

Graysville, Ga.,
 Sunday Evening, Mar. 27th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Sunday passed without much of interest to relate, at least no stirring news for we have had a very quiet, orderly time. In fact just as much like Christians as we could while without our Chaplain.

Had Capt. Bird and Lt. Vance, of Gen'l. Carlin's Staff, to dinner with us to enjoy Carpenter's best, in the way of roast beef, potatoes, kraut, etc, etc, to say nothing of the valuable and highly prized peach rolls (minus the brand sauce) and cranberry pies. You see we are suffering terribly, although I cannot count on so much after the contents of this mysterious box from home, are ~~all~~ exhausted. However, relying upon the commissary, Ind. Sanitary Com. and charities of the world, I think we will manage to live. Capt. Bird is the same good-natured soul as a year ago and inquires of you and the boy; says when he leaves the Service, six months hence, he will take New Albany en route and see you; wants you to send him one of my photographs if any are in existence.

This afternoon our boys from the 82nd came back to us and we now have a real respectable number for duty, more than for a year past. Our camp we are putting in condition and a few more days will find all comfortable and pleasant with us. I only hope we may be permitted to remain and enjoy it until we open on the campaign in earnest, as I do not favor temporary moves. Hear nothing from the Rebs in our vicinity, nor have they at Ringgold for some time.

All eyes are now looking eastward for the development of the Spring Campaigns and I do hope the public may not be disappointed in their highest expectations. I like the spirit shown in the calling for more troops and the way in which the people are responding to the call. We can use them all; and every additional thousand makes the end more sure to which we all look forward with so much hope. I am yet confident and shall be much disappointed if by next Fall, the crushing blows have not been dealt the Rebellion.

But to come back to the realities and pleasures of this benighted region, reminds me that but a few hours ago I received your letter of the 24th; 'twas a comfort I assure for this Sabbath evening and I am so thankful that your late fears of sickness have proved groundless to an extent and that you are now better. I shall sleep well thinking of it and tomorrow enter upon my camp duties with renewed zeal; and Frank is getting along and behaving so nicely that I have no misgivings as to your being overtaxed.

Your papers on Reception have not yet come to hand, but George has one this evening containing many columns of the news; 'twas indeed a reception worthy of the cause and I honor the New Albanians for this exhibition of their generosity. Am real sorry I could not

be present to see my old friends. Should like to see the General, and love to have an hour's talk with Capt. Babbitt. If he remains in the city he will doubtless call on you; give me the news and say to him I should like to hear from him, as seeing him I can scarcely think of. I hope he has in a measure forsaken his habits, or some of them; I feared from what I heard from a person from below, that he was injuring himself in the eyes of the Gen'l. by his drinking. Should you hear of it, tell him I say to stop it ere it becomes too late, for I feel if anything tends to his downfall 'twill be that; and leaving it alone, he can and will, not only make a useful but a very efficient officer.

Am real glad that Capt. Brown's affairs have been straightened up. If he remains, I presume 'twill be on Recruiting Service. My opinion is, that he should be treated as we did the unsuccessful Officers of this Command, send them to the front, leaving others to try their hand for a while; besides being a benefit, it equalizes the comforts to be derived therefrom.

Have not yet called on "Mrs. B.", in fact I must confess to having forgotten my friends, but certainly on my first visit to Ringgold, will look up the fashionable hotel and if the Rebs have only brought back those hogs, shall fare well.

Wish I were with you to help take care of Frank; I fear the boy will miss very much the excellent nursing he had in his young days. But you will kiss him often for me and try and console him for this, his first great loss.

Your buttons and thread came to hand tonight, sent one day too late; yesterday I had Joe Williams (our little tailor) take hold of the articles in question; and today will make my appearance in the valuable sky blues, having had a buckle and strap arranged to take up some of the overplus of goods on hand.

Am sorry about the prospect of your losing your house, though a change of neighbors might add very much to your comfort. Does your father think of buying? If so, and wants the use of some money, I could readily have those Bonds put into cash at his disposal or at yours if you want to purchase: nearly \$1100.00 at present prices. As soon as the Pay-Master visits us, I shall be able to send you all you want for other purposes.

But I must to bed, leaving you to act as seems to you best: for your comfort, happiness and wishes, and the putting down of the Rebellion are my only hopes and highest ambitions.

George and Robert have stung out to me to send their love, which please find enclosed. Received Eliza's two Hs. but think 'twas short in weight: lost in transportation or in transmission through my Adjutant's Dept. Love to all at home and advise me of little Tillie's progress in recovery, which I trust may be sure.

Ever yours devotedly,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

Graysville, Ga., March 30th, 1864.

My Dear Wife!

I wrote you Sunday evening after the arrival of yours of the 23th and forgot to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from your well known hand on Sat. evening, which I opened and commenced reading with my usual care and interest and from which I gleaned the fact of your being sick but then better, that your father was sick, Eliza sick, Emma sick, and that you thought soon of establishing a general hospital etc; then you told me that as your father was coming south, you would trust this with him to mail at his destination which I discovered to be Chattanooga, and had about made up my mind that I would certainly have a visit from him at an early date, but then came your next sentence that you had "a visitor and were it not for old friendship, would not even get up and go down stairs to see even George Devol." This brought me up standing and I turned to George to know if he had called on you in the last few days; then thought certainly you must be affected in the brain to thus write, when a bright idea struck me, I turned to the first page and there found date, "Oct. 29th, 1863": the mystery was solved and I rested much easier under the belief that the hospital dept. spoken of, had, long since been broken up, if ever established. This evening I look for another letter, however, of recent date and build hopes of belief that you have fully recovered from your late attack and now make your daily trips down stairs escorted by that famous boy, Frank.

Your package of papers containing the interesting public news of the day, came to hand on Monday evening. I wish I could have been there, but if the truth were known, 'twould not be for the sight seeing, for I know I should have been at home with you, in preference to participating in the crowd and general rush. Am glad the people did so handsomely, for I think the boys deserve it all. But your Davis paper seemed to forget all about the "guests" after their being barely landed, and even the set speeches had none or but few words for them; however, I guess they were perfectly satisfied provided they had their due share of the rations.

I take the Weekly Ledger now, but as it comes only once a week, I appreciate those sent containing the news. By the way, I forgot to subscribe longer for the Gazette, or even tell you where it could be done. You should take it as in it you get much of interest from the Army that you would otherwise lose; besides Frank can read to you from it evenings when your eyes grow weak.

In camp we are getting along smoothly, I might say very pleasantly were the weather a little more seasonable, but we are daily having the inexorable winds of March with occasional rain or snow storms; but now that we draw nigh to the smiling days of April I look for better times, better weather and better everything, except it be rations, as the mysteries of my box are being rapidly exhausted. Last evening the last apple disappeared, but we still

cherish the cranberry pies, peach rolls and country molasses, daily and I anticipate for tomorrow morning, more light batter cakes without eggs.

Sunday had a talk with Gen'l. Johnson; he seems to be of opinion that we will have little to do here this Summer as he rather thinks every energy will be lent in the direction of Richmond. However, I anticipate that we shall have a part to play, even though it may be second or third rate. Yet we must be stirring to prevent concentration of their entire force against Grant. He thinks that even we may be weakened yet, but these are only suppositions. I do not think Sherman will remain idle long, but most of his force is not present with us, but in the direction of Huntsville and Decatur, but in easy concentrating distance here or elsewhere. But come what will, you will hear timely of all movements, no doubt; and at present writing, I can not see the least indication of it here. We are disching, cleaning up camp and putting things in general good shapshaps.

Have now heard from the Col. since coming down; do you hear anything of his expectations? Had he come down when I did or before, he would have been assigned the command of the 3rd Brigade in Starkweather's absence. Don't know how it is now or how it will be. An official communication of importance was sent him some four days since but I have no knowledge of the contents thereof. I would like to see him promoted ere he starts for the field, as his heart is so deeply in the cause, but if it is not to be and he should return to the Regiment, it would be very easy for me to subside and live for a while with the responsibilities off my shoulders; 'twould be no hardship I am sure. By the way, I must tell you of my good fortune in having a return from the Ordnance Dept. for the Return made while at home; and 'tis all right; so much for my continued industry and the excellent help I had in getting the thing up in good shape. I enclose to you the Document, that you may file it for me with my returned copy of the Return. You will see that its preservation is important; acknowledge receipt of it when you write.

We yet spend many of our evenings in playing the best sixteen games in thirty; Major and George against Robert and me, and I think four out of six evenings, the have beaten us. Last evening we came out ahead and the playing is so close that even euchre is of interest. I would like some of our whist parties of last Summer's memories revived, as well as other accompaniments of rides, etc, etc. But since there is a time for everything we may even hope that time may bring again a repetition of the same happy days.

Am anxious to hear of Sister's welfare and that of her little prize; 'twould be a very severe blow should she lose her, and I hope 'twill pass away as we might wish and hope for.

Our boys from the 82nd came back to us Sunday looking well and bronzed; they have not even yet decided to veteranize. But with love to all, and kisses to yourself and the boy,

I am as ever yours,

Lt. Col. Dan.

Graysville, Ga.,
Saturday P. M., April 2nd, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Your good Sunday letter and longer P. S. attached, came to hand Thursday evening, much to my relief as by it I learned of your being better; and ere this, think of you as being out enjoying the pleasant weather that you are doubtless having by this time; though should I judge of it by our own cold, misery experience, I could find but little time for you to be out enjoying it.

Am so glad to hear of little Tillie's being out of danger and look with much interest for further news from you. Am also glad to learn of Frank's nice behavior and would like to be at home with him though he should cry occasionally as you suggest, but that is for little moments if not carried to extremes. Of course you will let Emma take him to the front yard, Ella take him to the pump, Ricker to ride the horse, but do avoid that heavy tumbling exercise down the stairs. Suppose Eliza might take him to Sunday School soon to learn his A B C's; while a visit to Dan (little Dan) would finish his education in a week and make him eligible to master in the Army.

Speaking of armies reminds me of your sayings about the 43rd and 52nd; I can imagine the feelings of the latter, but can only blame the piecemeal policy of the small speakers and writers on the subject. I have no doubt but the hearts of the people are right on the subject, the failure being in their poor selection of exponents. Of course the Ledger would say nothing in any way reflecting credit on Gen'l. Gresham and consequently must omit all mention of his Command. So much for petty politicians; I cannot but despise the men who on occasions like that can't raise themselves above the dirty pool of politics.

So Capt. W. yet remains at home; does he ever talk of you? I imagine the young man has either become offended at me or ashamed of his actions about home in connection with my friends, as he seemed to avoid me on most occasions. I think the latter the cause as I have never given him any cause to act otherwise than as a friend. I have thought occasionally that he felt some pang of conscience as to his connection with the South and thinks me conversant with the whole affair. But be that as it may, I have no sleep to lose on the question. The last gossip about him and Miss E. may be true, 'tis just what might be expected; if so, we will see what estimate Mrs. W. places on him as a man, now that affairs are coming home to them.

Robert, since my arrival has conducted himself in the best possible manner; has not touched liquor and says he is not going to do so. I trust he may have the manhood, as I believe he has, should

his mind not be too taxed with disappointments, to rise above this grovelling appetite for stimulants, and be the man as well in that, as he proves himself to be in his capacity as a business man.

George also, has decided upon a year such as he put in when first entering the Service: I trust he may prove equal to and above the temptations so often thrown in the way of those in the Army.

What are the troubles in Capt. O's. domestic affairs that you speak of? I have heard nothing. I wish the poor fellow were well enough to join us as I believe he would enjoy himself more here than elsewhere, particularly so, if affairs be as you would seem to indicate. Tell me of his troubles; if he has any additional ones, I fear he will never be able for the field again.

Don't allow what you may have thought bad treatment toward me, on the part of Sam, to interfere with a friendship that always seemed so pleasant and agreeable as existed between you and Anna. Forget this matter as I have, and though we may not place so high an estimate on his character for manliness, let us but think so, without giving expression to our feelings. That would but serve to mar our pleasure, perhaps usefulness in society. Spare her feelings and touch the subject but lightly if at all; as it must be one of some pain to both, though they now realize pleasure therefrom.

But the hour for Dress Parade draws nigh, and I must close for the time, hoping that the rambles of Forrest may be checked ere he runs in the channel that this must go through. But of this I have little fears; I think even now that he has an overmatch in the pursuing forces and hope he may get his just deserts. If the reports we have from Paducah are correct, he made but poor progress in his design of crippling our Army. True, the town was sacked but I doubt not if genuine Rebels and sympathizers were not the heavy losers.

Let Kentucky continue her course and she will but invite these marauders to her soil and none be there to mourn but her own guilty inhabitants. Should Morgan or Longstreet effect an entrance in eastern Ky. they would then find the true fruits of the Rebellion at home. But be this as it may, 'twould have but little result on the grand campaign that I expect to see commenced and carried out this Summer. Whether we shall bear a helping hand therein, remains to be seen. But should we, we can but hope as in the past, that the Just and Almighty Power may shield and carry us triumphantly through.

George has gone to Chattanooga this afternoon to return tomorrow. The Indiana Agent there has just sent forty barrels of potatoes here for the Indiana Regiments. We come in for about twelve barrels. Last week we had of him, five barrels of Kraut. Bully for the Indiana State Agency, say we.

But the Assembly has already sounded. Love to all and kiss
the boy.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,
Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vol.

I enclose you another receipt from the Ordnance Office; which
file with my Reports. I sent you one before for my return made
while at home. Did you receive it?

Dan.

Graysville, Ga., April 4th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Four o'clock P. M. with orders for Dress Parade at five provided our April showers that have been falling for the last forty hours will permit; then closes the mail and hence will close my little talk with you for today. Wrote you Saturday, told all the news going and yesterday could not make up the usual budget; in fact the morning passed rapidly, inspections, etc; then dinner, the second course of which was delicious peach pie, (don't you wish you had been here?) then the Major and I surveyed all the adjacent ground to find a place suitable for target firing; closing our ramble by going to Church in the 104th Ill., there listening to an eloquent discourse by the Chaplain of the 94th. That over, Dress Parade, supper and the evening spent socially around my tent fire, the glowing blaze from seething pine knots, adding much to the cheerfulness of the hour. Nothing then wanting to make it an hour of happiness but you and Frank: this denied me, we had to chat cheerily to keep our spirits up, for now the day that had been so bright had given way to lowering clouds and the muttering thunder was soon followed by a heavy rain storm. For all this, the Major and I slept dry and warm at least, on the downy side of my eight dollar Buffalo and could at least think and dream of you. 'Twere useless to say I wished myself with you, you know I did, but then came thoughts of why this separation and in submission to the calls of country and what I trust to be the rulings of a Divine Providence, I could but bow my head acknowledging that perhaps it may be for the best; still trusting in the decrees that I believe are written, to bear me safely through.

I would this strife were over now, yet believing firmly that our future peace depends solely on the exertions of the true, at this our hour of peril, I must say 'tis best the cup should be drained now rather than a few years should witness a renewing of the great contest in which we are engaged.

But of this enough; let me continue to tell of things we know of; that the night, though dark and stormy, passed quietly away and this morning's sun did not call me to a very early breakfast. However, I had it in due time and as the day has been copiously sprinkled with showers, I have confined myself in doors; one result of which is this letter.

Have received notice that a Grand Review of the Div. will be had by Gen'l. Thomas on Wed.; and tomorrow, weather permitting, we have a practicing Review by Gen'l. Johnson. So much for the busi-

ness of the two days: you know the preliminaries attending such performances as well as the details of the day and will no doubt wish you were here as last year, amongst the reviewing train, holding firmly your spirited charger (Sorrel) and occasionally thinking of the blackberries just beyond the lines and the pleasant ride thereto. But this denied you, I hope you are even now able to take the pleasant ride though neither Sorrel, his master, nor the blackberries are in view.

By the way, I want you to send me two pairs of gloves (cotton) good ones and not too large, for Dress Parade exercises; also a pair of light buck gauntlets. I like something similar to a lady's riding glove provided you can find them large enough. Also a pair of shoulder straps, as recent Orders do away with those of last year, permitting only the wearing of the leaf. I guess those you took off for me will answer every purpose; they are equally good as the coat, and will wear quite as long; so you need not purchase new ones for me. I will send Eliza the leaves when off, to compensate for the loss of the aforesaid articles.

Should no one be coming down soon, you can forward the things to me by mail. Perhaps Lt. Van Dusen is coming soon.

But the Call has already sounded and I must close: the coffee mill is also going, that indicates business.

I look for a letter from you this evening; and do hope you are still improving, and Frank well and good as ever.

Love to all at home,

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Graysville, Ga., April 7th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Yesterday we had our Grand Review of the Div., but owing to the bad ground, the Brigades were reviewed separately; making for all that, a very good showing indeed. Our Regiment had 300 men on the field, while quite a number were engaged on the usual camp duties. We now number 26 Officers, 376 men present; deduct the usual percentage for sick (5%) and you have our force, a larger Regt. than we have had since the Stone River engagement. Our regiments are all larger now, and the Brigade, though 3 Regiments were absent, made a very good showing .

Gen'l. T. appeared in his usual style, looking much as he did a year since, when you witnessed our Review at Murfreesboro.

The 33rd and 42nd Ind. have not yet joined us; they are now en route from Chattanooga and will be here soon.

But I will have to cut short my letter of this morning, as I have just received orders to move to Parker's Gap, on packet duty, to be gone until Saturday. Meantime I may not have much time to write you. Our Div. sends a regiment to the Gap every three or four days, staying thus long to prevent marching back and forth so often. I trust that we may have good weather and am very hopeful that we will, as so much bad weather has just passed, and today the sunshines brightly, although a little threatening, with April showers.

Did not receive your Sunday letter last evening but look for it tomorrow morning, with your P. S. of Monday. "Nora's brother" told me last evening that Frank was well: how he heard it I cannot say; I didn't ask him. He also thinks of getting up an elaborate map of the country, for your Gallery of Art. I will have him include Parker's Gap in the general landscape.

Our boys have just been surprised by the arrival of Sergt. Joe Redding, Co. D, who was captured at Chickamauga, Sept. 19th, 1863, and is now fresh from Dixie. Escaped once from Richmond, was retaken and escaped a second time from them. He is yet dressed in full Rebel uniform; that is, faded and torn butternut pants, shirt, shoes, and cap much of the same style; long hair, unshaven, and in fact, looks like a Reb of the guerrilla style. Has seen quite enough of Rebeldom and don't think of taking passage soon again.

No news to tell you from the front, in fact nothing transpiring of interest.

Gen'l. Thomas goes to Ringgold today to review the troops at that point. I see by the papers that Gen'ls. Gresham, Starkweather and others have been confirmed, but no action yet on the other aspirants in that way.

I look for the Col. down soon from what you wrote me last; but not with certainty until after the 15th.

But there goes the Assembly and I must close, get on my big boots, my fighting coat (all but the fight part), mount my "hoss" and off for the front.

By the way, Jim though a little stiff, is doing well as could be expected on our style of forage. I think now, that he was slightly foundered on grain, while at home. He will get over it.

Hoping ybu are having some happy times and with kind remembrances to friends and love to all at home,

I am ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

Parker's Gap, Ga.,
P. M. April 8th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you a hasty note yesterday before leaving camp, which with a hasty one today, will answer in place of one good one. Moved from camp shortly after 10 A. M., arriving here about noon (4 1/2 miles), relieving the 1st Wis., who were terribly glad to see us. Bivouaced on their vacated ground, myself and stove occupying a frame house in the mouth of the Gap, which I find a most convenient and excellent shelter from the wind and weather, as well as from the rain that fell last night.

With us, or rather I find here, the 18th Regulars, one Battalion commanded by the Officer who favored you with the ambulance at Anderson's the day of your departure North; one Capt. Smith, a queer, odd name, but a good Officer without any doubt. This gives us a very respectable force here while we are in sight from the hills of Graysville, Ringgold and Ooltewah on the Knoxville Road; connecting with each as well as with Lookout Mt. by Signal Stations so that I consider the position a good one as well as safe.

Scouting parties are sent to the front daily, the one yesterday catching sight of a few Rebels, some five miles out, but who made themselves scarce in short order. Their advance videttes are about that distance and rarely venture closer than I can hear of.

The Gap is very narrow, a good sized tree felled across being sufficient to obstruct it; a small, clear stream tumbles down the clefts of stone, and the races to two small mills yet remain as evidences of former habitations and industry. One of these has been entirely destroyed, the one remaining, a saw mill yet standing just beyond the picket, is daily being demolished to furnish shelter for the soldier. The race, road and stream occupy the full width of the Gap, while on the right, towers Taylor's Ridge I would judge about a thousand feet, circling off to the south toward Ringgold. On the left rises the Blue Mt. somewhat higher than the Ridge, bearing north-east to the Tenn. river, there winging with the many spurs and ranges of the Cumberland.

From the summit of these the view is grand and extensive. Range after range of hills and mountains meet the vision until eastward it becomes lost in the blue outlines of the North Carolina and Virginia mountains. North-east the Cumberland, west and north the Raccoon and Lookout ranges, while south the same continuous hills loom up in rugged grandeur.

From Graysville here there is not a farm until you strike this narrow valley, where a few tolerable farms are chalked out, but

mostly vacated, fences down and in every way dilapidated. Elsewhere than the valley are stony hills and ridges, fit only for the growth of small oak, pine and Georgia boulders.

But beyond all these ranges must we look for the much talked of "Sunny South", for this is not it, in either land or climate; the March winds are today howling around us and vegetation no further, in fact not so far advanced as in your yards on the Ohio ere my departure from you last. However, when we get there (?) I will write you of it.

George, who had loaned his horse to Major Carter to go to the field of Chattanooga, did not come out yesterday, but joined us this morning with the papers; but my letter yet to be looked for in today's mail; a delay having occurred somewhere. Had a notion to order him back to try again, but thought if punishment were his due he would get it sooner here. He just thought of going out with our scouting party to the front, but I find him still by the fire, reading *The Wandering Jew*.

He made some remarks about Frank's having excellent lungs, no fear of consumption in his case; that he rules the house and all that is in it, etc, etc. I think somebody must be telling stories on the boy. I shall look after the conspiracy, if such exists.

All doing well here, will be relieved tomorrow and go back to Ringgold.

But my mail carrier is ready to start for town and I must close. Love to all at home and kiss the boy.

Ever yours,
Dan. F. Griffin.

Graysville, Ga.,

Monday P. M. April 11th, 1864

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you a hasty pencil scratch from Parker's Gap and next morning was favored with yours of April 3rd and 4th, a perfect oasis in the desert of loneliness that pervades the vicinity of the Gap. Seated on a neighboring boulder I lost no time in tracing the contents. Glad to hear all were getting along so well though not yet out of doors; but you will enjoy it all the more when you do get started.

Frank must be an appreciative young man to laugh at Miss Hiefert's best song, though I must confess I saw a house full ready to do so; then the rendering is excellent and doubtless enhanced by the repetition and practice since my departure, and equals perhaps, my own or the original rendering. By the way, while on the show business, I see by the papers you sent me that you are now sporting a theatre, two circuses, a panorama, etc; really what times have ye fallen upon and when do you expect forgiveness for the doings of your city! Nothing but a return of the veterans will save you, as from example much may be learned.

Also see that my friend Kelso has been elected a "J. P." and doing business largely. You may engage him to sell for you two or three of your corner lots in Graysville, a small farm at Parker's Gap with the improvements thereon, consisting of one house, single room with kitchen attached, one stable, frame; dog kennel and five fence rails, also the remaining iron work of the burned mill, at same point. Terms cash or good notes with 8% interest, to run six months. For plats of the above property you can call on Adj. Devol, who is ready to make all needful surveys and furnish drafts at short notice.

Another item I see is, that the Legion is under orders and ready for the fray at long range, say 300 miles from the enemy. I feel that your personal safety from attack is now secured beyond peradventure.

Am real sorry you have not yet enjoyed one of those rides you so much wish for, but be not too early to venture. Would that I could be with you to assist and accompany you, but ere that we must have some active campaigning and I am hopeful that when the movements begin, 'twill be with such means as will warrant every success. I am certain that our Armies are stronger at all points than ever before and it does seem to me that when they move 'twill be with irresistible power. I trust it may prove sufficient to break down all barriers against the Old Flag and that at an early date.

Although our front here may be somewhat weak yet from the disposition of the forces, I am satisfied that at the proper time we

can move with twice the strength of our Army at Chickamanga. This if the concentrations around us are all made and I doubt not but they will be at the proper time. Of course I can form no opinion of the part we may be called on to play, but be it what it may, I have trust in the Guiding Power that has thus far carried us safely and victoriously through.

But I have not told you of my return from the Gap. Sat. noon were relieved by the 2nd Ohio, Col. McCook in Command, he having just arrived from the North. They will stay for five days on duty there. We arrived safely during the afternoon and enjoyed a good supper, our appetites having been much sharpened by the march as well as the inferior diet while in bivouac. I had there for the first time to try my teeth on the hard tack, and succeeded well enough. By the way, I have not suffered with my teeth in the least since leaving you, a happy circumstance indeed.

Yesterday we spent not very profitably or religiously; did not attend Church, though I tried to have the Chaplain of the 94th preach for us: previous engagements prevented it and the day was sinned away in omission if not in commission. However, I dressed up, held Parade, etc. forgot to shave, but today had my hair cut to make amends; will shave by next Sabbath, I expect.

Capt. Bird was much obliged for your favor, desired to be remembered, etc. Your army friends all ask for you and the "mess" always glad to hear from you and the boy.

Bill is disposed to stop my writing as he is just now calling for the boys to set the table, while the perfume of our "sassafras" tea and hot biscuit tell me the time is but short. Also the arrival of our mail boy is momentarily looked for, en route to the Brigade with his mail.

One of my mocking birds has made his appearance and is doing much singing: this morning he wakened me when reveille failed to do so. I wish you could have him as he is an extra good singer.

I would like to see that good boy Frank, laugh if he would, cry if he must, still I should love to see him and with him, yourself. You tell me he grows so fat that I guess 'twould be hard to recognize him, yet I think I could, without much trouble.

Love to all friends,

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

Graysville, Ga.,

4 P. M. April 14th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Last evening my expected letter not at hand, but was soon accounted for, as two of our boys walked out from Chattanooga and told me that the Col., Chaplain and others were there and would be out in the morning (today) , I at once set it down that my letter was in the hands of some of them. Today the train came on time and just as I was starting with the Battalion to the field for target practice, the Col. on his sorrel charger came into camp. Not however, until noon did I get the letter as I was already on the way. Have now yours written on Friday and Saturday; the Col. tells me that you have written something later and thinks Charlie Van Dusen either has it or that he has carefully laid it away to be found perhaps tomorrow. But without your last note I am grateful for your well-being, as Col. tells me you had been to his house, on the street, etc, listening to circus bands and other performances: he also tells of Frank's being very well on Sunday when he was over to see you, thinks him a nice boy (which he is, isn't he?) etc.

George has just sent me in, a half sponge cake, with compliments, etc, the first fruits of his box of good things. Col. says he has much also in the way of something to eat, so that I shall do well, exceedingly so, for some time. By the way, my supply or rather the supply your mother put up for me is just closing out, so that our second relief comes in very opportunely.

Our country molasses (which was tip-top), butter and other delicacies have gone the way of all the earth, but we are tolerably well supplied by our Commissary, which with an occasional barrel of potatoes etc, from the Ind. State Agency at Chattanooga, keeps our larder in very fair condition.

Col. sends love and to tell Mrs. Scribner that he is here, well and in good spirits; his horse came through all right. He will for the present locate with us in the Regiment and although being in Command, wants Major and me to run the machine until he finds how matters will turn up here. I think there will be soon a reorganization of the Army; perhaps it may give him a Brigade or something else; have not yet learned from him whether there are any additional assurances from Washington.

But in come supper, I must close to partake and very soon close this letter that it may go in tonight's mail., I now feel that you will be looking for it at least one day before its arrival.

Not a word of news here to tell you of this Dept., waiting I presume for movements to commence elsewhere.

Have just completed my supper, a genial repast of "sassafras" tea, good light bread, ham, mackerel, pie, molasses, potatoes and excellent cake: pretty good for camp fare, in fact I feel as though I had partaken of a sumptuous repast; sufficient to last my appetite for at least twelve hours.

George has been suffering with a sore and stiff neck all day; is now up and was at supper with us; has just returned from the Chaplain's tent with a letter and says he is all right now.

Our boys in Co. F's quarters have commenced their evening dance, the old violin is screeching its mellifluous strains and the boys are happy.

But with love to all at home I must hurry this off, trusting it may find you as well as it leaves

Your most obdt. husband,
Lt. Col. Dan.

Graysville, Ga., April 17th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Sunday afternoon, when soldiers off duty can either sleep, walk, write to their sweethearts, those who are so lucky as to have them; while the luckiest as well as the best individuals in the Army can write to their wives, sons, daughters, etc. Of the latter class or rather to it, I belong, and discarding the nap, the walk or ride, shall write my wife and son; happy in the consciousness of having such to write to.

A year since and the letter to my sweetheart would have taken its place; written with as much zeal perhaps, but not with the privilege of calling you wife, though a year since I began to think and wish much to do so. The wishing and thinking culminating in a leave of absence and then two months of true happiness, was it not? Only marred by the thoughts of an advance and separation. I have rejoiced a thousand times that my determination was made and taken when it was and cannot now think of one regret for thus making for the time, two of us happy; and even now I think I have much more to live for, to care for, to love; and look upon life as sweeter than ever in anticipation of its enjoyment with you in quiet and peace after the turmoil of Rebellion has passed away. I trust the Providence that is wielding this mighty Army may soon hasten this great day of rejoicing. Would that it were tomorrow, but the fruit is not yet ripe, though I trust it may prove so ere the coming of another Spring. Soon we shall be called upon to celebrate the anniversary of our wedding and from it I trust you may enjoy happy emotions and thoughts. Frank will have to act the part of representative and I doubt not you find him capable of concentrating your love and in return, giving all that he knows how.

But I am wandering from my bearings and must come back to the realities of things around me, else you will think I have after all my special pleadings, gone in search of the afternoon nap.

This morning, by invitation, the Rev. Allington, Chaplain of 94th Ohio V., preached for us and a genuine good sermon it was, I assure you. He is an eloquent, powerful speaker and leaves no stone unturned. I wish you could have heard him, as I know it would not only have pleased but interested you much. Our Chaplain assisted at the Services and will preach for us this evening, so you will observe that we are rapidly making amends for past neglect. Invited the Chaplains to dine with us and had a very pleasant dinner party, without any of the reserve usually thought to be incidental to the society of Ministers: this together with the good things provided by Carpenter, hastened the pleasures of the hour and added much to the geniality of our guests.

George, though his neck was stiff, attended in "propria persona", Robert like wise was on hand, while the Col. and Major crouched up the front and right flank right merrily. This over, the party dispersed and your most obedt. after some unavoidable business has commenced his recreation of love. A call from Lt. Col. of the 104th Ill. has for a time interrupted the flow of my affections in the proper channel; but now the coast is clear till Dress Parade.

The Major has wakened and desired to present his kind regards to yourself, Mrs. Compton, Miss Compton, etc, etc, not forgetting Frank. George, who was sitting by, desired that his love be presented to my wife, which I told him couldn't be done, then he thought I might forward it to my boy; but I suggested a stick of candy as perhaps a more suitable article and one that would be perhaps more appreciated; then he said he would send him a piece of cake, the last supply from his mother. If he don't forget it, you may look for it in due time.

By the way, I didn't tell you that on the Colonel's arrival, I detailed a party for house building, as our supply of tents is now very limited and with the fly of the Chaplain's tent for a floor, they soon had a pine hut erected, daubed with mud, a nice fireplace and all the comforts of a camp home; house the size of a wall tent with higher sides and roofing. This hardly completed when an Order came assigning him to the Command of the Brigade, Gen'l. Carlin having gone to Nashville to be gone ten days. It would not surprise me if he staid a longer time as I heard that he had made application for post duty. The Col. has determined however, for the present to remain with us, going to Brig. Headquarters to attend to business, but living like white folks should, along with us. Meantime I am doing as you ordered, living on the good things of my neighbors; well, all is fair in war; my neighbors lived with me under like circumstances, and the new supply arrived just in time, as my supply was about exhausted.

But I haven't told you that your letter by the Col. was found in due time, as; of which I shall take due time to answer, I think tonight, as I can forward it tomorrow by Sergt. Redding who goes home on furlough. I wrote you of his having just arrived from Rebel prisons. Post-Master has called for the mail and I must cut this short, hoping it may find you in the best of spirits.

This morning we had white frost, and daily we have to keep up our fires for comfort's sake; no leaves have as yet brightened the forests with their presence and the wild flowers so pale, look as though they were unwelcome guests in this ungenial clime.

But the time for closing has arrived. All well here and send love. With much of it to yourself, Frank and all at home,

I am ever yours,
Lt. Col. Dan.

Gravsville, Ga.,
 Sunday Evening, April 17th, '64

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you this afternoon by mail and propose in your peculiar style to write a small P. S. which I shall forward tomorrow by Sergt. Joe Reading. Perhaps the P. S. may reach you before the letter does, if so, you will know of its coming and if not obstructed by the Rebs or detained by slow officials, will reach you soon after.

I left you about the hour for Dress Parade, the call sounded, and almost ready to fall in line when it commenced raining; ordered the recall which was received with shouts by the boys, as they seemed to be quite anxious to be relieved. Next on the docket came the supper, since which time (the continuous rain preventing devotional exercises) Major, George, Robert and Lt. Van have been telling their stories and jokes with a merry good will. All have now retired and I am left alone with my thoughts.

But I forgot to mention one thing, during supper the mail was distributed and for me came your welcome letter of the 13th containing the "Reveille", Invitation to the Dance, and that foolish communication of Anonymous. Major thinks the boys must have taken to the Hospital for during the War, as they seem to be making a business. The invitation I regret not being able to accept it with you as 'tis now some three days behind the time. By the way, was the affair for the 23rd, who were there, etc, etc.

As to the other communication, 'tis hardly worth a thought, only if I knew who presumed to address you in that style, I should be very apt to wring his neck. Am real glad you sent it to me, though I have given it to the flames and shall not attempt to hunt the author for two reasons; the first, 'twould be a hopeless task to find him, and then 'twould be just what he wants, to have it spoken of... Should it be repeated, let me know of it and I shall set a trap for catching the young man. As to his sayings, give them no attention whatever, he is an arrant knave, mean and cowardly, and by next month perhaps, will swear he is my best friend.

The fact is, I found both Officers and men running with a pretty loose rein on my arrival and have gradually tightened up to near the old standard and some of them who have been their own masters for a month, find it hard indeed, to come under discipline. The hat-cord business is, that I found nearly two-thirds of them wearing Officers cords, some of them having Brig. Gen'l. cords, and as it is in direct violation of Orders and Regulations, I had the young men draw them off before our last Review; as I did not propose having Gen'l. Thomas and Staff reviewing my Regiment of Officers carrying guns. The boys thought this extremely hard, when

really they have as much right to wear the shoulder straps as the cora. Not more than four days elapsed after the Review before Orders came calling attention to private soldiers wearing the insignia of Officers. As to the matter of Robert 'tis on a par with the other: I have never, before or since the enlistment heard any complaint from any source in relation to him and his management of his Dept. The saying of George, I place the same estimate upon, exactly.

I found the guard duty going at a very hap-hazard rate, and one night discovered, on inquiry, that two of the guards had left their post, gone to their tents and doing about as they pleased. Next day I ordered both of them with another young man who had passed a five dollar worthless note on a washerwoman to ten days fatigue duty and placed the Corporal in charge of them who had failed to report them. They have worked their time out meek as mice and since, I have established a small Camp Guard with an Officer in charge. I find this very necessary to curb the spirit of insubordination. I know the men well enough and they know their duty well enough, to understand that I never go beyond the limits of my powers. The fact is, I have been scolding Officers more than men since our return, for the very reason that they do not take the care they should of them; and in time they will find who is their best friend. But among so many 'tis a rare assemblage if you do not find some petty scamps. But enough of this and give it no heed.

So you have set me down as "another such", although I must say I think I am the same person. After all 'twill not add the gray hairs any faster will it?

Tillie is rejoiced but Dan, the scamp, must needs have a fight first; perhaps that is his way of loving, though I should ask to be excused from the style. Am glad 'tis over with, and hope the worst has passed.

I wrote you this afternoon of the Col. being in Command of the Brigade at present: this relieves George who still adheres to his determination of not serving with or under him if possible. I talked to the young man on the subject and find his ideas deeply set. Not that he cares about having come to the front when he did, but the attending circumstances and others of a former date. I do not think he has been helped any by the arrival of his mother's letters, as I think she has taken up the idea that George was badly treated, and can see nothing else. I cannot think but that the Col. deserves sympathy in this case as I believe he did nothing intentionally, to hurt the feelings of any and he feels peculiarly and sensitively toward George's father; as he has always told me he had proved a father to him, and he would do nothing in the world in opposition to his wishes. George talked of resigning but I told him to take things quietly and see what was to be done ere he threw up his hand. He says he wants to serve until his three years are out just where he is. At present, all is quiet.

Col. once said, to marry makes a man a better man, but that it remains to be seen whether it makes a better soldier of him. I fear in many cases it does not. Our venerable friend, Dr. Curry, has just found that his health is declining and that his family need his attention very much, as do also his unsettled accounts of 1861; under these several convictions he deems it his duty to resign and the papers have gone up; but I do not think they will go through; at least until after the Summer Campaign; for should we move to the front, then above all other times do we need the surgeons. But a few days will decide and I will notify you. I sometimes think it wonderful how the Major and I survive while the young are thus being hurried to the rear on account of business and families.

Have not heard from Col. the affairs in the house of Carr, but have some items through the Maj. that I think came from him. How terrible this must be to him after what he has suffered. I cannot conceive how a woman could prove so base while the husband is nobly battling for her and his country. The gun-shot wound may heal, but the wound of the heart and affections, never: far better had he remained on the cold field of Chickamauga than to have lived to find such a home. I wish he were able to join us, but fear he never can.

But my dear, the hours wear swiftly away and I must to bed to dream of you and Frank, which I do often, and oh! how I long to have the realization of those dreams: but faith beckons me on, be of good cheer for all will yet be well. "Faith bears a helping hand to hope", and together they carry me in imagination through these stormy days. May the same shine around you brightly my dear, giving promise of speedy return with many happy days attending.

Kiss our boy; and love to all.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

Monday Morning.

My Dear:

All quiet in the camp and friends well.

Dan.

Graysville, Ga.,
P. M. April 21st, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Have been looking for the arrival of Sergt. Shaw, for two days, with more than ordinary interest as by him I anticipate a letter from you. The train is down today and yet he has not arrived, though this afternoon may bring another train and perhaps him. But in the absence of news for a few days, for 'twas on Monday that I received your last, I always indulge the belief that you are getting along well.

I put in my days of camp life as becomes a soldier; trying to do my duty to the country that I trust will be able to amply protect our rights and interests in future.

As yet the genial clime of southern spring has not visited us though for the past few days fires are only requisite morning and evening. Nature is trying hard to force the leaves of spring upon us, but has thus far almost totally failed, as our bare hill-sides but too plainly show. The rain has left us for almost a week and we are having at least dry weather and dry roads. Camp exercises daily, with most of the morning devoted to target practice. Afternoons to reading the news, writing and occasionally a small nap.

Everything on the front quiet and as yet I see no indication of a speedy move. Gen'l. Carlin has again returned, which places Col. S. in Command of the Regiment, though he desires the Major and me to run the machine, he wishing to be but nominally in Command. How long this may continue or what may be the Col's. prospects for a speedy change, I cannot say. Perhaps if there is a reorganization of the Army, as I have heard there would be, it may make some position for him. I wish it were settled for his sake; as for myself, it makes but little difference one way or the other; I generally have my hands full anyway, whatever the position I may occupy; and would prefer it so, else ennui and blues might overtake me.

George, Robert, Major and all are well, and amongst us able to pitch a game of horseshoes most every day, and put in the evenings at a social game of whist or euchre; though for the past few evenings George has not joined our party, I think because of his feelings toward the Col., which seem not to improve. Aside from this little family issue, all goes "merry as a marriage bell" amongst the clans.

Col. Bassford "that was a Col." spent the evening with us on Tuesday; out of the Service, the pressing necessities of affairs at home rendering this step absolutely necessary, though he hated very much that it should be so; says if necessary however, he will return in time, even though it be with a musket on his shoulder, etc,

etc, ad infinitum; all of which cannot be seen exactly, as he has scarcely been with his Regiment three days since they left Murfreesboro, in 1863. I wrote you of the pressing necessities urging Surgeon Curry toward the bosom of his family; well, the Dr's. papers have been returned, "not accepted". The fact is, I think it becomes every Medical Officer in the Army to remain with it, now that every prospect ahead seems to indicate a stirring campaign; when their services if ever, will be needed most. And I think the present, not the time for them to leave us, as the vacancies could not be easily filled and if they were, 'twould be with inexperienced men. Dr. seems to think he will have to keep trying until he "learns how" as he says, to resign. I think next fall would be ample time for that class of officers anyway, who have but little risk to run in the way of meeting stray bullets.

Trains passing close to our camp daily, make us feel as though civilization had not departed from the land; though elsewhere appearances tell sadly against this desolate region. We have a daily mail, and papers though a few days old, possess all their interest for us and are purchased freely.

The affair near Columbus, Ky. is the last stirring act in the drama and I think should be sufficient to set the loyal North in a blaze of excitement until the means were provided for preventing a repetition of the scenes. But the day of retribution for these outlaws that thus set aside all rules of honorable warfare, will surely come. They have inaugurated in that Dept. and I mistake the spirit of the times, if it is not avenged. It does seem to me that the blame must rest somewhere to allow our River Points to be thus menaced and taken, while so many means of reinforcements are at hand. Yet we must look for some of the small losses, as the spirit of the Army seems to be on concentration, and when the large bodies do move, 'twill be with such mighty force as to require every nerve of the Confederacy to meet it. And if they can be overthrown, as I trust they will, the side issues can be attended to in short order.

These little affairs, though harassing, have but little influence on the general results. Am glad you take the Gazette, you will find in it much useful information on all our National troubles; and as general rule, pretty reliable as to news.

Have heard nothing of the coming of the Pay-Master and lest you be out of funds by this time, I purpose to divide what I have left, after running the mess since my arrival here, and enclose \$20.00 Hope it may reach you in safety, as I imagine it will be a welcome guest. The Col. brought some Com. money for the Officers and I propose to have some of them run the eating department for a time.

I see gold is still going up, and with it of course, up goes everything that goes to sustain life. And I fear that ere long, a money crash may come upon us that will place us but little above the Confederacy. Still I hope that Congress will apply a remedy:

they are talking much but doing little. The Tax Bill will give us a little revenue and save perhaps, a further issue of currency. I hope it may still, if the crash does come.

Many in the North who are now living so fast, will come down to the old level. I trust legislation may effect some tangible results ere Congress adjourns. However, much will depend upon the success of the Summer Campaign.

If they come up to our expectations, gold must come down from the fictitious value it now has, and all else will come with it.

Indications of the weather point to a rain this afternoon, which in the absence of picket or other duty to perform, can have but little effect upon our general good spirits.

Almost the hour for Dress Parade and closing of the mail for today.

Love to all at home and friends around.

Ever your devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin.

Graysville, Ga., April 23rd, 1864.

My Dear Wire:

I had hardly closed my letter to you on Thursday and sent it to the Chaplain's tent when the arrival of Sergt. Shaw was announced; and soon after, came your letter of Sunday and package of gloves, etc. Of the latter article, they are just what I desired and will answer every purpose required of them. The shoulder straps have been placed on the coat and answer every purpose. For your trouble I send you many kisses and shall pay on the first opportunity promptly and with all the interest asked. The leaves that have fallen from their position under the influence of Dept. Orders, I enclose to you with the recommendation that Frank be at once appointed to the highly honorable and dignified position of Lt. Col., enter at once upon the discharge of his many duties and wear the insignia of his rank in spite of Orders. Expect he will be able to appear on the next Review and Inspection of the "Home Guards".

Your letter that you spoke of, telling of the dance, has not yet arrived, but guess 'twill be along soon; shall look for it this evening. So my Jeffersonville friends called on you; should like to have seen the young ladies, though I doubt much if I should have known them, as they were but small girls when I saw them last. Miss R. was always a modest, retiring pretty little girl with but little to say and I had imagined she would make a handsome woman: as to Miss Sallie, she favored the old lady too strongly in personal appearance as well as in mind and manners, to have prepossessed me very favorably. I see your preferences bear out my suppositions. Of course you said my "pressing business and family cares" alone prevented my calling.

I wrote you of the return of Gen'l. Carlin and that the Col. had taken up his quarters with us; he is now in Command, and I presume waiting patiently.

Yesterday for the first time in twenty months did we have a Dress Parade with three Field Officers: that with the addition of recruits makes things appear as they did lang syne. Had this morning 409 enlisted men present.

Your predictions as to George are being verified, yesterday he tendered his resignation. He says that he would like to stay his time out, etc, but will not if he can help it, with Col. S. in Command. Based his resignation on grounds of misunderstanding with his superior officer etc, which he afterwards changed, as this might have led to the appointment of a Board for examination of the case. And now bases it on his desire to enter the Naval Service. Col., thinking bad may lead to worse, has placed a favorable endorsement on the paper and I think it will go through. Of course for kindness of feelings toward the Col. 'tis best not to make the cause assigned, or real cause known; though my opinion is, that an

examination would place him right upon the card, yet he says rather than would the feelings of George's father, he will bear the whole of it. I advised George to take no such step, but he was fully determined in it. He may have other reasons than those known to me; certainly he must to make me justify his conduct. He seems to forget that to the Col. he owes everything, so far as his connection with the Regiment and Service is concerned, and promotion therein. Over a direct promise to Doc, he was made Sergt. Maj., simply because his arm at that time unfitted him for any other position. And this circumstance led to his promotion to the Adjutancy. But this is but the experience of everyday life, in the army and out of it. I trust George may continue out of the Army, the habits contracted therein, though I fear the evil effects of either City or Naval life upon the mind of one who has heretofore been so easily led. I trust however, he will continue in his course as marked out here.

Today we have had constructed a pine bough shed in front of our quarters, which is found to be exceedingly agreeable, for the sun is beginning to shine with some vigor, though the winds howl continually as becomes the gusty days of March. Our Chaplain has, with the assistance of volunteers, erected a Chapel 28x48 ft., of pine logs and boughs; seated and "pulpited" in the most approved Camp Meeting style, and tomorrow we have the Dedicatory Services. Wish you were here to attend with us.

Spare time is now devoted to the healthful and edifying sport of horse shoe pitching; which your better half (doubtful about the better?) is quite expert at, in fact almost able to lead the Command. Our games at the table still come in for a fair share of the evenings entertainment; and thus we pass the time, waiting for the campaign to open; and wishing we were with our wives and babies.

Not a word from the front to report you. Everything so far as I can judge being quiet, exceedingly so.

But I must close with much love to yourself, to home folks and kisses to Frank. I do wish I could see the boy, as I am almost forgetting how he looks. His image is not so deeply engraven as yours, which cannot be forgotten or blotted out from the mind. Is that mark yet on Frank's neck?

Scold Eliza for me about twice a day, it don't matter much for what, jusy so you scold her. Col. says, don't forget my love to wife and baby and Major D.

Ever yours, dearest,
 Dan. F. Griffin,
 Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vols.

I sent \$20.00 in my letter of Thursday to you. Did it come to hand?

Dan.

Graysville, Ga.,
4, 30 P. M. April 26th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

One day of disappointment for you I know unless the mail may prove extremely expeditious, for my Sunday letter which was postponed until Monday that I might give you the latest intelligence (mail being closed every day at six o'clock), was not even then written and today I am making amends.

Yesterday just as I returned from target practice, came an Order that I should proceed with 200 picked men, at once on special service: and ascertained on reporting that it was to proceed to White Oak Ridge below Parker's Gap and ascertain the truth or falsity of the report brought in by scouts that the Rebs had advanced and occupied certain grounds with a Cavalry Picket. Started as soon as possible with 200 of the Veterans, arriving at the Gap by 3, 30 o'clock. Ascended White Oak Ridge, full as high as the highest knobs below your city and scouted for a distance of three miles but no Rebs or traces of them. Returned to the Gap by 8 o'clock P. M. and bivouaced for the night; tired I assure you, for the trip from there I made on foot, the extreme roughness and steepness of the ground making horsemanship available in only one way and that by leading up and down. A cup of strong coffee with accompanying hard tack and ham rendered the evening quite agreeable and we passed the night tolerably well. I spent several hours with the boys around their cheering fires which were kept blazing all night.

Today we returned before noon, and are again ready and quite able for camp rations. Since dinner I shall confess to having slept but two hours and should this letter prove somewhat disjointed, you can attribute it to the long nap and consequent derangement of the mental system. Could not however, postpone longer writing you and Frank, even though I shall ask to be relieved from Dress Parade in consequence thereof. Col. is here to officiate while George does the part of Adjt.: Major also in good condition to go on, having joined me in my afternoon exercise of sleeping.

Have not yet told you that immediately after the departure of my Saturday letter I was favored with yours of the 26th, only three days from home and bringing good news of all being well.

Sorry your throat does not get better; you had best go to the Dr. about it at once. Gen'l. Johnson, who has been troubled much with sore throat (though I don't know that it has been ulcerated) tells me the best remedy he has ever found is a solution of salt and water with which to gargle the throat frequently, during the day and night too, though I shouldn't waken for the special purpose. I trust you are better, but if not you might try the salt and water if you are without other remedies and not under treatment. Expect I should be at hand to mix it for you, then I know

'twould help you as you have much faith in my experience and applications, haven't you? And Frank good boy, has recovered from his cold.

You mention the anniversary of my departure from Murfreesboro on my mission of happiness; 'twas not forgotten by me, as is anything else connected with that memorable trip, and how wonderful seem the changes since that date! Yet if I have but added to your hours and days of happiness I feel that I have done well. I know that was the result and is now the result in my case: an improved and elevated enjoyment of life, that was before a stranger of me.

We shall soon be called upon to celebrate the anniversary of that still brighter day, the 30th of April, and while doing so you will think much of me and kiss our boy many times for both of us, won't you?

Call for Dress Parade has been made and I hear the indomitable Carpenter issuing his orders as to that table, yet I shall continue my duty of love for this time and compensate for the delay in forwarding. I would judge from your letter that Gen'l. Gresham is going to the Dept. of the Miss. again, instead of to Huntsville as expected; am I correct? I know the Gen'l. would like much to be on this line under his old Commander, Sherman.

There, the mail carrier has called for this communication and I must hasten to a close and expect I have told you about all that I know anyway.

See no indications of a speedy move though the campaign must begin ere long; not however, before next month. Although we know not what an hour may bring forth in the Eastern Dept., and that we will, or may act simultaneously with them.

Are now under orders to prepare for muster on the last of the month and we all trust had hope for a visit from the Pay Dept. soon thereafter, as the wants of the Army in this particular are general. Though no suffering exists for the want thereof about these premises, I prefer however, to secure a supply for your benefit during the Summer months, as you desire to visit with your escort or Chief of Staff, Frank, the watering places of Hoosier!

But my dear, I must finish with love to yourself, our boy and all at home; and kind remembrances to friends.

All well with us and many desire to be remembered.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

Graysville, Ga., April 28th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Spring has at last come from her Souther home, showering around us beauties on hill-side and vale. Already the foliage is gathering thick upon surrounding trees, the birds taking quick possession of their leafy boughs and already lending to this inhospitable looking country, some of the beauties of a home. With this however, we have to suffer the annoyances from flies, insects and a hot sun that you doubtless remember much of, while at the same time, the roads are rapidly gaining firmness sufficient to warrant active campaigning. And while on this subject, it does seem to me that the time must soon come for our large force to act. Already we seem to have suffered many small losses, but they have u but comparatively little effect on the general result and I soon look for movements that more than compensate for these small affairs. 'Twill be easy enough to attend to these side issues after their main armies have been met and defeated, as I have every hope they will be. Concentration of forces must necessarily leave exposed many minor points and many small garrisons must fall, yet the crowning victory will be, that of crushing either Lee's or Johnson's Armies and I think the efforts of the nation are now being moved in that direction.

I know with what interest you watch these movements and that your prayers daily go with your country's banners. Much is expected from the movements East and I am hopeful much good may come from them, as the power of our Army in that quarter, must be large and Gen'l. Grant has heretofore proved himself able to concentrate all the forces he desires to accomplish his ends. And meanwhile that all eyes are bent in that direction, the Army in this Div. must not be lightly overlooked, for their available force far exceeds anything we have heretofore ever had to act with, when once concentrated: and I shall miss my guess unless you hear much of importance from it during the Summer. I do hope the blows, when they do fall, may be sufficient to crush all opposition, for I think a few such affairs as our last at Chattanooga would close the heavy fighting of the War. We all trust it may be so.

I wrote you of my trip to White Oak Ridge, since which time we have been chiefly resting, doing but little; in fact living much at our ease in camp.

No exciting news but that found in the newspapers and nothing round of special interest but letters from home. By the way, I am looking for mine this afternoon, with love and kind wishes and messages from home.

No changes to note in camp; our Officers and men from Ind. are nearly all with us, recruiting having ceased for the time. I see

the Gov. has called for 20,000 of the valiant guards for one hundred days; let them come forward at once, I say. I think they will though all hands North seem to be too intent on money making to heed promptly such appeals; yet I hope the Army of 85,000 offered by the West, may become a fact. 'Twould help the cause by relieving many now in the rear to come to the front where we want them for real service. The idea of sending to the field such of the Invalid or Veteran Reserves as belong to the first class, I think an admirable feature, for many there are therein, fully able to do the duty and should have it to perform. Don't know how this may suit the light blue gentry, but the good and tried soldiers amongst them will be rejoiced to get back to the front again.

George's papers came back last evening "not accepted", and he declares himself highly satisfied with the result, that he is glad of it, etc, etc. I think much of his bitterness of feeling has worn off and that he now looks upon affairs in their true light. I think he was surprised at the favorable endorsement of Col. S. and I think, gives him credit for it. I am glad it has ended as it did as I know it would have been a source of much unhappiness to him in future, had it been accepted. Gen'l. Johnson thought "twould be time enough to resign after the next battle"; Gen'l. Palmer, that "the present is no time for an officer to resign for such reasons as given". George, I think, is glad of the result as he says he is; and everything is now moving with us, in pleasant harmony.

Dr. Curry has not yet tried his hand again, possibly he will wait until after the campaign; although since the arrival of his papers he has been rather on the sick list.

Col. McCook is over this afternoon and desires to be remembered to you and the boy. Col. S. and Maj. join in the same, while George asks not to be forgotten.

Have just seen the Mail Ambulance pass to Headquarters and by supper time, expect to be in possession of my looked-for treasure. Will write you soon if it proves true, and expect I shall, anyway.

But the last chapter must be written; with many kisses to Frank and love to all at home, wishing, hoping and praying that all are well and happy, that you are enjoying the pleasures of New Albany life with fine weather and many pleasant drives, and rides on your black pony.

Meantime think of me as ever,

Your most devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin,
Lt. Col. 38th Ind. Vet. Vols.

Graysville, Ga.,
Saturday Evening, Apr. 30, '64.

we might have indulged in and perhaps did, on that occasion. I have thought much today of the occasion and every incident of the even though we be separated many I must say that it has caused, dull hours of ordinary camp life and duties. I have lived again in memory through the pleasures of the day and again thank you for fairer and better proportions; more suited to the tastes and habits of man than I had ever before dreamed of. How I wish that I were with you as then and that with me you could visit these southern been decreed otherwise and let us bow to these unwished and un-
~~ing of my friend Col. Ned for the occasion, and by the way, I think 'twas a lesson well taught him and perhaps well learned: then the ton and long search amongst Mrs. Scribner's wardrobe shirt but and there the pleasure of that morning then the going to your house, the days and nights of thoughts and meditations thereon: the ceremony, friends, feasting and all, until finally seated in the train, friend and loved acquaintance had become my wife. A thousand little thoughts have been with me, a thousand wishes that all may yet be well that the full measure of our happiness may be meted out. I expression, for to me the change has ever proved one of happiness and I believe the same is true of your own feelings; is it not? that joy that dear friends have been our lot yet have you not shared lieve my dear, that none ever married more closely allied by love and genuine good feeling and confidence than you and I, and that Without you I should care but little what way was it not, so? when closed the War or where my habitation. Now, I can see and feel but true happiness when with you. May our prayers be heard~~

and granted for a speedy closing out of the Rebellion, that all may enjoy the blessings of this great land. Today I am surrounded by soldier friends and many of them your friends, we have talked of the day, and had the wine been on hand would doubtless have drunk to the day with many happy anniversaries. With you have been home friends, perhaps others that were with you to live the day over and talk much of Dan: but you have another representative on the field to take up much of your attention and much to tell him of the soldier boy of a year since, who came home so suddenly to claim his young bride: I mean your son Frank, my representative in the house: of course he will understand but little but will doubtless get an extra kiss in remembrance of it and if he is half as appreciative as his father, he will consider this a boon of great value and would wish the recurrence of the day often. Would that I were there to share the joys with you, but perhaps this is no time to thus wish; let us but wait till the lowering clouds have passed and the sunshine may prove all the brighter for us.

Today has proved decidedly April-like, sunshine and showers alternating, while the spring birds are having happy times amongst the opening forest foliage. This afternoon Inspection and Muster in considerable style, when the new shoulder straps, my veritable wedding coat and a pair of your white gloves were placed in requisition: this over, little to do than eat; a short respite at horse shoe pitching; then the after supper talk and jokes, until now all have retired, leaving me sole monitor of the line; to talk and think at leisure and live for a few hours in pleasant converse with my dear little wife.

I have yet no indications of a move to give you and patiently await the arrival of the time to strike, with full confidence in those at the helm of state. But tell me, how rally the brave young soldiers to the call of the Gov. for 20,000? Do they leave the stores, the desks and the plough, and with one accord unite their hands and hearts in the cause? I much fear they will not stir with that alacrity becoming the heroes of Hoosier; and that the delay may prove a barrier to the good looked for from the enterprise. I favor the enterprise, though I think 'twould be wiser for the Government to draft a like number, for say two years or during the War. Yet even the help they may give us in the 100 days may be fraught with much good to the cause. I see with pain that your Butternut, I might almost with propriety say, your traitor sheet, the Ledger, is opposed to the scheme and is throwing much cold water on it; but this is only on a par with all their actions. I would that a good loyal paper were established with you, I think it would be healthful to your part of the State.

I see the 23rd and 53rd have perhaps started South ere this, ready after seeing their wives and sweethearts for another campaign. Will Capts. Babbitt and Clark again go on Gen'l. Gresham's Staff or do they join their Command?

I have thus far forgotten to tell you of the receipt of your letter of the 25th, with P. S. of the 26th. It came to hand yesterday, much to my delight; for I do love to hear from you: you know that was always a weakness of mine, although I think that the wrong name for it now. Received Matt's and Eliza's love and in view of this being the anniversary, will return lots, as this should be a day of gratefulness and everlasting love.

Sha'n't give up the idea of having Frank's picture; can't you tie him by the thumbs? That is the way unruly soldiers are treated. I shall forget him altogether, (I mean how he looks,) unless you do so soon.

Received Doc's "long letter", a page and a quarter; shall give it due attention in a few days.

Friends here all well. My love to all at home; remembrances to friends.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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