In a very pretty spot in the woods, we had a very large arbor built to cover the dancers and the most of the party, seats being arranged all around the arbor. At one end was a music stand, very prettily ornamented (so say all the ladies) with flags, arms and flowers upon a background of cedar – at the opposite end of the arbor was the word "Welcome" worked



in cedar. The ground was carefully cleared of all roots and inequalities and large tarpaulins, borrowed from the Artillery, were stretched down to dance upon. About 12 o'clock enough of the company had assembled to commence dancing, two sets being on the floor – very soon, however, the six sets were formed, some of them double, and the whole party seemed to be enjoying themselves very much. We danced until 3 P.M. when dinner was announced, and to the "Marseilles" we marched to the table, which I must say was as handsomely spread as many a one I have seen at home in peace times. We had a perfect profusion, lamb, pork, beef, oysters, bread, green corn (canned) pies, etc. etc. and cordial. Everyone got as much as they wanted, seemed very much pleased both with the appearance and real merits of the table. At 5 o'clock we resumed the dancing and continued it until dark, put an end to the day. Everyone was exceedingly pleased and expressed themselves much gratified. They say that it is the handsomest picnic that has ever been given in Shelbyville. We were fully satisfied with the results, the entertainment of the fair ladies of Shelbyville, being sufficient reward for all of our pains. \* \* \*

Everything is as quiet as possible about the enemy now, prospects of a move perhaps not quite so remote as formerly. No news of any description save the "picnic", so as I have given you that in full, I cannot have much more to give.

I send you an invitation, certainly after the feast

but as I did not expect you to come, I send it only to show that I did not forget you.

I heard a day or two ago of father's safe arrival in Nassau.

Yours own dear

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XXXXII.

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade, W.D.P.C.A.T.  
Fall Creek, June 7th, 1863.

\* \* \* \*

But the fact of the matter is that we have had a little moving of camps, to the north side of Duck River, in rear of our line of fortifications, and subsequently some little excitement in front about Murfreesboro being evacuated by the enemy. This last I have believe twice upon good ground (so thought I) and have been twice deceived, so I have determined not to believe that Murfreesboro has been evacuated until I see it myself. Last week dispatches were received from the Cavalry that the enemy were in motion in our front and apparently retiring on Nashville, so on Friday our Cavalry made a general advance supported by the infantry; but whatever they may have discovered, still they did not capture Murfreesboro – which the enemy still held in sufficient fame to prevent our taking peaceable possession. Our Infantry was within four miles

of the place. Everything has quieted down again, even the Yankees have made no endeavors to find out the meaning of our recent advance. This is all the news.

Col. M. has not received his commission yet although it is known that he has been promoted to be Brig. Genl. It is very provoking the commission was signed in Richmond more than a month ago, and nothing has been heard of it since<sup>31</sup>. \* \* \*

Yours own

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XXXXIII

Headquarters Manigault's Brigade,  
W.D..P.C.A.T.

Fall Creek, June 11, 1863.

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I send you enclosed Genl. Polk's official report of the operations before Murfreesboro, from Dec. 29th. 1862 – Jany. 4th, 1863. I send it because, 1st. I understand Bragg's report was not published in the South Carolina papers, and fear that this my not be also. 2nd. because I consider it a very good report, and giving a better description of most of the fight than Bragg's report does. It is also generally speaking impartial, although he does praise the Tennessee troops rather more than they deserve – and more than the other troops. No one ever fought harder nor met