

Loudon, Tenn., on the Tenn. River
30 miles below Knoxville
December 4, 1863

29

My dearest Lis,

On the 27th inst. I left the Hospital at Chattanooga where I had been stationed during the battle of Chattanooga, to rejoin the troops of our Corps who were then pursuing the flying enemy. I came up with the Regiment on the 28th, met near Ringgold--General Hooker was at this time engaged with the rear guard of the "rebs" and our Corps was held in reserve--not going into the engagement at all. After about an hour and a half of sharp fighting the rebs were completely routed and the pursuit continued by General Slocum.

That night the Army was divided, General Grant, Hooker and Slocum and some others continuing the pursuit of General Bragg and General Sherman, Granger, Jeff. C. Davis and Howard and others turned northward to relieve General Burnside and raise the siege of Knoxville. We understand that Longstreet was repulsed before Knoxville last Sunday and we expect to meet him somewhere between here and there tomorrow or next day. We have a large force and I do not deem the result of the coming contest at all doubtful. Should Longstreet be routed as Bragg is--or annihilated--the Rebs will then have no considerable army in the field but Lee's and the Rebellion will be virtually wiped out.

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Long before this you, of course, have seen the account of the glorious results of the battle of Chattanooga and I hope and trust tomorrow or next day will present as glorious a record as that. We have all been two weeks to the front--ordered to go out "light", consequently left everything behind except the clothes upon our backs and turned immediately from the battlefield of this campaign and long march and have suffered from hunger, cold and fatigue--but we are all happy and cheerful.

Pavilion T.G.

For my own part, I don't know whether I am sick or well and don't much care for I feel well and I am happy. Hunger and cold and the fatigue of long wearisome marches and ill health are all forgotten in the proud satisfaction of seeing the rebel army crushed and fleeing before us.

Our record since here is a proud one. We opened up Lookout Valley and fed the starving Army. Hooker charged and took Lookout Mountain and we were a part of the Grand Army that drove Bragg from Missionary Ridge and are now turning upon Longstreet. We have met with only six casualties in that late Battle--3 slight and 3 serious ones and one Corps has not lost over 140 in wounded and perhaps 20 killed. There are none of your acquaintances wounded. If we come off as well tomorrow I shall be thankful.

I don't know how or when I shall be able to send this but write by a campfire intending to send the first opportunity. Yours of the 15th inst. reached me out on the battlefield at Ringgold and I was right glad to hear you were all well. Curious you had received none from me for I have written often. I am confident of being home in the spring. Until then accept kisses for self and children and believe me ever your affectionate

Henry