

Jonesboro, Ga., 9 O'clock P. M.
Saturday, Sept. 3rd, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Tonight for the first time since starting, have we notice that a mail will be sent North; in fact we have Officially the news of the capture of Atlanta, and I presume communication will at once be opened. Have written you several times on the march but doubt as to the letters reaching you. I trust this may speedily, and relieve your mind from all apprehension as to my safety; for I have again passed through the ordeal in our engagement here of Sept. 1st and have come through unscathed. Not even a coat torn; the boys say it was because my old cape was to the rear with my horse, otherwise I would have had my share of bullet holes. I am however, fully satisfied to come through thus and feel thankful indeed to the Overruling Power that guides all through the battles in safety.

Since the 1st, our Div. has remained here; while the balance of the Army are pursuing and harassing the retreating columns of Rebs. Today I hear of 500 prisoners sent in from the front, and rumors of many more, which when added to the 1000 taken by our Corps on the 1st will make a very respectable squad to send North; that is, in numbers if not in appearance.

'Twould be a long letter to write you of our Campaign from Atlanta and will not attempt to do so, but will say that it has proved swift, brilliant and effective and I must say, has completely nonplussed the "Johnnies", gained their boasted citadel of Atlanta, with prisoners, guns and materials; besides whipping them on every occasion that they have shown fight.

The Army is in fine spirits and good condition, in fact much better in health since reaching the corn fields and potato patches of Ga. than while lying in the ditches of Atlanta. To my mind, all seems to have gone well, better than I had even hoped for; and now I trust a brief season of rest may be close at hand, though of this I shall be better able to write you in a few days.

We are destroying the railroads thoroughly and my opinion is, that after pursuit for a few days, we may diverge toward Atlanta for a breathing spell.

The fight of the 1st was principally by the 14th Corps and their old reputation was fully sustained; the same may be said of our Brig. and Div.; as to the Regiment, the boys did handsomely; were in reserve for two hours after the engagement began before being ordered forward and then it was to charge the enemy's works. Our Brig. lines up to that time having failed to carry them into the woods, the boys went over their abatis, carried the line, then swung across it and cleared it for the whole Brigade front; capturing about 100 prisoners. The work was complete and well done, but the 4th Corps failing to advance on our Left leaving our flank vul-

ly open to the enemy, and here we suffered considerably. Still, held the lines until I found the Left were not advancing, when I withdrew; but the work was accomplished and all that was wanting, was for the 4th Corps to have advanced and we would have made the brightest thing of the War, as it would have thrown both our Corps directly onto the rear of the Rebel Army, while the Army of the Tenn. engaged them in front.

Our losses were, 37 killed, wounded and missing: (8 killed, 28 wounded, 1 missing). Maj. Carter received a slight flesh wound in thigh and is doing well. Capt. Jenkins, I fear mortally wounded; and Capt. Perry, very dangerously. Lt. Osborn, killed: a heavy loss of Officers indeed, for us, but unavoidable.

Chaplain Carson has sent a list of casualties to his wife, which will be furnished for publication.

Have had no mails from home yet; nothing from you since Aug. 10th, so you can imagine that I am somewhat anxious; yet my dear, I feel and hope that you are well and thus keep up good spirits; no blues allowed, do you likewise.

Carpenter is yet with me, particularly good natured tonight from the influence of a supply of "Commissary".

Regards to Geo., Col., wife and friends. Love to all at home and to our boy, a kiss.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

Atlanta, Ga.,

9 O'clock, P. M. Sept. 8th, 1864.

My Dear Wire:

Sleepy, tired and wanting rest, shall be my excuse for a brief letter to you this evening. But with a chance of starting one North by the morning mail, I cannot refrain from telling you of my whereabouts and of my being well.

In Atlanta at last; now were you at Corydon 'twould be your time to laugh at the old gentleman and his "Enquirer". How we succeeded in gaining it and with what brilliant success, you have doubtless heard all, at least all of what was done here and what captured here. For my part, I am "just in from the country", have not had the papers nir time to look around and can consequently give you but few, if any items. At any rate I shall defer for a while.

I wrote you several times on the campaign and twice since the engagement at Jonesboro on the 1st, giving a brief statement of the part taken by the old Command. I also sent on the 3rd a telegram by an Officer, to be sent from here, and which I trust has reached you long since and that you are now resting quiet with the full understanding of my safety. For which, let us give thanks to him who watches over us in the hours of trial and peril.

How rejoiced we are at the closing of the campaign and of its glorious triumph! Now we have returned to enjoy for a brief period that season of rest so much needed by all. Our Corps has come to Atlanta and gone into camp; the other Corps are in the vicinity and reorganization and rest will be the order of the day.

I trust that ere another campaign begins I shall be able to join you at home; to this I have fully made up my mind, as soon as it can be done without injury to the Command or to the Service. The matter of reconstruction may take a month or more, but rest assured my dear, that I fully realize that I have some duties that should call me home and that must not be overlooked; unless indeed, the country should need its every man for the struggle for existence, then I know you would sacrifice your feelings for your country's sake. But this, I do not anticipate, and consequently look forward with every hope of joining you this Fall.

Have but just returned at dark from our Div. Hospital; Maj. Carter is getting along nicely and well; Capts. Jenkins and Perry are both quite low and their cases in very much doubt, two noble and gallant men as the Army possessed. Our boys with one or two exceptions are all doing and getting well. Have not heard from or of Charlie Fowler since he was sent to the rear.

We are encamped nicely and are fixing up a permanent camp just on the edge of the city. But of this I will have more to tell again.

Received two letters from you while we lay at Jonesboro, one of the 18th, the other of the 23th; was real glad I assure you to get them; 'twas the first news for a long time and just then and there, particularly grateful. I look for more soon, although the Rebs seem just now to have cut our communications. But I think a few days will straighten up affairs; they were rather late with their raid to annoy us much if any.

In falling back from south of Jonesboro, the Rebs gave us but little trouble, in fact, followed only with Cavalry and that at a respectful distance. We brought in everything and at the same time the country was stripped of forage the entire route, indeed everything was done up in the most approved style.

How anxious I am to see you and Frank, you may guess, I sha'n't attempt to tell you, but you can imagine by your own feelings.

I trust all may come as I wish and desire; if so, I shall think I have not lived nor soldiered for our good old Flag in vain.

My love to all at home, to yourself and Frank, kisses, plenty.

Your devoted husband,
Lt. Col. Dan.

Atlanta, Ga.,

9 P. M. Sept. 10th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Again cut off temporarily from communications North, I presume my letters to you are lying by awaiting transportation while you anxiously look for their coming, even as I do for those I anticipate by the first arrival which by the way, report says we may look for with hope tomorrow. I wrote you of having received yours of Aug. 28th, after your arrival at home and since all were then well I expect the same good feeling yet prevails. Expect your anxiety of mind has ere this been fully relieved by knowing the result of our campaign with all its glorious results and that you can contemplate us now in camp on the hills of this glorious city with no enemy in the front; no nightly orders of march for tomorrow; no whistling of bullets, nor screeching of shells; in short, nothing in common with our late four months' experience. We lie down to sleep and dream and know that breakfast may be taken after sunrise rather than before daylight: a happy change indeed to have come over the spirit of our dreams and one I trust may not be broken for some weeks to come.

We have a good camp but the Div. being somewhat crowded, our Brig. will move tomorrow morning a few hundred yds. which will give us a pleasant camp, good ground, good water, a fine climate; in short, everything to make us happy and serve to recuperate our strength except that we are yet away from home and those we love. For this I could gladly give up all and trust to be able to do so as soon as I can fully reorganize the Regiment, place it in good hands and succeed in convincing Gen'l. Thomas that 'tis best that it should be so. Of one thing my dear, rest assured I shall join you at home just as soon as possible consistent with honor and the duties I owe to these brave boys.

One week from today the non-veterans will be mustered out, the Chaplain the only Officer who will be mustered out with them; and perhaps a few of those who behaved badly on the 1st, who seemed to have made up their minds that they would go into no more fights, but cowardly let their comrades do it all, take all the danger and suffer all the results. To these, few though they are, the going out of the Service will be attended with but little honor, I opine; at any rate, a Court Martial will have their cases to investigate. 'Tis too bad to have thus placed a blot on their character at this, the eleventh hour of their service.

Today Col. Babbitt called on me; his regiment is near East Point on the R. R. Together we rode to the City through heat and dust; looked around at the streets crowded with army wagons, mules, soldiers, etc, etc; noted the many holes punched into the houses by

our shell, and the anxious faces of the remaining inhabitants who know not what to look for next, nor where they are to get their bread for the next week without going North or South to look for it, an opportunity for which, I understand Gen'l. Sherman has kindly granted them. Such are the fruits of Rebellion, and such it may be only due for traitors to receive; and yet how many of the really innocent have to suffer therefor. 'Tis truly hard to think of, and yet harder to look upon and I pray the minds of the people North may be so enlightened as to keep them from any such madness as interanl strife.

Col. B. is well, his Regiment doing well and suffered but little on the late campaign. I have already written you as to our campaign and engagement at Jonesboro, the details and results of which you have doubtless had by the papers, of our charge on the enemy's lines, the taking of the same, with accompanying losses, &c.

Maj. Carter is doing well and improving rapidly as possible. But I have many fears as to the cases of Capts. Jenkins and Perry, poor fellows, brave to a fault almost; they are suffering much and I think, gradually sinking.

Am expecting by the next mail, letters from you and George, perhaps sister Maggie and Eliza and much news; likewise one from Master Frank. I fear the boy is forgetting his paternal friend and shall have to take him to task for it. Likewise we are much in the dark as to political movements; in fact you can hardly imagine how much one loses of general interest in being deprived of papers and the mail for a week. I trust this may prove the last interruption for some time to come.

We have reports that John Morgan has done his last fighting and that the enemy has been driven from the roads; and now that a quietus has been placed on Hood for a while, more attention can be given to keeping them open.

Weather is beautiful, nights calm, cool and moonlight, in fact just such as I should enjoy were I home with you. But the night wears rapidly away, all around me have retired and I must follow, that I may dream of my little wife, Frank and home.

How is Gen'l. Gresham getting along? How all friends at home and abroad?

Robert has not yet joined us; expect he has been cut off by the raid on the R. R. and yet he should have been here before that occurred. Shall look for him by first through train.

Love to all at home: to yourself and our boy.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Atlanta, Ga.,

9 P. M. Sept. 13th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

This morning's mail brought me yours of the 7th, the latest news from home in the camp. Once more we breathe freer under the conviction that while enjoying our season of rest, we can hear from the dear ones at home with regularity; and likewise have the papers to learn of the progress of events North, toward the breaking up of the rebellion, the reelection of Lincoln, progress of the draft, which by the way, we have heard but little of recently, the price of gold, &c, &c: but above all to me, I hear often from Mollie and Frank; the pleasure of seeing them being denied me I can only find consolation in your letters.

Resignations from our Officers begin to come in, and if successful which a few days or weeks will show, will leave a good many vacancies to be filled. Meantime I am looking forward with hope to the time when I can without injustice to the Command, do likewise. I shall advise you of any action looking to this point, but cannot say 'twill be within the present month. But I know you are too good a soldier and too much a lover of the good old Flag to ask a hurried action in the case.

We are now in the midst of work; Report after Report being called for and the end of the month will scarcely see us through.

This week the few non-veterans who are with us will be mustered out, to go on their way North rejoicing; our Chaplain the only Officer to go in the same way, he having received no promotion in the three years. He is a candidate for a Post Chaplaincy and would like to preach in your little city, no doubt. After all he has made a good, faithful and generally efficient Army Chaplain, better than the most of them, by far.

We are very pleasantly situated in a nice, clean camp, a grassy pine woods, open, with just shade enough for comfort these hot afternoons. Our nights are clear, moonlight but very cool, rendering not only two blankets, but the addition of my big overcoat, necessary for comfort. We are about two miles from the center of the city and since the roads are quite dusty, the streets, houses and inhabitants rather seedy and dilapidated, there is little inducement to visit in that direction frequently. In fact nothing but occasional visits to the Hospital which is located on the other side of the city, causes a visit to it.

While speaking of hospitals, I will say that our jovial Major is getting along very nicely and both Capts. Jenkins and Perry, in my opinion, are much better than when I last wrote you; in fact hopes are now entertained of the recovery of both, which I trust may prove not without good foundation.

Was real glad to know you had received my Telegram in good time, perhaps almost as early as you had the news of the engagement by the 14th Corps: was fortunate in getting it through. Now you have doubtless, my letter giving details of the engagement at Jonesboro, previous movements while on the Grand Raid, and subsequent trip to Atlanta; and now that you know we are having a time for rest, you too can live at ease of mind, for which I am truly thankful and trust you may have no more cause for fears ere I am able to join you at home.

So you have started Master Frank on his crawling expeditions around the floor; I can hardly imagine him at that, I know I should not recognize him should I run across him; do you think I would?

But for the evening I must close, with regards to Col. S. & his message so firmly impressed upon you, came duly to hand.

My love to all home folks; to Tillie and regards to Gen'l. G. I can imagine how he chafes to think of having been deprived of a participation in the entire Campaign, into which he entered with so much hope, zeal and confidence of success. But better thus than worse, as has been the lot of many a poor, brave man.

Have no doubt you feel much at ease from under the harplings of my worthy old friend, Mr. McG. and his visitors a la Huggins, etc. I can imagine your feelings and yet can hardly think him a bad man; rather would I attribute it to perverseness, sourness at the world and a determination to stick to first ideas. Poor Grandma, I can imagine her troubles with all the warmth of heart and goodness of her nature, wrapped up in the good cause for which her boys are fighting.

But of all this, we will talk again; for the present, good night with kisses to yourself and Frank.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

Have forgotten heretofore to acknowledge the receipt of many postage stamps; how did you know that I was out?

Dan.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 17th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Having just completed a letter to a young lady (11 o'clock P. M.), "Ike", our little Lt. and Acting Adj. thinks I had better by far divert my attention to home and leave him to the performance of the official duties; however, having had some experience a few years since, I thought myself amply able for the task, which I trust may repay the few moments given in the carrying of good news to an anxious heart. 'Twas in reply to a communication from Dayton, Ohio, asking as to the fate of Capt. Perry of the Regiments; no news but the newspaper reports of a mortal wound had reached his friend and I have been able to tell her of the Capt's improvement, for although I yet have many fears as to the result, yet he is much better and the Surgeons now entertain hopes of his recovery.

Capt. Jenkins they seem to think, failing still and have but little if any hopes for him. Major C. is doing very well; all the other boys the same.

Had a letter from George today, the latest from home. He tells me of you and Frank being well and pays a handsome compliment to your "sweetest of children". How much I do wish I could be with you, imagine by your own feelings; but we are not blue, that is out of the question; hopeful, cheerful and happy as possible is my motto under all circumstances.

Today our Non Veterans were mustered out; our beloved Chaplain and 47 men; they will start North tomorrow or next day.

Tonight we had the first political gathering of the season, had a good speech from Lt. Dewey and Chaplain Carson; passed patriotic resolutions; voted unanimously for Morton for Gov. and nearly so for Abraham Lincoln for President, 225 against 25. You will doubtless soon see the proceedings published; in fact we had a rousing good meeting, good feelings, &c.

Have no news to tell you of a local character; our mails seem to have been stopped for some days, but today brought a small one through. A truce exists on the Front until the 22nd, for the exchange of some Officers and the transmission through our lines, of the chivalry who remained in the city. They go now in search of Rights and Liberty by the way of Rough and Ready, to the latter point in Government wagons and ambulances.

As soon as time will permit, I expect to take a short ride around the fortifications before which we spent so many days, and will give you a sketch of what may be seen. How comes on the Draft what is now being done?

But the wee, wee hours draw nigh and I must to bed to dream of home, my wife and our boy. Love to all, kiss the boy, and much love to you.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 18th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you last evening, forwarding by mail, not anticipating that our Chaplain would get started this morning. But we have now the Order for transportation, the train being made up and in half an hour they will be on their way rejoicing; Chaplain and 47 men, the Non Veterans present.

Have no news to tell you further than continued good health with plenty of Office work to attend to, to keep from getting the blues. Cannot say when I hope to be with you, as the actions on resignations come in but slowly. Van Dusen's returned last evening not accepted. Have heard from none others. But I think many or most of those sent up, will go through.

Last evening had a "Big Meeting" at the Regiment and after speeches, resolutions etc, being through with, took a vote on the candidates: Moxoth, unanimous, 258: McDonald ---: Lincoln, 225: Mcgellan, 25: declining to vote, 8. A good record for a southern Indiana regiment, don't you think so? Wish we could be at home to verify it at the Ballot Box.

No Army movements to report, none in progress.

Major Carter still improving; Capts. Jenkins and Perry quite low, but the latter I think better, with hopes of recovery.

But 'tis near train time and I must close with much. Keep up your good spirits for I have not given up my determination to be with you early as possible. I only wait the time when it can be done with justice to all.

Kiss Frank for me; to yourself much love.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

Favor of Rev. L. E. Carson.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 20th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Your letter of the 14th with much news from home, is at hand; a welcome visitor to the camp or to this portion of it represented by "your most obdt." Am sorry so many "ifs" seemed to stand in your path when thinking of the Corydon Fair and wish I could have been there to have removed them, even to the taking care of your boy, who of all others requires so much. Guess were I to undertake it you would find him in the grass, rolling in the style he might fancy best; but after I think I would prove a better nurse than that and would look to his interests as well as the circumstances would admit. But not being there, I will not indulge in these possibilities and yet regret that you could not have enjoyed the time; I will not say the trip when I think of the roads, dusty and hot. Guess George will enjoy the trip and Sister too, should she go down; while I know that Doc with his many "store clothes" on pants well strapped down, hat jauntily placed on the head, while he gallops along the parade ground, on your handsome little horse thinking that perhaps the eyes he most thinks of, are upon him, will enjoy it as the very cream of a very good time. Tom too, with his jokes and odd sayings and sense of the ludicrous, will have his own fun; while Dan, if he can only stride the pony, will be the happiest of them all. Sis with her family cares, will think of home, dinner and a thousand other things that will certainly want her attention (only they will not); and thus will pass the days in Harrison: would that I could have anticipated your wish of having me to accompany you, but the time has not yet come.

Poor Frank, how does he stand so many "falls out of bed", you had better adopt our plan when we have to bivouac on a hillside; lay a good size fence rail on the lower side; it is a cheap and effective remedy to rolling down hill and I think would act like a charm. I cannot realize that he has grown so much and now able to roll around the floor, climb up by chairs, etc; I cannot think of him other than when I left you, and though the time has been long, I cannot fully realize the change that would take place in a single campaign.

But while on the subject of time, I am reminded that this is my birthday, or rather the anniversary thereof, and I begin to count in the thirties. I can hardly believe it and yet it must be so. Mine enemies and friends have today dispensed with the usual display of gunpowder-burning on my account, and really I am glad of it and shall I have no doubt, rest better tonight than I did one or two years ago, yes I might add the third, also. Then I was paying my last visits for a time to my little sweetheart (you have heard of her,) with all the uncertainties of a soldiers' life before me. A year later, and I lay in the line of battle with the hosts of

Buell on the plains below Munfordsville, while the gallant little garrison was being surrounded and taken; hands tied, either through fear, incompetency or treason. A year later, and the busy, stirring scenes of that eventful day of Chickamauga, crown upon me; the night with its marches and counter-marches, are yet vivid in my imagination, with wondering anxiety for the coming day, not of fear, for though badly shattered all seemed to feel equal to any occasion that might arise; and well did they hold to the resolutions then formed, Chattanooga remained ours; and thus the possession of the south bank of the Tenn. was for the first time firmly secured. But here another year finds us, not on the banks of the Tenn., not clambering the steeps of Tenn. or Ala. mountain slopes; but away down in what used to be Dixie, and here fixed to remain, feeling a thousand times more secure than we did at Chattanooga. Here in the heart of the very Confederacy and yet we find in the North, those who tell us this Administration and this Army have done nothing, the Rebellion cannot be crushed, etc, etc. What a rejoinder is this, the holding of the Georgia "Gate City", to the treasonable twang.

In my opinion, the Rebellion can be crushed and nothing remains but the prompt filling of the Armies, a hearty support of the Administration and all will be well. Fill this Army again as when it started in May last, and I verily believe if it was deemed best, Gen'l. Sherman would lead it to the Atlantic coast. Thus far it has moved with all the steady power of a tremendous avalanche, sweeping all opposition from its path. These people, though so thoroughly American as to almost require annihilation before submission, yet can be conquered; let them but feel this, and they will soon only be too glad to accept the proffered terms and soon again be of the old Union; a better perhaps, and certainly, a wiser people.

But I have wandered far from my home thoughts and tonight they crowd upon me fast and the more I think of them, the more I feel that at least a portion of my time should now be given to you, and I hope for the day when this may be realized: from the school of patience we have both had much experience and I can but hope tonight that the realization of our wishes may soon be attained, and that until such time arrives, the same Kind and Almighty Power that has thus far guided and protected us, will still exercise over us the same goodly care and protection.

I regret to hear of Gen'l. Gresham's wound proving of so troublesome a character; but trust all will yet be well. Do not allow Tillie to become discouraged; after all, two months is but a short time for the adhesion of a shattered limb. I fear the General's impatience to be out, will work against him; better by far, be cool, allowing politics and the Army to fight their own battles. Remember me to him; also love to Tillie.

Col. S. also seems to be suffering much and I fear too, frets under the restraint of an enfeebled constitution: the Service has about worn the Col. out and he wants rest not only in body but in mind as well, and the latter I fear he will hardly allow himself during the progress of the War. My regards to him and wife.

Your mother and the little folks at home, I take it are doing well, though you failed to tell me so; and your father, does he yet visit occasionally the "Rock City" away up North?

Our wounded are still doing well; Major is fast getting fat under his treatment and good humor; Capt. Perry, still improving slowly; but for Capt. Jenkins, we cannot yet entertain high hopes.

A few days ago I visited the position of the Rebel works that fronted our late position north of the city, and the defenses were stronger even than I had imagined them; fort after fort crowned every hilltop, garrisoned by strong Infantry works, while in front of all was a net work of "chevaux-de-frise" and abatis that of themselves would have delayed a column, even to its entire destruction. Truly, the long way round proved the safest for us, in time, men and material.

This afternoon has been damp with indications of rain and to night it has settled down upon us and is now falling gently, but just in such a manner as might indicate a continuance for all night. But we have a good, clean, sodded camp and shall experience but little difficulty here on the score of mud, though our red clay roads will soon be cut to the bottom, if not below. No turnpikes in this country; have not seen one south of Shelbyville, Tenn.; nor does the city of Atlanta, with all its fine houses, commodious gardens, etc., etc, afford scarcely any sidewalks; not even a single board and I should really pity the young man who had much traveling to do dark nights through the city in bad weather.

I guess you will soon have a call from our good-natured, good humored Chaplain who will tell you much of the news that I omit and tell it in his peculiar, happy style, generally interesting and correct.

Robert has not yet made his appearance, nor has he reported since going to Nashville; he will certainly get himself into much trouble and I begin to fear he may have taken again to spreeing. Have you heard aught of him? Did he send you the money as I wrote you he would, \$200.00? I have official Notice of his having been paid over \$700.00 and today I have heard some reports of his having had a large amount stolen from him at Nashville. Everything is in a cloud to me; I cannot account for his not reporting; am compelled now to report him absent without leave; and his case may assume a very bad form for him. I yet have hopes that he may be true to principles of manhood and return with a clear record. Has your father seen him recently? Should he do so, ask him to start him to

the command by all means; else a dismissal will be certain, if it is not too late now.

But for the night I must close, hoping that all with you are well.

With much love, I am

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vols.

Morning of the 21st: All well and no news for you today.

Dan.

Atlanta, Ga., P. M. Sept. 24th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Almost time for Dress Parade and our friend Capt. Leonard going to start in a few minutes northward, (now citizen Leonard). I can scarcely more than tell you all well, say "howdy," kiss our boy &c. Had a letter from George today of the 18th, giving much home news from the city and country; Nora's friends and others all highly entertaining and gladly received.

Nothing new in the way of Army news, further than an Order stating the long looked for Pay-masters were about to come down upon us; the sooner the better, say all here.

Have not yet heard from Robert; am fearful his case will be a hard one, but will not anticipate until I hear from him and learn excuses.

Dr. Curry's papers were returned not accepted; but he is determined and today renews them more strongly than ever.

Mitchell takes the Disability dodge (bad lungs, very) and will doubtless go through, which for, as in my opinion, the Regiment will be as well off without him as Surgeon.

But there goes the "Assembly"; I must put on my sash, your nice gloves, brush my hair and to Parade.

All well; expect to hear from you tomorrow.

Major, Capts. Perry and Jenkins doing better than we had expected.

With much love,

I am in haste, yours,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Favor of Capt. Leonard.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 28th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

By the last mail came yours of the 18th with the good news of all being well.

Your thoughtfulness in looking to the wants of Gen'l. G. or rather to the wants of his appetite as a sick man, is only on a par with your usual good feelings and kindness, in fact the thoughtfulness of a good little wife as you are. Am glad to know the Gen'l. is again improving; your previous letter had somewhat discouraged me: but I trust patience (tell him patience,) and good care will bring him around in good time and well; no fretting and perhaps personal attention to the "prayers he supposed me offering for you and him" would not prove an injury. I was down in his Div. on Sabbath last, dined with Lt. Col. Babbitt, who like me, being without a Chaplain present, was compelled to put in the day in Quarters. Found everything in good condition, comfortable camps, the men well quartered and in fact, living comfortably. Col. B. seems to be getting along swimmingly so far as observation showed. Had quite a pleasant half day talking over old and new times, Babbitt being in one of his happiest veins. He yet knows how to swear a little, a habit doubtless contracted in the swamps of Mississippi, and the influence of Gen'l. Howard seems not to have reached his benighted mind. Babbitt calls the Gen'l. "our tract dispenser". But with all this, Gen'l. H. is a most able man and excellent Commander.

Affairs seem to be moving along here evenly, though we have reports every few days of some R. R. troubles, but of so indefinite a nature that we never know when to, or what to, believe of them.

Our Regular Brig. (2nd) started today for Chattanooga, to go I believe on garrison duty for a while, preparatory to filling up, organizing, drilling, etc. This leaves our Div. at this time very small; but I believe the 2nd Brig. is to relieve two Mich. Regiments that are to come here to replace them.

But few changes here to report since I wrote you last, which was by Capt. Leonard who had just resigned; since then Capt. Davis' papers have been accepted (Co. C). Also Lt. Proctor's, Co. I. Curry's, Mitchell's and Lt. Newman's yet to hear from. As to my own, my dear, I have not yet decided upon the time to forward: I am very anxious to get the new Officers commissioned and the Command in good shape as possible ere I do anything; and the wounding of Maj. Carter and both senior Capt's. leaves me in rather a bad predicament, for should the Major resign, (as he will doubtless) it would be hard and unfair to appoint any one over these two good and brave fellows who are entitled to it, without they should voluntarily withdraw. Have not had the subject under consideration yet,

both cases heretofore seeming to hang as it were, between life and death; but now both are improving and of Perry there are strong hopes, and of Jenkins, some hopes are now entertained. My own opinion is, that both are improving, but I think neither will ever be fit for Field Service again. You see I am rather delicately situated and have some doubts if Genl. Thomas would let me go unless I had a Field Officer to remain. But I will not now speculate on probabilities, but dismiss the subject by saying that I have given up none of my hopes of being with you this Fall and shall act accordingly when I think the opportune time has arrived. What say you my dear, am I not right? Give me your ideas, views and wishes

George wrote me that he had mentioned to his father, my name in connection with the reopening of the Ohio Insurance Office and that it was received favorably; but that nothing would be done until after the elections. I think such a position, if it could be secured, would suit me well; 'twould at least give me the pleasures of a home, something to me very desirable, after my years of running about.

Am real sorry I was not at home to take you to the Harrison Fair. George wrote me of how good a time he had and how very pleasantly the time was passed. Doc has not yet favored me with his description of it, but no doubt that he will have it in glowing colors when it does come, if ever. Sister Eliza too, I think might have given me a good history of events. I don't want all the small particulars, such as what might or what might not have been said moonlight nights, quiet afternoons and other odd times; but you know, tell me of the crops, weather, kind of timber, growth of wool, good looking young men and horrid bonnets etc, etc, ad libitum.

Hope Frank may not be so unfortunate as to get the whooping cough, he ought to know better. I can imagine him sitting in the big chair as per your description; but must certainly come home to see him before I can thoroughly realize it is he.

Received a Weekly Ledger a few days ago, giving a detailed account of the Big Demonstration; but I rather think the taking of Atlanta, and clean whipping Sheridan has just given the Rebs in the Valley, will cause them unterrified to hang low their heads. If they do not lose their claims on Richmond ere the elections, they will have done well. Was somewhat surprised to see that Col. Sanderson occupied the Chair; I cannot well see how he can reconcile McClellan's position with the success of the cause he has been fighting for the past three years. Old party ties, I presume and the pressure brought to bear, for these men do love to have a returned soldier arrayed on their side.

We had hoped that some or most of Indiana's soldiers might get home to vote; but perhaps we can make more by doing duty in the field. I certainly think the prospects are daily brightening and

unless unlooked for reverses should fall upon us, think the day is already won.

Have not yet heard of our long lost Paymasters, begin to think they are amongst the beings of a past though not forgotten age. Orders some days since announced that they would soon be here, perhaps even yet they may, very likely don't like to risk the Iron Chests by rail while so many guerrillas are hovering around.

Guess Robert did not send you the \$200.00 as promised he would, as I have not heard of its being done. I have not yet heard from him. I believe I wrote you of the reports that have reached me of his having been robbed of \$500.00 and his watch while on a spree. Poor fellow, I cannot but pity him and cannot see how I am to assist him in any way: he has not even reported in writing to me since departure; unless he does so soon, an arrest or dismissal must surely take place, perhaps both. I have written George to know if he got the blank Pay Accounts from Robert, that I had signed and given to him (Rob't.) to draw pay for me. I got the idea somewhere that George had got them from him and I hope he has; for I should dislike to have that temptation open before him, with my request in his possession, to pay the same to him. If he has marked out a course for himself so dishonorable as to seek dismissal from the Service: I expect to hear from or of him in a few days: it will be a severe blow to his friends and relations at home, and one that should have been averted.

I have been doing Court Martial duty for the past week; for the first time in the Service, having always escaped the details for Court. Expect to finish our only case tomorrow, that of a Regular Officer for drunkenness. Capt. Jim Low has been temporarily in Command of the Regiment during the trial.

Your friends all well and this particular friend anxious as ever to hear from you often. You speak sometimes of not being well of late, I trust such spells may not occur often if at all. Meantime think of me as your devoted husband who is anxiously awaiting the time when he can be with you at home.

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col.

F

Atlanta, Ga., October 2nd, 1864.

My dear Wife:

Have not written you for some days from the fact that an embargo seems to be placed on the transmission of mails. Doubtless some worthless mail contractor has got mad and torn up the R.R. track or hired the guerrillas to do so; at any rate we have had no news for many days, and I anticipate you are having the same unsatisfactory state of affairs. Reports to-day are, that a mail is looked for to-morrow and a hope of starting one north; if it goes through, you will certainly hear of it, as I shall have a place selected to forward this. We are in ignorance here to a great extent, of what may be going on in the rear and look for the late papers with much anxiety.

Telegraphic communication has been open most of the time, and is now and we are favored in the city with the important dispatches on the Bulletin Board; which Board by the way, is a great institution and daily visited by thousands. Through it we have been advised of Sheridan's brilliant movements in the Valley and of Ord's and Birney's advance in the direction of Richmond; which advance I look upon as a division in favor of Sheridan, if not also in favor of a grand advance south of the James river by Grant in person. A heavy blow in that direction would be a fitting end to the many victories of the Summer months.

We are yet lying in our old position, doing but little duty. Some troops have gone in directions northwest, doubtless to look after our communications; and I hear to-day that Kilpatrick has gone out to look after Mr. Hardec's movements, who is reported in the vicinity of the Chattahooche, some distance below here. But I rather think the Army here is able to take care of itself, its communications and doubtless more.

I see no indications of a move here and in fact, I can not say that I fancy one just now, preferring to remain here for a time, to reorganize the old Command. I dont know what I wrote you of the changes, but Captain Davis, Co. C. Captain Leonard, Co. I, Lt. Proctor, Co. I and Lt. Newman, Co. M., are no longer officers with me. Dr. Curry's second application has been returned, "not accepted"; he is going to try again. Dr. Mitchell's has not been returned, I think it will be accepted. This, together with the fact of not having received any Commissions from Indianapolis to fill vacancies, is making us short of Officers. I wish this matter could be hurried up in some way. But as our Chaplain was to have gone to Indianapolis, perhaps the Commissions may be on the way in the delayed mails.

Major Carter, Captains Perry and Jenkins are all doing well, and have each forwarded an application for leave of absence. The two last, though much better, will not be able to move, or be moved, for some weeks, (in my opinion). Our sick and wounded that are able to travel are to be sent north by first hospital train.

Guess they have given up the hope of having the soldiers home to vote; I expect there will be a sufficient number on the right side without us and if so, the most good can be done here.

Guess they have given up the hope of having the soldiers home to vote; I expect there will be a sufficient number on the right side without us and if so, the most good can be done here.

I can not yet see my way to you clearly but have hopes than an opportunity may yet occur, so that I can be with you permanently this Fall.

Have not yet heard of our lost Pay Masters, guess the R.R. embargo has stopped them in their southern journeyings, much to our sorrow. But even in money matters, there is doubtless a good time coming. Now that gold is going down, our soldiers go up in proportion and we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are getting much more for our services than had we been paid a month since; but even this view of affairs is cold comfort.

Have not yet heard a word from Robert and you will see by my last letters, that I have become a little uneasy about the receipted Pay Accounts I gave him. But if George got my letter on the subject, I presume it is all well now: I have hopes that George got the Accounts from him; I cannot now force myself to believe that Bob would prove so dishonest as to use them; but his conduct has been so inexcusable toward the Government, that I dislike to have the temptation before him. Expect I shall hear from, or of him, by the first Nashville mails,

To-day I have passed in not a very religious manner, all the forenoon somewhat busy and this afternoon, spent with the Maj. and the Cpts. at Hospital. No Chaplain to preach to us and no very favorable chances of finding one elsewhere; though I remember now, I did hear two Church calls during the day.

Expect you got anxious because of the interruptions in the rear, but do not fear but this Army is amply able to take care of itself and communications. Wish I could hear from you to-night to know how you and Frank are getting along; nicely, I hope. As for myself, usual good health seems to attend me at all times.

Hoping to hear from you very soon; with love to all at home; to yourself and Frank, a kiss or many of them, I am,

Every your Devoted Husband,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Lt.Col.38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

In the Field, near Marietta, Ga. D
October 8th, 1864.

My dear Wife:

No direct communication yet with the North, much to our Chagrin and doubtless much to your discomfort at not hearing from this section of country. I wrote you last on the 3rd, from Atlanta, but expect that, as well as all other letters for some weeks past, are lying somewhere on the route. Have heard nothing later from you than of date September 18th and am very anxious to hear further now. But since all here is well, I will think the same of you and be content as possible under the deprivation of hearing from you.

Papers have doubtless kept you advised of the movements of the enemy; the Copperhead papers no doubt coloring everything highly and against us, hoping thereby to carry the elections, but I anticipate that you are now enlightened to the contrary and have the satisfaction of knowing that the Rebs as well as the Copperheads are again defeated in their design. The first, defeated in their object of possessing firmly the R.R. and forcing us from Atlanta, the latter, I trust to be defeated on Tuesday next, in their scheme in which the Rebs have so large an interest, the carrying of the elections.

The enemy have made one of their boldest moves but I think are now checkmated. Their crossing north of the Chattahooche was known to General Sherman, who I rather think, desired they should place themselves in such position as would enable him to strike. Their operations in Tennessee rather operated against us here in delays and though I have not heard from that region lately, have every confidence in affairs being all right, General Thomas having gone in that direction some two weeks since, and some of our troops the same.

Our movement commenced on the 3rd from Atlanta, crossing the river that night and bivouacing near Kenesaw Mt. the night of the 5th. On the morning of the 6th moved to our present position, midway between Kenesaw and Lost Mountains and still remain; dont know when we shall move again or in what direction.

Enemy struck the R.R. at Big Shanty, on the 4th and succeeded in partially destroying the track for twelve miles. On the 5th made an assault on Allatoona Pass and were handsomely whipped for their trouble. On the 5th their line extended from Acworth to Lost Mountain and thence toward the river, south; but on the 6th they hastily abandoned this line, a reconnaissance from our Corps going to the top of Lost Mountain. They also abandoned the R.R. which will be repaired in about three days. This will again give us through communication, unless they have done mischief north of Allatoona that I have not heard of.

2 D

Yesterday our Cavalry started from here southwest, also a Brigade from the 3rd Div. Eight miles southwest they found the enemy and brought in last night, a Rebel Brig. Gen'l. Col. and some privates. The Cavalry are still out, so you see just here we are quiet though en bivouac, only awaiting events.

Meantime, force enough was left at Atlanta to take care of our interests there; and I think the grand raid of Mr. Hood will fail of its expected results.

Some of these prisoners taken have nothing in their haversacks but sugar cane and nubbins of corn, such as they can pick up in the country; and that is very scarce indeed. Our boys meantime, are enjoying full rations of coffee, sugar, bread, bacon and beef. Altogether from what I can gather, I look upon the position as very favorable and only wish for news from home and newspapers to know how affairs are going in the East and in the States where elections are to be held.

Lt. Col. Vail's Command, I found encamped here on the 6th and our Regiment camped along side of them. Took supper with the Col. He is looking well and in good spirits.

Started out yesterday with the Cavalry Command, the 3rd, 4th and 5th. Had heavy rains, making the roads almost impassable for teams and which will, I think, prevent our pursuing the enemy with vigor, if not prevent it altogether.

This morning, 'tis clear and cool, the sun shining brightly and everything looking pleasant. I trust that we may have no further trouble soon, that a few days more may place us in camp somewhere with communications open, so that I may prosecute my design of trying to join you for good. This idea I have not yet abandoned, nor do I think I shall very soon.

Should communications be again interrupted, be not discouraged thereat, nor at the Copperhead reports, for believe me, their interests and those of the Rebs are identical. The main object of both to carry the elections, in which I believe they will signally fail.

Love to all at home, kiss our boy for me. Regards to Col., George and friends.

Your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

In the field, near Acworth, Ga.
October 10, 1864.

My dear Wife:

No communications yet, that I can hear of, with you, but an Orderly going to Acworth--three miles distant--will take this and try and forward by some person going up, if he can find such individual. I trust he may, for doubtless you are troubled considerably at continued interruption, while we really are bivouac-ing in the woods without an enemy that I can hear of, within 60 miles of us.

I wrote you on the 4th from near Marietta, sending by some of our mustered out boys and trust it will reach you in safety. On the 5th we moved from near Marietta and are now west of Acworth, apparently taking care of this portion of our line while the repairs to the road are going on. Enemy left this region hurriedly, after their thrashing at Allatoona and as we begin to press in upon them from the rear, they striking in the direction of Ala.

No news from the north for sometime and do not exactly understand the position of affairs on the route. I believe the Rebs are making a desperate effort to force us back from this country by flanking and cutting our lines; but think they will not only fail, but they will be thrashed for their pains, if not very careful. We have ample supplies for rations for 60 days, and more coming.

Think this movement a desperate attempt at electioneering, but expect to hear such reports of the elections from the North, as will take away this, their last remaining hope of success.

Be not alarmed at not hearing from me; for this Army is yet strong and vigorous, the weather good and spirits of the boys high.

I trust soon to hear of the last moves of the enemy frustrated that we may have a month of quiet to get up back work: Reports, Pay, and so on. All is well with us, health excellent and nothing wanting to complete contentment, but letters and papers from home, coupled with the hope of soon being there myself. But first, the present state of affairs must be settled; may it be soon, is my ardent wish and prayer.

Hope you and Frank and all at home are well, and hopeful of good results as we are. Love to all at home; remembrances to friends.

In haste for the reason of the departure of the man for Acworth.

As ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Lt.Col.38th Ind. Vet.Vol.

On the Road to Rome,
Two Miles from Kingston, Ga.
October 12th, 1864.

My dear Wife:

To-day has been a happy one to the soldiers of this Command, our delayed mail having just reached us as the "General" was sounded for the march this morning. Distribution was made in a hurry, and as the line moved along, every man had his letters open, reading and plodding along the road unmindful, almost unconscious of everything but the good news from home. Smiling faces lit up the line and such universal good humor I have not seen pervade the ranks since the affair of Jonesboro. Now the papers are passing around and I opine the day will be given up principally to the pursuit of literary knowledge.

I, of course, was not behind in the supply and have just now finished my letters reading, amongst which were two from you, one from Sister Eliza, two from George and one from Doc. The latest of date, October 4th, from George, which has set me right on the subject of the Pay Accounts, I had given to Robert.

Cant expect to answer your letters as I should in this roadside correspondence, but hope to be able to do so as soon as the true issues of this campaign are developed, which I trust may not be long hence and that we may again have a few weeks of quiet and rest.

Am glad to know that you continue in pretty good health, though I wish it were better with you and that Frank, though suffering some, is not yet, and I hope will not be, bad. I dread the whooping cough, or rather its attendant troubles of sleepless nights and other worrying circumstances connected with it.

As you have said nothing of it, I presume Robert did not send you the \$200.00, as promised; and I guess I may give that up as lost, (have not heard a word from him yet, expect that he is in Nashville) and I know you must need funds, therefore do not hesitate to convert the Bonds, such as you may want, at once.

Thursday morning, two miles from Rome.

My roadside correspondence was suddenly terminated by an Order to move; and as we struck across the country for ten miles by an almost untraveled road, I had to give up my idea of sending this back to Kingston to mail. Arrived here at dark last evening, after a pretty good day's march and are now quietly en bivouac awaiting arrival of our trains and then orders to move, should that be the programme. The enemy's Cavalry were yesterday on the west side of the Oostiwaula River, but a dash from our Cavalry sent them back again.

Dont know where the main force of the enemy are. Some report says they are yet moving northwest toward Lafayette, but if they are not careful they will find this whole Army on their heels if they attempt it. The Rebs seem to be playing a desperate game for the recovery of this country, in which I think they will fail unless indeed, they give up Richmond and move a large portion of that Army to the westwards: that might necessitate a withdrawal for a time to admit of concentration. But I will not speculate while knowing so little of the situation, but would remind you that this Army which has driven Generals Johnson and Hood from Dalton to Jonesboro, are now fully capable of taking care of themselves and feel it.

I wrote you from Marietta and sent by some of the non-Vets; again I wrote you while lying near Acworth, carried the letter to the crossing of the Etowah River, near Allatoona, where meeting Captain Welman, I got him to mail it for me. Captain was glad to see me, at least he said he was and I believe it was so. Had but a few hours to remain, as we crossed the river at 4 A.M. after marching all night, and again resumed the march at 9 A.M.

The 59th is doing duty at the R.R. bridge and having good times generally. Captain W. desired to be remembered to you.

We are yet much behind the times on the subject of the news and now that we have had a taste of the good news from home, hunger as much as ever for more. Received a package of papers from you, also the weeklies giving the names of the drafted men in the several counties of the District. This was fun to the boys all of whom wanted to know the lucky ones from their townships. I distributed the papers to them and such remarks as were made as their butternut friends' names were read, can only be heard in the army. The boys like it much and I do hope some state influence will give the old 38th her proportion of them.

We are very anxious to hear the news from the states where the elections have just passed and particularly to hear from Old Hoosier. I have every confidence that all has gone well, yet would like to know it soon and perhaps shall to-day. I trust it is but the forerunner to a more glorious triumph in Nov.

Should have liked much to be with you at the big ratification to have seen the sights that were visible. 'Twas bad the rain should have interfered and yet it showed good pluck to stand it through, notwithstanding the drenching. George gave me a ludicrous picture of affairs at the grounds, which I fear he was so ungallant as to laugh at. Tell the young man I shall write to him as soon as I can. He has spoken favorably of the position you once mentioned in case the Ohio Insurance Office was opened; that his Father and Mr. Clark Devol thought favorably of it. I think I should like it very much, as it would enable me to at once look forward to a home with you and amongst our friends and home folks. This would be peculiarly gratifying to me after my three years of field labors.

Should you hear anything definite as to the opening of the office, advise; and as Mr. Clark Devol is doubtless the ruling member a word from your Father might be of advantage to me. But for all this, you may say I must be at home and this, I trust, will be the case, even though my friends think "I should remain in the Army".

3 A

Though I want to do my duty and expect to, while required, there can be no doubt, but yet I feel that having done this, my attention is required homewards, unless indeed, the existence of our country were in imminent danger, when I hold it to be the duty of every man to be out. But this danger, I think past to a great extent provided our elections go right; and that my place here can be well filled.

I heard last evening that such orders had been issued from the War Department, as would allow of my being mustered out. I have not yet seen them and will believe only on sight; yet should this not be so and this campaign over, I am in hopes of being able to join you soon after.

I wish heartily I could be with you and watch the crawlings of Frank around the floor, I know I should enjoy the time after my experience away from you. But with much love to yourself and Frank and the home folks, regards to Col., George and friends, I must close, to start this by a Wisconsin boy, who starts north to-day.

Remember me to General Gresham and Tillie; have not seen his Div. since leaving Atlanta. Hope he may soon be able to be out and to travel.

With much love for to-day good-bye. No orders yet to march, 10 o'clock A.M.

Ever yours devotedly,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Lt.Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

E

Monday afternoon.

October 17th, 1864.

My dear Wife:

Again in the mountain regions of Georgia, about eight miles east of Lafayette; to-day, resting from our chase after Hood and his Army and doubtless awaiting the developments of his movements. Personally I have no information of his whereabouts, but have every confidence that our General has and will be able to checkmate his movements. Yesterday their rear guard passed here only a few hours in advance of our advance. They succeeded in striking the R.R. near Resaca (making an attack on the place which was repulsed) moving then to Dalton and I believe as far north as Tunnel Hill.

The 17th Corps drove their rear from Snake Creek Gap on Friday while at the same time our Corps advanced from Resaca, taking a trail over the mountain, coming down into the Gap yesterday morning and marching thus far in pursuit. What may be the next move I know not; rumor says we shall make the next raid into Ala. perhaps take that route back toward Atlanta. But, of this, nothing is known, all guess work, my opinion is, that if the Rebels are not driven off, General Sherman will be satisfied with securing his communication until such time as his stock can be replenished. At any rate, whatever is to be accomplished, will be done soon, that we may terminate for a time, the field operations: after which, I trust I shall be able to join you, for an Order has been issued by the Department that will admit of my being mustered out of the service; of which I shall avail myself, so soon as the campaign closes and the Command can be put in condition to leave it without injury. This I think is but simple justice to the Officers who have served their full term and who have not pledged themselves to remain.

I wrote you last from Rome, but dont know that the letter has yet got fairly started. My chance of sending this, is by one of our non-veterans who starts for Lafayette to-night, to go from there to Chattanooga by wagon train to-morrow. This would indicate that there are no Rebs east or north of this near the R.R.

Wrote you of having received yours of the 28th and October 3rd, and of the general good time all had on arrival of ten days mail from Kingston. We are now looking as anxiously as ever for another ten days supply and are particularly anxious to hear from the elections. To-day the first rumor has reached us that "Morton has carried the State by 8000 majority". We hope it may prove reliable and that Ohio, Penn. and Iowa have done equally well. This and favorable news from the army will insure Mr. Lincoln's election and I think, will give the crushing blow to the Rebellion.

Thus far the campaign has been attended with but few casualties; in fact our Corps has not at any time been under fire, thanks to the good marching qualities of the Rebs who have managed very adroitly to keep out of harm's way. Would be glad to hear from the North, to know that all is going well in all the Army Departments.

Expect you have been in much trouble since the discontinuance of the mails and have been daily treated with huge telegrams of what was done and not done; but be assured that this Army is strong sufficient, to work out its own salvation and will--as a rule--get along admirably. Therefore be not alarmed at the necessary delays in communication, though I should hope for their regularity now. Yet if we should take a circuit into Ala. it will be some time ere you can hear from us: but on this mere rumor I will not anticipate, in fact I do not think an extensive raid can be made by us until rations and stock be provided for largely. Thus far we have lived and fared well.

The latest "grapevine dispatch" I have heard is, that the enemy is still going north; if so I guess our destination may be in the same direction.

The health and spirits of the men are good, in fact so far far as my observation goes, all is going well. Met Dr. Payne on the road, looking well; he is now with the 1st Division A.C., his Regiment having been transferred to that Corps. Met Col. Babbitt at Rosaca, well. Robert, I have not heard from yet.

But I believe I told you all the news to be gathered away down here in the mountains and hope soon to be able to write you from points of more direct communication.

Trusting in the preserving power of that Divine Being that has thus far guided me safely through all trials and who I believe will guide my steps back to home, wife and child; with love to all at home and much love and kisses to yourself and Frank, I am,

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan F. Griffin.

Lt.Col.38th Ind. Vet.Vol.

Near Lafayette, Ga.

5:30 o'clock, Tuesday morning,

October 18, 1864.

My dear Wife:

Yesterday I wrote you and sent by mail, giving you all the news; this morning I only wish to say all is well and send by one of our boys going North, so that you may be sure of hearing by some route.

Am under orders to march this morning, but whether north, south or west, I can not yet guess; I will have to wait movements ere I can decide. At any rate, whichever way we go, we shall be amply prepared to take care of ourselves, and I trust end the campaign in a short time. But as communications by rail are not open from Resaca north, do not feel uneasy at not hearing from me. No Rebs near here that I can hear of; they have made hasty tracks in some direction, I cannot tell in which, however. Guess Genl. S. understands at any rate.

Boys are ready to start Northward, so with much love, I am,

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan F. Griffin.

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

P.S: I wrote you of an order having been issued, that will allow of my being mustered out, after this campaign has been closed, I hope it may not last long and think it can not, as our wet weather will certainly soon set in.

Meantime and for to-day, good-bye.

Yours,

Dan.

Favor of Andrew J. Pfriimmer.

Gaylesville, Ala., October 22, 1864.

My dear Wife:

You will have to get your map or atlas and again commence the study of geography to ascertain my whereabouts; nor am I certain that this will give you the desired information, as we are now in the mountains, hid almost from the world; though I have no doubt but that the world is looking anxiously for and toward us.

Though near the mountains, we are in one of Alabama's richest valleys, living on the fat of the land; hog, chickens, geese, ducks and sweet potatoes being our chief articles of diet. Orders are to forage and live partially off the country and the men do it with a will, I assure you. In fact, men and animals are living better than they have for a year, much to the disgust of the inhabitants; still, most of them have sense enough to say but little and think that had General Hood staid away from here, we would have remained absent. However, I guess it is but right that these people should feel some of the hardships of war, they will better appreciate peace when it does come, and be not so ready to rush widely into the same vortex again.

Many a case of wanton destruction of property must or does occur, done by irresponsible foragers and worthless stragglers, which can not well be prevented in so large an Army. Orders are to protect the citizens in their private property and leave them enoughto live on, until the next crop is made; which I trust may be peaceable harvested and housed without the fear of armies.

I wrote you last from Lafayette; cant remember the date; since which time we have crossed Taylor's Ridge, coming down the Chattanooga River Valley to this point, our Cavalry harassing the enemy's rear. Here we have been for two days, the Army concentrated; and from indications will remain to-morrow, perhaps longer, though a move may be made at any moment, but in what direction, none but the powers that be, can guess.

Hood's Army, I cannot say where they are, but not close. They have studiously avoided a fight since their last thrashing at Allatoona, and I doubt if we could come up with them even should we pursue farther. Reports say they are going to the Blue Mountains of Alabama, but from there whence, I cannot say.

What I most wish for, is for the campaign to close soon and give us a chance to reorganize, and myself to go home to wife and boy.

Dr. Curry and Charley VanDusen were mustered out yesterday, under the late Order allowing Officers who had served thee years to be mustered out. They start for Rome to-morrow, thence to Atlanta and thence home. They seem to be superlatively happyl so goes the world.

But thus far I have forgotten to tell you of receipt of your welcome letter of the 9th. It came to hand this morning, the first mail since leaving Kingston. What a God-send it did seem to me, benighted citizen of this secluded valley.

Am glad Frank's whooping cough is not very bad and trust he may get well of it ere the bad weather sets in. I should like to see him traveling around the room in his peculiar style, happy in the innocence of his young heart and the smiles of his mother. I could almost envy him his enjoyment, but let us hope the time may not be far distant when I may be with you. Also I can appreciate your feelings and the goodness and patriotism of your warm heart, at feeling that whatever be my decision as to the time I remain, "it is but right". I trust the time will soon come that a happy country may repay you for this disinterestedness and casting aside of selfishness.

Poor Gresham, what a time he must have and what suffering endure; and how much it must necessarily affect the happiness of Tillie. May his case speedily improve, is my most ardent wish.

I rather guess, could you see your husband in his top boots, old coat and dusty hat, you would be ordering me to the first tailor shop in the country. Not much old maid style, I can assure you. Carpenter is yet with me and well, but very anxious to get home. Don't know whether I shall ask him to stay much longer, unless I can see the close of the campaign is near at hand. He has been and is, very faithful. Guess I shall have to give him a pension in the way of drinks for at least during the War, on his return home.

Met Dr. Payne and Babbitt yesterday, both well. Dr. Expects to go home as soon as the campaign closes, or as soon as he can close up his Accounts and Returns. He is now with the 1st Div. 17th A. C.

Have had the election returns from the State, they have come all right, only I think the 2nd District should be sliced off into Ky. or left out in the cold somewhere, for being the only one behind in the good work. Am now confident of Mr. Lincoln's reelection and think the country safe.

Convey my congratulations to high private Croxall; tell him to come here and I will make him a color bearer at once.

My regards to friends; and to all at home, love.

Ever your devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin,
Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

Gaylesville, Ala., Oct. 24th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you two days since, which letter I believe has not yet started from the field; and as the train (Supply) starts for Rome this afternoon, I send this to give you the latest news by same mail. Nothing has transpired since $\frac{1}{2}$ last wrote you. Have now been in camp here for four days and will perhaps stay a few days longer, eating up the provender and forage to be found in the rich valleys about us. Guess that on leaving here but little subsistence will remain to fatten Rebel raiding parties.

Cannot yet say what may be our destination after leaving here. The enemy are not close at hand, last heard of them they were making toward the Blue Mountains in this state. I rather guess we shall circle back toward Rome or Atlanta, unless the "great raider" should take it into his head to go through Ala. I hope it may be the former, as it would give me the much desired opportunity of re-organizing the Command and joining you at home.

I wrote you of having received your letter of the 9th and news of the late political victories; today we have dispatches announcing another victory by Sheridan and the result of the election in Penn. All looks well and I now have no fears of the success of Mr. Lincoln: in fact I look upon the country as saved, provided the men of the North remain true and united; and certainly the Oct. election shows a good front.

Yesterday I made a visit to the 23rd Ind., dined with Babbitt and took supper with Lt. Shaffenburg, Commissary of Wilder's Brig., a Lafayette man that you will remember as the chief violinist in the Murfreesboro serenading parties. Altogether had a pleasant day, although no time to attend Church; in fact now that we are without a Chaplain and but few with this Army, opportunities for attending Service are rare.

Weather is most excellent with us and everything moving along nicely.

Hoping to hear from you soon again, and ere long of being with you,

I am ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 32th Ind. Vet. Vol.

Love to all at home, kiss Frank and to yourself, much love.

Dan.

Rome, Ga., Oct. 30th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Arrived here last evening from the Chattanooga Valley and will probably only stay for today; but whether we go toward Atlanta or Chattanooga, when we again pull up stakes, I can only tell after starting.

All hands are very busy this morning preparing Pay Rolls. The individuals called Pay Masters have been found, and if we do not march tomorrow, all hands will get their greenbacks.

Health good and have had no scrapes with the Rebs lately.

Received yours of the 17th today, am glad to know you and Frank are able to travel around. Convey my condolences to Eliza about that crooked or swollen face. Also to Doc, with his pets; I sympathize much with both.

Convey congratulations to Col. S. Of course you will kiss the baby, 'tis useless to tell you to do so.

Received Col. Ed's letter today, will answer as soon as possible.

Will write you again before we leave here, and scribble this in haste as the mail is waiting on me, and I must off to the city with the Pay Rolls, as it is of importance to hurry things up.

Expect I shall find time to write you in detail tonight; only time now to say all well, and put you on the trail of our Corps, as I rather guess our movements are to you, all in the darkness.

Sorry for Kelso, but the general results have been grand.

Love to all. In haste,

Your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

Rome, Ga., Oct. 31st, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Enclosed I send you check on N. Y. payable to your order for \$600.00 You can present it at Bank, where I think it will command its face. I send it by Lt. Dewey, who goes to Chattanooga, and I expect home, to look after his family. I trust this may reach you in safety, as you doubtless need it much.

Bill Carpenter goes North with the Lt., and you will please pay him \$150.00 to settle his account. If you have already paid his family anything since I left home, you can deduct it from the above amount.

I had hoped to be on my way home by this time, but the fates are yet against me. Gen'ls. Davis and Sherman are to decide on my case by three o'clock this afternoon. Although I hope for the best yet I am not at all sanguine of success. Will write you as soon as I can know.

Expect to march for Kingston tomorrow; I trust it may prove my route to home, for I do want to see you very much.

But the Lt. is about to start for the depot, I will close.
With much love, and kisses to Frank,

Yours, dearest,
Dan. F. Griffin.

Favor of Lt. Dewey. 46

Rome, Ga., Oct. 31st, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Today I wrote you a hasty note and sent by Lt Dewey who was going to Chattanooga, with some prospect of going thence home. The note enclosed a check on N. Y. for \$600.00 of which I desired you to pay Bill Carpenter \$150.00, in case you had paid his people nothing since my departure.

I trust the check and letter may reach you safely, and I feel considerable anxiety as to the Lt's. safe arrival, as he has a large amount of the soldiers' funds that they could not afford to lose without much suffering. Write me as soon as it may arrive; and in case it should under any circumstances be lost, you can have payment stopped, (Mr. Mahon will attend to that for you). The check is drawn in favor of Mrs. D. F. Griffin or order: No. 87.

Date, Rome, Ga., Nov. 1st, 1864: an Asst. Treas. U. S. New York:

Signed, Robert Smith, of Wis.

P. M. U. S. A.

The above is only a precautionary measure, which I trust you will have no occasion to use.

I have made as I wrote you, my first grand effort to be mustered out of the Service and have failed. So you now have a genuine "Conscript" Officer for a husband. The War Dept. Orders are clear on the subject and I might have been mustered out ten days ago had I asked it while in the midst of a campaign: this, my pride and sense of honor would not admit of, and I now consequently suffer the consequences. The fact is, another campaign is about to be opened and so many Officers are striving to get out of the Service, that the Generals began to think they were losing too much good material (?). Gen'l. Sherman has decided that it is inexpedient at this time to allow musters out, and they are consequently suspended. So much for business.

How much I have been disappointed and how much others are disappointed, I will not now attempt to tell. I know you will feel this keenly and for your sake I would for nothing it had occurred. However, do not despair, there are yet some days ere we start from this or adjacent territory and something may yet occur to change the current of events.

Expect we will march from here about day after tomorrow; will first go to Kingston and from thence, I cannot guess where. From there I will write you of what I may determine upon and will give you the prospect of my return as clearly as possible. So until you hear from me there, do not despair of seeing me this Fall yet, or give yourself up to a fit of the "blues". Should the worst even come, the campaign cannot last longer than one or two months; and that over, I am satisfied the restrictions on the musters out will be withdrawn. I am not without hope that something may change

the spirit of affairs ere the campaign opens. That it may be so, is my most ardent wish and I feel the same is yours.

Lost the best cook in the Dept. today, on the departure of Bill, but I could not think of keeping him longer, as I had promised him he should go and he has been faithful to the last; I trust he may gain home in safety. Bob is at present superintending the culinary Dept. and he may manage to fill the bill for the short time yet remaining.

Our boys are all happy now that they have their money and have sent a large portion of it to their families. It has taken a heavy load from off the heart of many a brave boy, and will nerve them to duty with a right good will.

Tomorrow morning I go with the Regiment for forage a few miles in the country; so look out hogs, chickens, etc, etc, your time is but short if there are any of you left. Just before the Army left Gaylesville, our Brig. went on a scout for guerrillas through Dirs Town and Texas Valleys, and at the same time to procure rations from the country. We managed to scare up a few guerrillas, but the hogs and sweet potatoes did suffer tremendously. We had some hard marches but lived sumptuously.

Wrote you of having received yours of the 17th and expect another mail soon, at least when we go to Kingston. Hope you have been equally fortunate in hearing from me.

Hear some talk tonight of Gen'l. Hood having crossed the Tenn. river, you may perchance hear of him closer ere he takes the back track. But we all feel safe, knowing that the "Old Head" Gen'l. George H. is up in that vicinity on the lookout for him.

But my dear, I must close this note for tonight, as the morrow will bring the forage expedition early, and last night I was up till two o'clock, as our Regiment was paid from ten to two. You will judge by that, that time is precious. Yet I trust to give you a more satisfactory letter than this, from Kingston.

Love to all at home; to friends kind regards; and to yourself and Frank, the undivided love of

Your devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin,
Lt. Col.

Good weather, good health and good spirits, prevail.

Dan.

Kingston, Ga., November 5th, '64.

My Dear Wife:

Yesterday your cheering letter of the 23rd came to hand, a ray of sunshine where we had but clouds and rain for the last four days. Am glad you are getting along so well.

I wrote you from Rome of the refusal to allow of my muster out giving as a reason, "the exigencies of the Service at the present time". This from Gen'l. Thomas. I have not yet made up my mind as to what I shall do in the premises. The authority from the War Dept. is perfect in my case; but to throw every obstacle in the way possible, our Div. Com. has ordered that all applications for musters out, shall go to Dept. Headquarters for Orders thereon. But since Dept. Hdqtrs. are at Chattanooga, and we are likely to move daily toward Atlanta, a reply may not come for months.

To test this, I appealed to Gen'l. Davis; he would not decide, but referred to Gen'l. Sherman, who decided as above. Perhaps something may yet occur to change their decision in the premises.

On the night of the 3rd, I was unfortunate enough to get a fall from my horse (not Jim) by its frightening and my stirrup breaking. I have been laid up since, having hurt my right hip, and which seems to trouble me more, from straining my old hurt received by railroad. I think I will be up and around in a day or two. Meantime, should we get orders to march, I cannot now decide what I may do, whether try an ambulance or remain here. Whatever I do, will notify you at once. Meantime have no uneasiness, as my hurt is but slight.

But my dear, the Postmaster has called for the mail and I must close, promising to write you again from Kingston.

Meantime I expect I shall be much improved and able to travel around. If I do not improve sufficiently, I shall try and go to Chattanooga and from there homeward; but a few days will decide.

Yours in haste,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Head-Quarters, 1st Div. 14th A. C.

Kingston, Ga., Nov. 8th, 1864.

Colonel:

As you have left the Military Service of the United States after serving through the term for which you enlisted, I wish to give you this testimonial of my respect for you as an Officer and as a man. You have belonged to my Command for thirteen months, during which you have participated in many of the most important battles that have occurred in this War. From Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge to Jonesboro, you have never failed to fight the enemy with courage, zeal and skill. You have always kept your Command in such a state of discipline as to give me the assurance that all was well where you commanded, and in consequence thereof, you and your Regiment have probably been called upon to do more than an equal share of duty.

Whether you remain in Civil life or return in the course of the War to the Army, I shall wish you success, and sincerely recommend you to the favor of your fellow citizens and to your Governor and the President.

Very Respectfully,

Your most obdt. servant,

Wm. P. Carlin,

Brig. Gen'l.

To

Lt. Col. D. F. Griffin,

late of

38th Ind. Vet. Vols.

(Copy.)