

Camp Near Fairfax C. H. Va

about 1 mile from the former Camp by the above ____

Oct 31st 1863

Dear Father & Mother

Your kind letter was Recd last Tuesday morning just as I had my Company in line preparatory to Going out on Drill It was a Well come letter & I intended then to have answered it & one that I recd from Matilda the same time but to tell the truth I have not had time to do so this is the first spair moment & if it was not for the fact that I fear I will not have as favorable a moment again I should now get to bed as I am tyred it is now about 3 O.C. P.M I will now tell you how my time has been spent since I recd your letter Whilst out on Drill post hast comes the Orderly Ordering the Company in & myself with 34 men to prepair 1 Days Raition & Report for Pickett Duty taking out of the Regt 300 men & Officers at 12 O.C. Noon we started for Pickett Duty marched about 2 ½ mile put out our Pickett plaised a Reserve & then Wated for what mite turn up Evrithing passed off quietly I went the Rounds or along the line of my Pickett 3 times during the night Encuraging them giving them such Instructions as I though proper always thinking it is better when all seemes quiet & safe to be prepaired for the worst I had with me a Reserve of 66 men my line of Pickett Extended about ¾ of a mile Reaching from the adge of Woods to Woods our Regt of 300 Extended about 3 miles

the next day at noon we came in some what tyred & found the Boys taring up camp to march about ½ mile sout of the Villadge of Fair CH then I had all I could do that afternoon to march to our new camp & put up my tent temporally for the night next morning Capt Warner was detailed for Officer of the Day throughing the Command of the Company for that day on me laying out camp putting up tents & fixing up what little we have makes it rather buisey a 1000 men & evry one buisey fixing up his own little House it is House for him for whilst a Soldier it is all the House he has s passed Tuesday

Friday morning Ordered at 9 O.C. AM for ____ a Division Review We are now Brigaded again in 1st Brigade 2 Division 11 Army Corps Col Bushbeck Commanding

Brigade Brg Gen Von Stienwher com Division Gen Sigel Com Corps Gen Banks com
 Department the 27 Pa 73 Pa 154 & 29 N.Y. composes our Brigade We passed in
 Review of Sect Stanton & Sect Chase Gen Sigel Gen Carl Shurtz & Gen Von Stienwhir
 ___ present it all passed verry pleasantly some 11,000 Infantry present how many
 Artillery & Cavalry I cant tell they was beyont my count Well back we got at noon
 Eat Dinner & then was Orderd as Officer of the ___ about camp for 24 hours coming
 off to day at noon up all night Capt to Day Field Officer of the Pickett I am again in
 Command of Company & had hardly assumed Command this noon before I was
 Ordered to distribett 40 Rounds of Cartridges which I have done & am now
 expecting or would not be disappointed if we Received Marching Orders by to
 morrow any quantity of Rumors in camp to day

Prisaners are taking most evry day by Sigel Picketts 2 of the 136 N.Y.SV Picketts
 wais Yesterday Wounded whilst on duty petickulers I have not heard the Wether
 here is very warm to day & has been very pleasant the past weeke Our Storm of
 Sunday last clearing off Monday noon pleasant it now looks as though we mite get a
 Shower it being about Sept Wether this afternoon my health is quite good though
 verry tyred at present

I am Ready for any thing that may turn up am rather anxious to go in was happy to
 hear of Adyes returning health I have written Wm J three letters & Theadore 2
 letters & Recd no answers One I wrote Theadore at Jamestown & the other at Camp
 Sewerd I have forgot but I believe I wrote you last at Camp Sewerd if so we Broke
 camp their Sunday Oct 12 Marched here 1 ½ Day some 16 miles Large Bodyes move
 Slow it had rained the night before just annoff to lay the dust & make the march very
 pleasant To describe Va to one they must see it no fences Houses pulled Down
 others half Down Soldiers converting to their use such parts as they may want this
 place is Dilipated and Old Gen Washingtons Deed & Will are here recorded & many
 other old papers of his time &c Well the Order has come prepair 2 Days Raition
 cooked the whole Corps is ordered to march to morrow Sunday morning that is the
 day to march more orders Recd that day than as orders to ___ that day then any
 other better the day better the deed I will write you soon my love to all to Ma Ada &
 Willy tell him I am in hopes that I may be one of the meny that will save this Country

that he may have as good a country to live under as I ever have if I fall & the country is saived I am Willing that my life if necessary may be sacrificd for its Good I must write to Matilda so Good Night Brother is all right

Your affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Camp 154 Regt N.Y. Vol
Near Cattlets Station Va. Aug 9th/63

Dear Father

I arrived in camp Friday afternoon found the Regt 1 mile from the Station whair they had gon in Camp that morning marching some 3 miles from their former Camp We are situated in I think as pleasant a camp as we have been in I found 6 men of my Co. 3 wair with the reconossance party 1 was taking prisonor but got away 2 returned from Hospital since the Battle they wais happy to see me back so they sed & I guess they told the truth for they soon fixed me up a tent & Yesterday they went out & got some Boards from the flour of an Old Stone house & fixed me up a bed some 18 in from the ground Cut some grass & out of a Hard Bread box put me up a Writing desk so you se I am comfortable quarterd my tent is raisd some 18 in from the Ground both Ends Open & the sides being so raised makes it as Cool as it can be the wether is very Warm but our Camp is in a beautiful Grove of Hard Wood timber We have cut out all the under brush burnt the Old Leaves & have as Clean & neat a Camp as can be I now feel quite at home again the prospects now are we shall stay here some time the Country about here is fine not a hill nor mountain in Sight the land a little Rolling & On the plantation we are situated is some 500 horses or mules feeding on the uncut grass as far as my Eye can reach not a fence to be seen & much poorer grass I saw cut near Albany.

the 11 Corps is not broking up Gen Howard is yet in Command The Army with out on exception that I have found are all anxious about the draft & down upon anything that tends to interrupt it & all I have seen are down on the Reptiles Col [Patrick Henry] Jones is on duty at Annopolis he is not as yet exchanged Book was taking prisonor his health was good when taking. 6 men Come in Camp from Convalessance Camp to day give us back our prisonors & Hospital men & we will have quite a respectable Regament again I will go to work to Morrow on those blanks by the way I am the onely Capt present in the Regt & have command of the left Wing my company being in that Wing My Respects to all Friends in the Beaureau & Elshware in the City

Aug 10

Report is that we have not long to stay here Texas Charleston Fortress Monroe
North Carolina are a few of the places of destination for our Corps (by Report the
Rest of the Army I no nothing about My love to

Your Affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Direct Washington, D.C.

Camp 154 Regt N.Y. Vol

Alexandria Va

Aug 30th 1863

Dear Father

Your Kind letter was Received by due course of mail was happy to here of your good health & to hear that Ada Was better I Wrot you at Catletts St stating we ware then under marching Orders we Recd Orders to march Monday night Aug 17 Brok Camp 6 PM & marched to Bristo St distance from camp 11 miles Tuesday morning day ligt on the march for Manassas Junction Distance 4 miles. When we went in to camp I was very tyred mt feet blisterd I got about all the marching I wanted for that time was satisfied to halt & pitch tents we remained at the Junction until Aug 25th when Orderd to Alexandria we came here on the cars we are very pleasantly situated in Camp just out of town on the Bank of the Potomac in sight of & have a fine view of the Capotol &c the men have the Sibley tent Officers the Wall tent One for evry two Officers we feel again like men can stond upright & have some little conveniences we are here to Guard Conscrips whilst taking them to the front Go with a train each day I go to morrow it takes about 60 men to Guard a train not very bad business we have the Boys all dressed up with new Caps Pants Jackets Shoes & under clothes they look & feel as though they ware having a holaday we are in hopes we may stay here this winter by a little wire pulling I think we may be permantly detached from the 11 Corps & assigned to duty here our Old Brigade Commander Col Bushbeck dont like it it took 3 of the Regt of his Brigade the 73 Pa 134 N.Y. & our the 154 NY & he is awair that the 154 has almost got him (if not quite) a Star on his sholder & no thanks to him nor nothing he don to inspire us he will try hard to have us returned to the Corps & to his command he is col of the 27 Pa & now commands it I hurd from E.H.H. [Ephraim H. Hotchkiss] I saw some of the Boys that was taking Prisonor with him a few has returned to Parol Camp nere here he is well & on Bell Island near Richmond a few that wais sick ware sent a short time since into our lines on Parol

I have no further news to write I have quite a number of those papers maid out & will now after I get my monthly reports made out finish them up & send them on My Respects to Friends in the Dpt love to ma Ad ___ & Willy write soon

Most Affectionately

Your Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Camp 154 Regt N.Y. Vol
 Lookout Valley Tennessee
 February 1st 1864

Dear Father

Your Kind & affectionate letter dated January 19th was Received to day, having a spare moment I will answer it & One Received the 20th which one I should have answered ere this but for want of an opportunity having been the past week on the move & building new quarters fixing up Camp &c a week ago last night (Sunday night at about 10 P.M. Three Brother Officers were in my quarters We were having a social Chat & congratulating ourselves on our comfortable quarters & the prospects of enjoying them for at least 3 months yet, when our conversation was interrupted by the Bugle sounding the Officers all sprung to their feet & Bet we had marching Orders in less time than it takes me to write it we were at the Col quarters & received Orders to be prepared to march in the morning at 8 A.M. to Kelleys Ferry, on the Tennessee River some 6 or 7 miles from camp Col Jones to take command of the Post Kelleys Ferry is where our supplies and the supplies for the Army of the Cumberland were landed until after the Battles of Lookout Mountain & Mission ridge Nov 23, 24, 25 the Rebs holding a South side of the river between us the 11th Corps & Chattanooga Well we marched there Monday morning and a more beautiful morning never dawned upon a depraved man we arrived at the Ferry about about 11 A.M. the Boys threw off their coats & went to work to fix up their quarters. we relieved the 101 Illanoise & went in their camp but like moving in a house just vacated we had a good deal of cleaning & rearranging of quarters Tuesday we policed camp swept every foot of Ground within the boundaries of the Camp In the afternoon Genl Hooker paid us a visit & complimented us very highly as a Regt on our industry & the ingenuity displayed in fixing our quarters comfortable we thought now we would surely stay here at least till a General movement was made I had my quarters carpeted with a very nice reed carpet bought from an officer of the 101 Illanoise, a stretcher which I used for a Bed & lounge had made me a writing table had a room on back for cooking & Eating Room and now thought I could &

would just take comfort but we are subject to disappointments in war, for the General seemed to think it would be a good idea to have us near him for on wednesday morning about 10 A.M. we received Orders to march at 1 P.M. & report to Hd. Qrs. of 11 & 12 Corps & the General commanding would dissignate our camp up we pulled again & are now about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the camp we left monday morning the boys swore some for we thought sure we would go in our old camp our quarters were all their yet Just as we left them we have moved a part over to our present camp and am again all right hope we may stay at least awhile & think we shall. My health is good

The wether is warm & pleasant as it is in May in New York State the grass begins to spring up in a word the Climate here in Tennessee is most delightful We now have uninterrupted R.R. communication between Chattanooga & Nashville the first Engine run up to Chattanooga from Bridgeport January 14th I assure you the sound of that Engine Whistle was a pleasant sound to the Ear of the Soldiers for we had on short rations for three days (I mean by short) we could draw nothing I lived for three days on 1 Hard tack Boiled Rice & Coffee without Sugar or meat we now have Flour Hard & soft Bread sugar Coffee Beans Mixed Vegetables Pork & Beef so you see at preasent we are all right we get now pleanty I wish Bookey mite shair with me a portion I assure you for awhile he would think he would never want butter I pitty him poor fellow he has had a hard time of it I think B.F.B. mite fetch them to termes as soon as E.H.H. [Ephraim H. Hotchkiss] reaches Anoppoles or is within our lines let me know he must have some money he will want some to use before he can get his pay let me know wen he arrives & he shall have it if he is sick on his arrival you must go and see him it will do him so much good tell him I think of him dayly they may get me but never whilst I can use my leggs & armes I see by the papers Margan [Confederate Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan] is making preparations for a raid to Cut our communications he may bother us a little but I consider it impassable for him to damage us here so as to cause us to give back an inch rather then give up here the men would if nescesary live on 2 Hard tacks pr day and do it without a murmer we are now getting at Chattanooga a supply of raitions ahead What the program will be this spring I can not guess but it seams as though this work of

crushing the Rebellion can be done easier from some other point than here say by way of Mobile give them a touch there & thence up the Alabama & into the heart of that state our line here is already long enough to protect & do it successfully at least it will be if it is continued to Knoxville I take a vast Army to keep this line open & protect East Tennessee We have got to have thousands of mules for this Army before we can move to make an advance We are now & have been unable to supply Hay for Horses or Mules I have not seen 10.00 of Hay this Winter One line of RR can not transport it & supply the Army hundreds of Mules & Horses have died here this Winter for the want of Forage We are ready when the powers that be say ready but I hardly think they will let General Hooker fight any more in this department his Force the 11 & 12 are Guarding RR from Chattanooga to Nashville the 11 to Bridgeport the 12 to Nashville the Genls Hd Qrs is Here it is a shame they do not give him a command that he is worthy of I do consider him One of the best Generals we have he has the respect & love of his command we know we are all right when we see him along speaking to day of him a private in my company remarked that when he saw the General on the Morning of the 29th Oct about day light stand by the Fire & Eat a Hard tack & drink a cup of Coffee for His breakfast he thought if it was good enough for the General it was for him (so it is)

Col Jones is here at present in command of the Brigade We expect soon he will get a Star we all hope so that is if he commands this Brigade he is a noble Officer & can lead this Regt where no other can for all love him he is firm but kind he is ambitious to do for all, all that is in his power to do

In relation to that sketch of Lookout Mountain I ment to have said it was as it appeared to me from a hill from which we drove the Rebs from on the night of Oct 28 & 29 (not as it appeared that night for sad Hill that was all woods since been cut down by us do not have that framed for I can draw a better one & will as soon as I can Get some drawing paper

You say you wished I had kept a diary. I have done so from the time we left Jamestown to the present I already find it more than pages for a reference I have the marches state of the weather &c &c noted

Well this letter is as long as you will want to read & I will close remember me to S Mead & other Friends in Albany love to Ma Ma say to her I will pay her the annual Interist on her house the one I occupy by time the Year is up I have laid out on the past Year in improvements some \$40.00 & I want to lay out this spring some \$50.00 more but there is a cirtun amount I want on depositt first & then see what I can afford My love to Ma Ma Ada Dad & Willy & except a shair for Yourself hoping we may all meete again on earth

I remain as ever
Your affectionate Son
Arthur Hotchkiss

Direct Cpt A.H.
154 Regt N.Y. Vol
1 Brigd 2 Div 11th Army Corps
Army of the Cumberlan
Nashville Tenna

Camp 154 Regt N.Y. Vol
 Lookout Valley
 Feb 12th 1864

Dear Father

Your kind letter dated Feb 2d is at hand I was surprised to here of the death of Holebrook [Ephraim H. Hotchkiss] from the fact that previous accounts found him on the Isle & stated he was well poor Brother how much he has suffered I have felt ever since I have been here as though I wanted to do something for him but did not know how nor what I could do how horrible to be thus seperated from all Friends & from day to day think of home home & nothing Else When One feels the nawing of hunger he think of but home & something to appease his hunger I trust & hope their may be something don to relieve & that quickly thoes of our gallant soldiers yet alive and now in the hands of those worst then Fiends, but say to the army their mission was to relieve thoes now in prison, & they would if led take Richmond, Richmond can be taken, & that to with but small loss compaired with what has been lost in former attempts if rightly manadged but never with one army by the way of the Rapad Ann River it wants two armys Eather one large anuff to meete the Enemy succesffuly on the defence then make an offensive Defencive movement One by the way of the Rappahonock the other via James River & Richmond must fall Holebrook has pay due him from April 30 he also was to be paid while absent or in case of death (I think his Family was to Receive Eleven Dollars \$11.00 pr month) for which he has the Bond of Frederick Martin Abrim Merrit & J. L. Henry the Bond is I think in the Hands of Justice White Attorney of Oelan of the firm of (Cary & White) you had better write to Mr White & make the Enquiry if that Bond has ben fulfilled on the part of Martin & others Holebrook would not have Enlisted if it had not been for that for he loved his Children & wished to make it shure they should be comfortable cared for during his absence as it has turned out better they had charged & fought to death then have surrenderd many would have bit the dust but probily not more than will die in Prison, some 20 of this Regt has died their at Richmond that was taken at Gettysburgh

the Army here is still in their Winter quarters all quiett We are now this Pleasant
 wether purfecting ourselves in drill We as a Regt has had but little time to drill
 commencing our marches before we had been across the Potomac 2 weeks
 by the way I se the Army of the Potomac has been dug out of their Winter quarters &
 advanced to the Rapad Ann & some went across having accomplished their object
Returned what Object Echo answers Killing or Maming 200 or 500 men &
 furnishing correspondance something to Write about the reading community some
news Well day before Yesterday with 5 other Officers I made a visit to the Salpetre
 Cave under Lookout Mountain We went in some two 2 miles the Enterance to the
 Cave is on the north point of lookout the R.R. running around that point to Lay the
 Rail around their the Rock had to be blasted for $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile Discribing a curve
 the Rock towers purpendicular from 80 to 150 feet high at the Center of this curve is
 the Opening of the Cave the Opening is Round some 30 feet in Diamater you Enter
 some 80 Feet then turne to the Right & then to the Left to give a discription requires
 a more able pen then mine Each one has Candles & Torches in Single File as we
 enter the way becomes more narrow & of less height sometimes so narrow as to be
 bairly room to pass then again you come into a speacious Room Rock smooth & hard
 for the Floor, the sides hight, Cealing Arched, now we are on our bellyes, Draging
 ourselves One after another through an aparture then up again Climing up 10 12 15
 feet then along a hole high but narrow now down we go 15 to 20 feet jumping from
 rock to rock finding ourselves in another large opening now along sometimes
 upright then Crawling Draging ourselves around on asit wair on shelves 18 to 30
 inches wide a chasim how deepe non could see to our side varring from 1 in to 3 feet
 in width I assure you each one Huged well the Rock the Distance around this place is
 some 10 or 12 feet & not over 2 two feet high now we have to walk on a single plank
 across a chasm some 50 feet up & down upright & crawling we a last reached the
 Point whair to go down some 80 or 100 feet we could see a running stream &
 obtain for our pains some salactite & stalacmite we halted a moment to breath & put
 out all torches keeping but 2 Candles burning the are in here is most suffocating
 perspiration was pouring from us our clothes was wet through. we took some
 water in Canteens with us which we found was a precaution well taking after resting

torches relit we prepared to descend. the first jump was some 5 feet down & on a flat rock some 6 x 8 feet but care must be taking that you in going down clear a chasm 2 feet wide & which you must jump over after climbing down we reached at last the creek & such a site their hung your stalactite from the Ceiling in all formes & Sizes & at your feet towerd your salacmite in as great a variaty untill some would reach the salactite the Salactite & Salacmite joining forming beautiful Pillers far surpassing any work of Art in form & variaty. we obtained several specimens One we brought out would weight 20 breaking them as they hung from the cealing the creek is from 3 to 8 feet wide Rolling Tumbling over Stone & Rocks down Precepises 10 15 20 feet. Our specaments collected we Return at times doubting wether we were on the right path and well we might, for about midway we took another path then the one we Enterd on but fortune favored us & brought us out in the mane Entrance. we had at least for $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile been going nearly if not quite perpendicular over the passage we took on going in at last we reached the Opening (Entrance) Satesfied with our exploration of the Cave the feelings of awe of consternation One has while their language is inadequate to express.

you may ask if this cave this subterranean pasage was made by man I answer No 20 feet from the enterance it is as formed by Nature excepting some peaces that have been taken away by the curious in a word this subteranian passage is smooth rough Straight crooked narrow wide high low up down but dry untill you reach the creek I am satisfied with my adventure it is sed that it has been explored for 15 miles but I think that needs proof for it was laborious for us to breath the are was suffacating to pay me fully I cought a hard cold & have been barely able to walk since on account of it settling in my knees & legs I am much better to day My general health is good No news all quiett here there is a rumor of consoladating if so some of the company Officers as well Field Officers will have to be musterd out I received the Glens Falls Messenger & Col Doty Report Receive my thanks for them I will send you to morrow thoes Individual Histories & will as soon as I can get some drawing paper Draw you a larger & better Drawing of Lookout Mountain We are still Guarding the RR there is a rumor of an advance of the truth I know nothing My love to Ma & Except a shair for Yourself & believe me

Your ever affectionate Son
Arthur Hotchkiss

Direct

Co K 154 Regt N.Y. Vol

1 Brig 2 Div 11th Army Corps

Army of the Cumberland

Tenna

Camp 154 Regt. N.Y. Vol

Lookout Valley

Feb 22 1864

Dear Father

Enclosed pleas find \$100. One Hundred Dollars which you will pleas Deposit with, and as you have Deposited that sent heretofore Enclosed is two Dollars to Pay Express Charges &c they will not Receive it here. Col Jones start for home this morning he is not well he probably will visett Albany whilst absent Gen Margan (Rebel) [John Hunt Morgan] is sed to be or have thretend Bridgeport We are ready for him let him come No further news My health is Good Wether this morning is like spring acknowledge Receipt of this My love to Ma & all

Your affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

PS we Reced but 2 Mo pay to Dec 31st 1863

Lookout Valley Tenna

March 6th 1864

Dear Father

Your kind and affectionate letter of Feb 16th was received by me March 2d & this Sunday afternoon I will improve by answering it Your Photograph likeness is verry nice well taking I think much of it. I was happy to here you was all well I was affraide Holebrooks [Ephraim H. Hotchkiss's] Death would make Mother sick poor Brother he is now beyound the troubles & trials of this world you can not immaging the curses that are heaped on the heads of thoes Fiends who have our Soldiers Prisonors in Charge by the Soldiers here we are used to seeing death we see it at times hardly without a thought but when we think of our Brother & Comrads perishing in Prison our feelings no no bounds there is not a Soldier in our camp who would not devide his ration with a Prisaner I have seen our boys Cloth & Feede Prisanors we have taking of thoes in Front ours or their Soldiers you will always be used well it is by thoes who have never been in a Fight and have always stayed to the rear that the insult comes from I think their day of tyranny is near an end the Rebs are cirtenly very destitute.

my health is quite good. The wether is verry pleasant no news here of importance Wednesday last I went to the top of Lookout Mountain it does seem as though the Rebs could have held it better then they did on to the top there is a very pleasant village of 31 Houses & all neat two Elegant ones it was a delightful day and I never enjoyed a hard tramp better they are (the Houses) playced with out order the trees stand as nature placed them we have 2 Regt up their they the Rebs while they held the mountain could see evry move we made in the vally below We the 11th Corps are still doing Guarding Rail Road the health of the Regiment was never better we get now some Potatoes Onions Pickeld Cobbage Cucumbers & Onions Soft Bread so you see we live well, Butter & Chees are luxurious we hardly think of Sutlers bring some in Butter \$1.00 pr Chees 75 ct &c Boots onely \$15.00 to 25.00 pr Pair I bought me a Soft Hat & paid \$950 for Hat & Band Pants 12 to 20 Dollars Dress Coat \$35.00 to \$45.00 & Evry thing in prepertion I have now 14 me present for duty if we are not

filled up this spring so that I can have a respectable command I shall try and get on Corps or Division Staff the Col [Patrick Henry Jones] offerd to recommend me the first chance if I can not some such birth or a promotion or a Company I shall try hard to get out it is just as hard work to take care of 14 men as a hundred & you may fight them to the death & it counts nothing what say you

I sent you by Express the 22 Feb \$102.00 100 to be Deposotet as previously indicated \$2.00 two Dollars to pay Charges I could not pay it here as they (the Express Co) would not Receive it if it should be more then that pleas writ we ware paid to Dec 31st 1863

Col Jones is now absent on live of absence I think he will visitt Albany while at home I regret that I had not had some drawing paper so as to have drawn a better picture for the Bazzar as soon as I can get some I will furnish one for the Bureau that is all right the Wether is verry fine Warm & pleasant Grass begins to look Green, Spring here has opend, give my love to Ma & all whare is Willey &c Write often

Your affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

P.S. excuse this letter for I am verry ___ to day

Lookout Valley Tenna

March 13 1864

Dear Father

Yours of March 5th was received Yesterday acknowledging the Receipt of the Money sent you. I was happy to here you was all well that Willey was well & that Mother health was improveing my health is good very Good The Wether is very pleasant I never saw more beautiful more pleasant Wether then we have here it is delightful I sent you thoes personal Historys as stated in former letter I put on all the Stamps I had at the time

I am happy to here that the Fair is so great a success but regrett that I had not furnished a better Sketch I will as soon as I receive some Drawing paper furnish One for the Bureau Holbrook [Ephraim H. Hotchkiss] was married in the winter of 1857 I do not know the month he Enlisted on the 26th day of July 1862 was musterd in the United States Service the 26th day of September I have not Received as yet the Catalogue you sent as yet Enclosed I send you the Chattanooga Gazett this is the first number we have received

My Respects to all love to MaMa & believe me

as Ever Your affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Lookout Valley Tenna

March 29 1864

Dear Father

Your letter of March 19th is at hand I was happy to hear you was well and that Mothers health was improveing I have also Received Your 1st annuell Report & descriptive Catalogue, & that speech of Senator Hovens of Essex Receve my thanks for thoes faivors thoes speache have been & are read by all & all with one accord attest there are just the thing, he does just handle that (Gov Seymours) Message with out Gloves I suppose we vote next fall if so we will show a vote that will count on the right side to say we are not qualified or would be influenced by thoes in power is worst then nonsense our interist are alike consequencely we will vote one way (or nearly so) our (Col) [Patrick Henry Jones] you know is a Democrat & McClellan his favorright notwithstanding that Little Mc would not get two votes in this Regt We as soldiers are in faivor of A. Lincon for our next Presadent for we think that any change would tend to prelong the war at least One Year—& I assure you we feel an interest in having this war closed as soon as posable and yet would not have peace on any other terms but on unconditional surrender they laying down their arms & Jeff [Jefferson Davis] to be hung if we get him I am making this letter to long & will now answer yours I am making you another sketch of Lookout Mountain I did not make out mine for I thought you had it I will do so but I think it will be of more interist by & by if it would be of any interist I could give you a history of our Regt its marches & fights from Jamestown to this place I have no more blanks would fill up more if it is so that I can but we expect now soon to be on the move I do not know whare My love to all I will send Ma her Interest next pay day My health is Good & hoping this may find you all well

I remain as ever Your

Affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Officers Hospital No 17
Nashville Tenn June 10/64

Dear Father

I send you to day by Express (\$200.00) Two Hundred Dollars you will pay Mother her Interist on the money she paid for the House I occupy which is in the naborhood of \$40.00 Forty Dollars pay Expences out of it Deposett \$150.00 & the Balance I wish Willey to have for his benafitt to spend or for such Clothes or Books &c as he may neede

My health is again quite poor I have the same complaint as last summer vice the Diarreeh I left the Regt Sunday May 29 at or near Dallas we then had been Five days in line of Battle & under fire the Corps was orderd to prepair to march report sed we was going to the left I was to weake to march & no ambulances was to follow as all was Orderd back to take the wounded & sick to Kingston some 25 miles from whair we then was the surgeon sed I must go back & back I came I was completely warne out when I arrived here Friday June 3d I am but little if any better than when I left the front We Fought at Dug Gap (vice Rockey Faiced Ridge our loss was 64 out of 145 men at Dug Gap some 10 wounded of Resackey & when I left Dallas we had their some 8 wounded quite a number sick so that on Thursday May 26 our Regt stacked but 96 Guns

I feel to thank a kind God for preserving my life thus far it is most wonderful how I have escaped at Dug Gap 4 wais killed within 4 feet of whair I stood whilst we wais going up the mountain part of the time on our hands & knees I caught hold of a small tree to pull my self up a Ball struck the tree just Below my arm passing between the tree & my side Maney as narrow escapes I could relate & yet I have passed through last month 3 Battles unharmed God has seen fit thus far to spair my life I pray that I may be spaired to my family unto the End of this cruell war My love to all I am trying to get a lieve to go home but with little prospects of success write me here

Most affectionately Yours

Arthur Hotchkiss

I feel to nurvious to write

Officers Hospital No 17

Nashville Tenna

July 5th 1864

My Dear Father

I have been looking evry day for the past month for a letter from you I sent you by Express on the 10th June \$200.00 Two hundred Dollars & on the 1st July \$200.00 Two Hundred Dollars with full Instruction as to it disposial I trust you have Received it all right I sent on the 10 of June \$100.00 to Matilda but have recived no acknowladgement from you or her nether have I heard from her since that date what can be the matter are you all sick My health is much better I think I shall soon be able to go to the front at least I trust so I have tried hard to get a lieve from here to go home but have been unsuccesfull thoes with slight wounds get a lieve readaly but thoes sick it is most imposable though they may be unfit for duty for 60 days yet red tape keeps them here (the sick) write me Here My love to all to Ma Willey &c What is Theadore doing this summer Write

Direct Capt A.H.

Officers Hospital No. 17

Nashville, Tenna

Most affectionately

Your Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Camp Convalescent
 Fortress Rosecrance
 Murfresboro Tenna
 Aug 2d 1864

Dear Father

Yours of the 27 of July came to hand last night I was happy to here that you was well my health is improveing my Diarhea troubles me now but little at preasent I live mostly on vegetables realey the onely Cure of Chronic Diarhea & a luxury we do not have when we are with the (Army propper) Murfresboro is situated on the Nashville & Chattanooga R.R. Thirty-two miles South of Nashville & 256 miles from Atlanta Fortress Rosecrance Enclosed some thousand of acres it is $\frac{3}{4}$ of mile across from East to West & 1 mile from North to South the N & C RR runing through it from N to S. & Stone River runing through it Diagonly from S.W to NE it is here & to the West & North of the Fortress that the Battle of Stone River was Fought the heirs of the property upon which this Fortress now stands & wheir the Battle was Fought have laid their Clame for Damages agt the Goverment at \$200,000 the Owner was a Rebel but his widow clames to be & has been loyail. crops here looks well Some Northern men are here raising cotton One formealy a Col in an Indiana Regt has 700 acres to Cotton another has 300 acres to Cotton It is on land rented of the Gov. if they meete with no mishaps they have made their fortunes Murfresbor is the County seat of Rutherford Co it has a very nice Court House & was once a beautiful place with some 2000 inhabitants sarrounded by beautiful Farmes the inhabitants of the country around here.____ very wel they but now moste of them has been long gon some of the Feamale portion remaining there is daily from 10 to 15 ladies in our camp in their bugeys or coverd carriges (which wais once new but now looks as if it would take some paint & varnish or a new one to make them A No. 1 veachels) a small colerd Boy or Girl Driving pedaling to the boys Milk Butter (what is called Butter here) but white greese with no Vegetables & Frute evry thing they raise findes ready sale & at a good price Milk 10 ct pr qt Butter 60 ct p Potatoes \$1.50 pr bush &c I board with a Mess of 4 Officers a Colord woman for Cook it costs me \$1.00 pr day

for Board I shall not make mush whilst staying to Hospt & here whilst at the Hospt I did feel harde towards Red tape and all concerned to think that whilst I was unfit for duty & yet able to visitt my family that I should be denied the privalige there is no trouble for an officer who has been wounded is he has but lost a finger or a toe to get a lieve of absence but Red tape says I can not let you go unless I can cerify it is necessary to save life or preven permanent disability consequencely wheir Red tape is strong the Invalid Officer must stay within thoes Hospitals untill he is to far gon to het home then the feeling Surgeon in Charge would grant you a lieve but it would not now be safe for you to go you could not stand the ride is you have been so near Deaths door with Tiphey Feaver that you could look in at the door) you may posably get a lieve home that is if you donte recover to fast I do not know that you could do any thing to assist me in getting a lieve I last week commenced to do duty here (light duty) I have a command of (82) eighty two men I mearly Order I have very good quarters if my Own Regt was here I wod ask no easer nor pleasentr bearth but as it is I am not contented the men ar from 60 different Regements mostly from the Western States there is in this Conv Camp some 1500 men they assist in Garrison duty &c as soon as I feel able I shall rejoin my Regt as I feel when their most Contented Our Regt is verry much reduced in numbers & I apprehend will be consoladated after this campaign our Maj [Lewis D. Warner] has applied to the Ex Board for examination intending to get in a Colord Regt is so their will be a vacancy the Col [Patrick Henry Jones] thinks of going out he is now in Cammand of the Brigade & is waiting for a Star I stand now second in Rank the Ranking Capt is a prisonor of War & has been since July 1st 1863 I know that I am better fitted for Lt. Col or Col then maney now in the service holding thoes position & I feel some what ambitious consequently it is for my interist to be with my Regt as soon as posable well I have wrote full anuff for this time My love to Ma & all at Chester

Your affectionate Son
Arthur Hotchkiss

Fortress Rosecrance
 Murfresboro Tenna
 Aug 25th 1864

Dear Father

Your Kind letter of the 14th is at hand I was happy to here you was well my health is improving I think I shall go to the Front nex month if I can get relieved from here I now have charge of 2 Companys 80 & 83 Men Each it keeps me quite buissey but that is what I like if well (to be buissey) as time passes off more pleasently I was happy to lerne you had so pleasant a visitt up to Chester with W. J. H. Thead Others I should have been happy to have been their to have meet alltogether onece again What is now left Providence may faivor us yet with such a meeting I pray that he may I cirtenly should injoy such a meeting I have heard no other peticulers in regard to Holebrook [Ephraim H. Hotchkiss] their has not been any of our Regament Exchanged since Aug 63 but most of them their have Died as he did (Starve to death) 6 of my company that we know of what a horrrable thought to think our Friends have thus died & then to ask us who have fought blead (meney died) to except of Peace upon less turms their their (the Rebels) laying down their Arms, is insult upon insult if it waire possible for a Copperhead to insult us, it is time anuff to cry Peace Peace when we the Soldiers crie Peace on less turmes to them then the above I have heard to day men from 18 to 45 express themselves on a rheumor Published their their was 5 commishonors going or have now gon to Richmond to negoseheate for Peace we dispise all such movements let them come to us when they come let us here what they have to say & when their all ready to lay down their Arms comme back into the Union acknoladge their sins, then may Peace be declaired & hereld through the land We ask it then & not till then after all the Blood that has now been spilt let us continue to poure it out untill they the Rebels Cry Peace let us if we are denied ourselves the happiness to see a free happy united People let us die with the assurance it will be left to our Children & our Childrens Children a lasting Peace O if the North would become united as the Army is united a months time would restor

Peace. well I will stop here hoping all Peace Commisioners that go to Richmond mite
be heald their & feede on Joney cake & water until it is taking by Genl Grant.
Well Pa, how is Polaticks has the Copperheads any show write often my love to all
hoping to here from you soon I remain

as Ever Your affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Fortress Rosecrance
Murfresboro Tenna
Sept 18th 1864

My Dear Son

Your kind & welcome letter came to hand by due course of mail I was much pleased at the sentiments expressed you are now nearly 14 Years Old you should now improve all oppertunityes offerd to secure an Education after you have obtained that & seen more of the world you will then choose the station you will fill but always keep in minde that whatever station you may choose you can not fill it with credit to ureself without an Education be honist truthfull Industrious not that I would wish you to be constantly at work with your hands no that is not my wish at proper times for play, play but you should no let play or recreation interfeer with your other dutyes I desire to see you fill an honorable position in life be not over anxious to be come Rich yet be prudent & economical in all expenditures I would advise you to Spend all the time you can to Study till you arrive at the age of 21 & perhaps till you are 24 then you will be fitted if industrious to fill any station you may choose My great falt in life was my being in to great a hurry to be a man to anxious to be come Rich the consequence was I failed in both and have had a hard & unhappy life be not vane but dress with neatness if my life is spaired I will so far as I can assist you in your Education With me life is verry uncertain more so my being in the Army Your Brother Charley is no more he died Sept 2d of Malignant Scarlet Fever It is verry harde for me to part with my children but God knows bes what is for our good his will not mine be don I have made application for a lieve of absence for 20 days it will give me but 10 Days at home I should like verry much to have made you & your Grand Ma a visett but I will not be able this time but hope we may all be spaired to meete again here in this World My love to all excepting a goodly share for yourself write often

Most affectionately Your Father
Arthur Hotchkiss

To Willey Hotchkiss
Chestertown Warren Co N.Y.

Fortress Rosecrance

Murfresboro Tenn

Sept 24 1864

Dear Father

I Yesterday Received two months pay \$233 had to pay this 2 mo \$7.00) seven Dollars tax on sallery if you have not as yet sent the (\$50.00) Fifty Dollars I wrote for you need not I am still wating for my lieve of Absence when it comes it may be disapproved but I hope not I shall be home but about 10 days verry short visett but will be thankful if I get that much time to be at home I am feeling quite well to day it is verry gloomy Colde & rany wind north no news hoping this may find you well I am

as Ever Your

Affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Fortress Rosecrance
 Murfresboro Tenna
 [circa October 1864]

My Dear Son Willy

I wrote you a letter sometime ago in answer to a letter received from you and received non from you scence I wish to here from you often you are my Childe I love you and think of you much evry day and night. now that you are getting to be almost or soon will be a young man I feel double interested in your education Education my dear Boy is to you all importance it commands respect evry whair it fits you for all or any station in life & non are so poor but they in this country with the advantages of Education is they are improved may rise to fill the highest position I am poor but will assist you to the extent of my meens I am now filling the capacity of a soldier lending my ade to put down this wicked Rebellion that you and thoes now coming on the stage of action may have a free and independent Goverment a Goverment that is not onely free in name but in fact as glad as I should be to have peace and be at home I would not have but an honorable permanent peace and such a one as onely can be had by chrushing down this Rebelion & make the Rebels ask for peace I have (and the Soldiers are all of one mind) sufferd allready to much to make any compromis whatever I trust I may live to see the End & you if I should not is I should lose my life in & for my Country remember that I fought for the whole Country for one Undivided Country with eaquil freedom to all (high and low Rich and poor White and Black I think the End is not far distant but many now fighting will not see the End. God has spaired me through many a hard fought battle if it is his will I pray he will yet spair my life I shall go to Atlanta I think now next weeke I have been wating the past weeke on account of the Road being torne up I have here verry good Quarters live well & but little to do but now that my health is better I feel as thought I ought to be with my Regament

Enclosed I send you a Ring it was made by a Soldier in this camp now in my Command which Camp is situated on the Banks & Battle Field of Stone River

to night we have Glorious news from Genls Sheridan Grant & Sherman. you will get the peticulers before this reaches you now Willey I want you to write me often I will answer all your letters Soldiers Delight in getting letters from thoes they love though I have been with you but little since you was baby nevertheless you are my Childe & I love you as such now write me often be a good Boy Obedient & Kind to your Grand Pa & Ma Ma give my love to them & all your Uncles & Aunt Ada except my love May God bless you through life & forever

From Your Father

Arthur Hotchkiss

To Willey Hotchkiss

Dear Mather & Mother

I am looking dayley for a letter from you I am well & shall start for Atlanty soon my Corps is their I shall try & get home for a short time New Years pleas hand this to Willey hoping we may all live to meete again here

I am ever Your Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Fortress Rosecrance

Murfresboro Tenna

Nov 4th 1864

Dear Father

Your kind & affectionate letter of the 22d came to hand by due course of mail I should have answered it before but for want of time I have been very buisey making up my Monthly Returns Mustur Rolls for October & in a camp like this whair you have thoes of a 100 different Regaments in your command it is no small job as their has to be a separate Roll for each Regament & 3 Consoladated Rolls

I am verry thankful to you for the interist & the trouble you took in trying to obtain for me a lieve of absence wether I obtain it or not thanks the same I will remain here yet awhile longer for the past three days I have not been as well as when I last wrote it has been raining & chilly now for 3 days purhaps that is the cause my complaint I feere is for life for I live here as regards to diet as I would to home it is true I am better then when in the field yet evry weeke or two it brakes out & runs me for about the same time hard it affects my nerves very much

Ind Ill N.Y. Mass Boys have gon home to vote I made out several votes here & but one went for McC—all the Officers here ar for L & J [Lincoln and Johnson] by the time this reaches you Election will be over & if I have a desire it is that we may be succesful at that Election in Election L – J and next of almost eaquil importance of Electing R. E. Fenton for Gov of the Empire State evry true Soldier feels an interist in the Election of our State it is so with soldiers from booth Eastern & Wesyern States they all look with eargerness for news faivorable from New York if we are sucessful it will be one of the greatest Victories yet won. may success crown the efforts of the Patriots of the Ballot Box

There is but little news to write from here we have plenty of Grape Vine news such as Hood is crossing the Tennasee has crossed is retreating &c but nothing reliable is now known of his or Shermans whareabouts our Garrison here is now Small less the 1000 men we have plenty of Guns & well Fortified & would give him a harde fight if he should attempt an attack the army is being reanforced dayly by volenteers

Drafted men & men returning from hospitals. it will not do for Hood to get to far this way if he wants to get back with a whole hide.

give my respects to all enquiring Friends love to Ma & Willey & all hoping that

Providence will smile on you efforts that I may see you all soon

I am most affectionately

Your Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Fortress Rosecrance
 Murfresboro Tenna
 Nov 9th 1864

Dear Father

Yours of Oct 31 & Nov 2d is at hand Contents noted and again thank you for your effort in procuring me a lieve of absence I hardly expect it will be succesfull I have of late kept pretty well posted in regard to Political matters that case of Col North was the most bare faced peace of Villany on record to think that thoes who have sacrificsed their all (their life) for their Country should thru the instrumentality of Villins be made the instriments of its ruin it is awful if the Soldiers had such villins in their hands they would meet out to them such punishment as they diserve and that is hang them on the first Tree & deny them a particle of mother Earth to cover their carcuss but anuff
 Election passed off Yesterday quiett Poles was opend the 12th Wisconson 1 Battery Mich Batt O. Batt 115 O Regt at Conval Camp for the Wis Convolesents O convolesents voted at the O Bat Mich Cav at Mich Bat the ___ so far as heard from as follows

Wis Convolesents whole vote cast 36

Lincon & Johnson 33 Majority 30

McClellan & Pen 3 They were representitive of 10 Dif Regt

Wis Battary whole No votes cast 106

Lincon & Johnson 79

McClellan & Pend 27 Majority 52

The Captain & 2d Lieut of the above But ware strong for McClellan

Mich Bat Whole N votes Cast 93

For Lincon & Johnson 89

" McClellan & Pend 4

Ohio Bat had something over 100 votes cast including thoes from this camp Polls ware opend in town for Citizens have not hurde the result just heard that thair was

some 125 votes cast at Murfresboro unanimous for Lincon the McClellan men
refusing to take Johnson Oath
to day the South wind blows & it is rany as it has been for the past weeke health as
usual but verry nurvious to day can hardely write will write more peticular as soon
as I here more full the result

Very affectionately Your Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Fortress Rosecrance

Nov 22d 1864

My Dear Father

Your welcome letter of the 14 inst came to hand last night Willeys letter was received night before which I will write him again soon I was verry much pleased with his writing its composition & its tone of morality I finde his intention laudible, but his ideas of the mones of carrieng them out incorrect he is inclined to follow in my footsteps, for I see he now feels as I did at his age & by a sad experience I was all wrong (prematurely to old) I wrote him that he mite escape my fate evry day of my life is one of regrets (but anuff I was happy to here that you was all well I had herde of thoes promotions but not of Lt Col [Dan B.] Allen's resignation the Major [Lewis D. Warner] will be promoted you ware mistaking I am not the ranking Capt I lack One of it the ranking Captain is now in a Southern Prison & has been since July 1st 1863 taking at Gettysburgh if now alive he is the ranking Capt I am next if any are recommended I presume he will be his name is Capt [Simeon V.] Pool Co (B) he & Lt Col Allen expects to be related you see I would like the position I think I could stand it if I could ride though I nor he could not be musterd as Major unless our Regt was filled up by recrutes we are far below the minamum number & onely entitled to the muster in of two Field Officers the Col [Patrick Henry Jones] is Expecting the Star his chance is good he has the best of recommends from Gen Hooker & Howerd & then the Congressman Elect from our District (H Von Armen [Henry Van Aernam] is our Surgeon or was I have not lernt wether he has resigned yet or not I count him my friend the Major is my peticular friend their being no communication with the Regt at preasent I can do nothing as Seymoure will hardly fill it till he heres from the Col (the Col is McClellan admirer) to day it is Colde last night verry Colde I sufferd with Colde Froze harde am as well as usual no news love to all wife write again soon am now in command of three companeys happy to here from you again & thanking you for your letter

I am as ever Your affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Fortress Rosecrance
 Murfresboro Tenns
 Dec 23 1864

Dear Father

It is now near if not quite a month since I have written you the reason why you no doubt are as well acquainted with as myself from the 1st of December till the 20 we ware in a state of seage we had no communication with the outer world. to us the worls beyond our Picket line was a blank Forrest [Nathan Bedford Forrest] Cavalry was on all sides they drove in our Picket one day in to town but paid dear before night. we got them 2 days under the range of our Guns from the Fortress we went out to Fight them for over a weeke dayley but could not get much of a Fight as they would not stand Genl Millroy [Robert H. Milroy] Fought them two days north of the Fortress on & a cross the Nashville Pike captured two Guns & quite a number of Prisanors it was as splendid a Fight for the number of Forces engaged as I ever saw the Rebels ware coverd by woods & Brest works but the Genl attacked them in Front an on the Flank & drove them back out of their works. from the 3d till the 20th I was engaged at work on the Fortress making the weak Places stronger I had som 200 Contribands to work making the diches wider & deeper the diches around this Fortress are dug 6 ½ feet deepe from 12 to 20 wide not verry easey to scale with Infantry behind good brest works I was in hopes they would attempt it & it is well for them they did not. our Force here was some 15,000 mostly new regaments not yet assigned to Corps thoes that went out to Fight did well Fought Splendidly there is no trouble abut new Regaments Fighting well they will stand if well Officerd that is if you do not get in any peticular trouble such as a panic if driven back it is hard to reorganise and again Face the Enemy & then the Casualityes are allways grater with new troops then with Old they do not know how to take advantage of Cover as well as old troops if this Goverment had 1 Year ago put their recruits & conscripts in old Regt instead of new Regt they would have saved at least 20 pr ct in men on an average the first 6 mo & now Regt will lose 25 pr ct of their effective men for wont of knowledge of how to take care of them selves

as the Enemy has left our Front & we are again in communication with the world having received one mail & expect another to day I shall try again to get a lieve of absence to visit my family I have not heard from them this month that is the last letter received was dated Nov 27th & Matilda was not then well My health is quite Good Many thanks for your faivor entitled Preceedings attending the Presentation of Regt Colors to the Legislature it is a nice work splendidly got up I trust this may find you all well the wether to day is verry pleasant Give my respects to all Friends & except a Goodly Share for yourself from

Your affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Goldsboro N.C

April 18th 1865

Dear Father

I wrote you last at Willmington although I have received no letters from you since I left you at Albany I doubt not but mine are yet acceptable to you we left Willmington on the morning after I wrote you arrived here on the Evening of the 13th marching 7 days distance ninty five miles by road the last 3 days we had to subsist on the Country & it was poor subsistance as Terrys [Major General Alfred H. Terry] Army which came on the same road left but little behind the reason of our being short was this. we started with 4 days rations with Orders to draw at Magnola Station 3 days more. on arriving at the Station we found it burnt the rebels having attacked the Garrison the night before taking most of them prisanners & burnt the station we then had nothing in our haversacks it being the fourth day noon I was Orderd to take Sixty (60) men & Forage we started ahead but having to go off the road we soon fell behind the column. come up with it about 9 P.M. In camp brought in 1 negro 1 Ox 1 Cart 200 # bacon 3 Pigs 1 bush corn meal & had to skin close for that next day we got some more meat corn in the Eare & lived on that through the wether was very pleasant roads level for over 60 miles we neither went up nor down a hill Gurillies followed us for 5 days picking up a few straglers the afternoon I was our foraging they botherd me considerable I had to keep my command well closed up to do so would have to halt frequently as the men ware very tyred at dusk we ware fired into but no one hurt I formed line & drove them back aways we ware all glad when we came in sight of our camp fires being all very tyred & did not know how far behind we ware, nor how many Gurillys we mite have to contend with but all is well that Ends well. I am on picket to day & have got to go now & change my line putting it further out will have to stop this letter

April 20 7 AM

We have just had one of the hardest thunder storms I think I ever witnessd the wether is quite warm Goldsboro is the pleasentest village I have yet sean south the buildings are more like our northern villages the prospects now are that we will stay

here yet awhile no Officer or Soldier is permitted to go to the front beyond this place all are stoped here we have tried our best to get through to our Regt but it is no go at preasent they are at Realegh 60 miles from this place there is now some 2000 men here for the 20 Corps some 6000 from different Corps of Shermans Army in what we call the Provisanoll Det Shermans Army I have this morning 203 men in my Company all for our Brigade the news for the past few days has been booth good & bad we ware overjoyed at Lees defeat & final surrender but the horrible news from Washington of the assasation of Presadent Lincon Secotary Swards son & attempted assasation of the (Father) & sec of War cast a gloom over all that is indiscriable Yesterday morning we had a rumer here that Sherman had been shot by a Guirilly all of his old soldiers here ware at once exasperated they talked of no peace till all ware anialated buring & hanging was all the talk for awhile in the afternoon we received this Order declairing a suspension of hostilities and a probabilty of a speedy peace the Order was read to the men in line if men ever cheerd it was then through the day excitement run high the rain last night seemes to have lowerd the temper no rumor as yet this morning My health is good shall get to the Regament as soon as posable for I am very anxious to get rid of this mixed command

love to all to Ma Willy & Respects to your friend in the Bureau & others

affectionately Your Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

Direct

Capt A.H.

154 NY Vol

2 Brig Det 20 Corps

Goldsboro NC

via Durham NC

Raleigh N.C.
April 29 1865

Dear Father

Yours of the 11 & 12 inst were Received Yesterday with Albany & N.Y. papers many thanks for favors I was happy to here from you they were the first received I also received one from Matilda with yours she & all were well I wrote you last at Goldsboro NC we marched from there last Sunday morning arrived at the Regt here Wednesday morning 8 A.M having marched that morning at 2 A.M. found the Regt & Corps ready to march towards the front expected we would have to follow Johnson [General Joseph E. Johnston] through the Confederacy unless soon caught we marched to Jones Cross Roads that day distance 13 miles layed there Thursday an agreement having been made by Sherman & Johnson we marched back to this place Yesterday we are encamped about 1 mile from the Capitol we have Orders to march to Richmond to morrow morning (Sunday) making at least 15 miles pr day all Foraging is prohibited it will be hard for some to quit having don so much of it they think they must Major [Harrison] Cheney can not get musterd as yet Genl Jones is as yet borne on the Rolls as Col his Commission as Gen not having been as yet Received for affect hereafter I would like Commission in higher grade though I should not be musterd in all probabilitaty they will soon stop mustering in more Officers Major Cheney will get no pay for the time now spent he feels much embarressed he should have got his commission as Capt on his reenstatement then he mite have been musterd as such & drawn pay till he could have been re mustered as Major

The Army are in anticapation of soon seeing their homes if we have good wether we will be in Richmon about the 15th I presume I shall not write again till I write from there my health is now good hoping to here from you on my arrival at Richmond

love to all

Affectionately Your Son
Arthur Hotchkiss

P.S. I am in a great hurry as I have got four days writing to do and onely to day to do it in am anxious to get all don I can as I have over eight thousand Dollars worth of property to get Receipts for AH

Olean N.Y.

July 29 1865

Dear Father

I write to inform you of what I am doing & trying to do 1st I am doing nothing to day. have been this weeke to Ellicottville to see Genl Jones & to Jamestown to see Gov Fenton. I received last weeke a letter from Genl Jones stating there would be a vacancy in the agency Bureau at Washington Lt Carlisle withdrawing & that he had allready written to the Gov in my behalf & requesting me to meet him at Ellicottville on Monday expecting by that time to have the Gov answer on meeting him on monday he had just received a letter in asnwer to his from G. D. Morgan Supt N.Y. Milt Agency to whome his letter to the Gov was refeered. the substance of his answer was in these words

(Copy) It has been my impression that the buisness at Washington in the agency would rapidly diminish after this month as it has already in every other field and had looked forward to diminishing the force their, the Governor desires me to assure you of his disposition to oblige you in this matter if a substature to Mr Carlisle should be needed Please accept assurance of the same disposition in my part &c

Signed Very truly

D G Morgan

the Genl on handing me the letter sead he thought Col Morgan was mistaking that they would neede for at least two Years as much force their as they now had & wishes me to go amediately to Jamestown & see the Govener which I did & On Tuesday met Governer Fenton in law office of Cook Lockwood & Fowler. (J. I. Fowler) the Gov could not then give me an answer as he had refeered the matter to Mr Morgan but had made a memorandum of the matter & on his return to Albany would refer to it & consider me ___ if the vacancy. I hinted to him I could furnish further testimonials as to my abilty &c he assured me he needed non further as Genl Jones recommendation was all sufficient

I meet this morning the Hon H. Van Arman [Henry Van Aernam] Member of Congress Elect for this Dist. he seemed to feel much interested & said he would help me in something else if I failed in this that he saw the Govener on the train last evening & may case was mentioned by the Govener & he indorsed it only & would on his return home write to the Governer bringing it to mind I think you can see by the above what I am trying to do. Family all Well Matilda joins in love with me to you Ma Willy & all enquiring Friends no news buisnes dull

Your affectionate Son

Arthur Hotchkiss

P.S. Genl Jones says the position pays eather 1600 or 1800 pr Year not less than

1600

AH