

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
July 30th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

My letter to you of the 20th, was closed rather hastily under an order to be ready to move with two Regiments of the Brigade to the Right. Movement was executed, but nothing to do; meantime came the rumors of a heavy fight on the Right, the 15th, 16th and 17th Corps having moved there on the 27th. In fact the cannonading and musketry were distinctly heard by us; and then came another order for our Brig. to move to their support. Did so, marching some three miles and going into position on the extreme Right, where the enemy was then looked for. But he did not come, his repulse by the gallant boys of the Army of the Tenn. was so decided from II A. M. until 3 P. M. that they finally gave it up as a bad undertaking and it surely was for them; for their losses for the day foot up to some 6000 and 7 Stands of Colors; while our losses will hardly reach 500. Strange as this may appear, 'tis true nevertheless and our boys had nothing but the merest temporary rail works to fight from. But the Rebs made the assaults time after time and were each time sent back. I estimate their losses since we crossed the Chattahoochee at fully 30,000 or over; in fact their papers of the 23rd admit up to that date a loss of 20,000. Some of their prisoners say "they have hardly more than another good killing left". This thing of forcing them to meet us on something like even terms, plays sad havoc with their calculations; yet I cannot witness this without wishing and praying that the poor deluded people would drop the scales from their eyes and open them to a true realization of their position and their crimes; better far to confess an error and humble oneself even, in the name of truth than thus rush to destruction.

Many of our Officers and men think they were freely supplied with whiskey, both on the 28th and the 22nd. Certainly this will never win though it may give them extreme daring. 'Tis a point at which I never want to see our Army arrive, nor do I think it will ever reach it.

Just after dark of the 28th a feeble attack was made on the Brig. to our left but did not extend to us; had it, 'twould have been a sorry charge for them, as two hours time found us in possession of good, substantial works. 'Tis really wonderful to see how soon men will throw up a line of defense when an enemy is expected: give them a rail fence and ten minutes time and they are ready to welcome any ordinary line of Infantry.

Morning of the 29th our Brig. was relieved and returned to our old quarters in reserve at the cottage house on the hill side, close by the road side. My expected visitor did not come, but I

heard of him passing along, going rearwards with his family; doubtless he found some house out of shell range; here 'twould be rather trying on the nerves of a lady.

Don't know of but little being done yesterday and today. Our skirmish lines advanced some, and today brought in some 90 or more prisoners. All is going well and my opinion is that we shall go into Atlanta in due time. I forgot to tell you that the morning of the 29th found the enemy gone from the front, leaving their dead, wounded, guns and accoutrements, etc, and ere we left that portion of the field, our lines had advanced a mile.

Tomorrow will be the Sabbath and I trust it may prove a quiet one to us: should it, we will have Services here, and while attending I shall think of you at the same time listening to the discourse of your Corydon Clergyman; while Frank, unconscious of the wickedness of the world, stays at home sleeping in all innocence, awaiting patiently the coming of your dear self. Were I at home I should join you, how gladly, you may guess.

But the afternoon wears away, the sun is just going down behind the hills, a few of the wooded songsters not yet driven from the scene of conflict, enliven the air with their songs; a band not far distant is discoursing music for the many listeners, while occasionally comes the booming of a cannon, the sharp crack of a shell, to remind us we are in the midst of war. For all this, the afternoon is pleasant, though on looking from the windows I see little but desolation. Gen'l. Sherman and Staff have just passed, he looking as unconcerned as though he knew or cared nothing for the world that is now looking toward him with so much interest.

I trust ere this gen'l. Gresham has been able to reach home, or that he has secured a place of comfort and all are aware of his condition, which I am led to hope is not at all serious, though it may be painful.

Your friends are all well. I have forgotten to mention on several occasions, that during the engagement of the 20th, Lt. Dewey was struck on the hand by a piece of shell. A novel that he had he thinks saved the hand; as it was, his forefinger was broken. He has continued on duty; not hurt sufficiently to see his wife on. He is certainly an object of pity, is he not?

Supper just announced and I must close. Love to Sis and all at home.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
 Aug. 1st, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Today your good letter of the 28th came to hand, bringing as usual good news of yourself and our "fine boy" as Grand-ma calls him. But I discover a vein of blue throughout the whole, which I trust has long since been driven away by the arrival of continued good news from the Army and from the receipt of my letters, assuring you of safety through the trials and days of battles.

Have had no further demonstrations since the 28th, of which I wrote and which resulted in such complete discomfiture to the Rebel Army. Don't know how far our lines on the Right may have pressed forward, but not far; the Left Center has moved to the front a little and our lines are being pushed a short distance, likewise. In fact, no demonstration has been made by us; but rest assured that every point is being watched and that all is going well. Certainly we need not haste for the possession of Atlanta, only to have to push farther after them to again bring them to bay.

If they will fight here, so much the better for us, always provided we force them from their works to do it. This we have done and it will be done again or they suffer a siege; and let us once get around them and their days as an Army will be numbered.

Am glad that Tillie has started for Chattanooga and have every hope from my information, that the Gen'l. is not severely hurt. I think he will be with you at home ere many weeks, though I favor nursing a wound for some time ere the risk of a move.

Our Brig. is yet in reserve and with the advantage of a house to work in, we have the Regimental work well done, nearly up to date.

Am glad George called on you, he could tell so much of interest of the campaign; then 'tis like seeing one direct from home. Am expecting to hear from him daily to know when to look for him back. Am at least expecting that he will write to engage rooms on our entry into Atlanta. By the way, I guess the old gentleman has rather had the laugh on you, over your hasty capture of the city. These terrible correspondents that see so much, have had Atlanta on the brain, but scarcely ventured close enough to the front to learn the true position of affairs.

We have now a Cavalry force operating against their last and only line of railway (to Macon) ; and report says we have cut it. In fact, a rumor of the day says, that they have not only done that but they have recaptured all the prisoners (not very many), taken

from us since crossing the river. I do not place much credence in the report, for I fear they were a little late in starting on the road. However, we all to hope for and much to win in that direction. Our Cavalry raids to their rear have thus far on the campaign proved very successful and of much benefit to us.

There comes the announcement of supper and I must away, as the night closes on us. Everything on the front is quiet, while a fine shower has cooled the atmosphere and laid the dust.

My love to Sis, to Grandma, Mrs. McGrain, Alice and all.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
Aug. 3rd, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

In these days of changes and movements I feel like advising you whenever I can, or at least frequently, of our whereabouts and duties. Our days in the white cottage house have passed last evening our Brigade going on the front line to relieve the 1st. We have had a very good rest, indeed the best of the campaign. The 1st were congratulating themselves on the probabilities of an equally good rest, but this morning found Orders to march to the Right; leaving our Brig. for the time being, with the 20th Corps, to hold this part of the line. This moved us to the right of the 20th and connecting with the 16th, while the 14th have gone off with the 23rd in search of the Left Flank of the enemy. We are well satisfied to remain, have good camp and just now, 5 P. M. are putting up tents to shelter us from a threatening rain-storm. We are about two and a half miles from the city, that is, our main line; our skirmish line, not more than a mile to a mile and a half; while from our works we look upon a portion of the city.

From the sound of cannonading today, I would judge that our Right has made considerable advance. Perhaps a few days may determine whether this flanking move will drive them from their works and the city. Our camp reports are, that our Cavalry raid by Stoneman on the R. R. to Macon has been successful; that he has cut this, their only remaining road and that in fact, he has possession of Macon. Perhaps he may strike for our prisoners confined at Americus and Andersonville; I understand 'twas part of the programme. 'Twould be a glorious thing if he could succeed. Another report we have is, that McCook's Div. have met with disaster; that he and most of his Div. have been captured. I understand that while on an expedition, part of which was very successful, he having captured the enemy's train, their Q. M. etc, etc; he attempted to do more than enough and was ambuscaded by Infantry. A portion of his force under Col. Brownlow of Tenn. cut their way through, and I anticipate that the majority of them may yet come in.

Had a letter from Eliza yesterday, telling me that those papers I wrote for, are all ready for the first train through. Think I shall have to write her to order off my Adjt. at once with them. Do you think 'twould be done? Wrote me of her trip to see you, of how Frank had grown, how good he was not to cry.

Rainstorm has come, and gone southward to wet the jackets of the Rebs as it has doubtless wet many of ours. But for today, enough. All are well and all is going right and well, though we are not yet in Atlanta. Love to Sis and all at home.

Ever yours,
Dan. F. Griffin.

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
 Aug. 6th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

My last, written on the 3rd from our cold and airy position in reserve, told you of the removal from our cottage house and the moving to the Right of the 14th Corps, excepting this Brig. The position was a very agreeable one, but like all easy positions in the campaign, was of very short duration. At one o'clock P. M. of the 4th came the Order to march, our destination being to join our Div.; which after an intolerably hot march, we found on the extreme Right, about four miles distant.

They were not looking for us, but assigned to position in reserve, when lo! within twenty minutes came an Order to hurry back to our late position; it appearing that the Rebs were about to make a demonstration on that part of the line, which from our being taken away and from the unfinished condition of a new line of works was rather weak. Arrived at dusk only to find everything quiet and that the scare had been brought on by the advancing of our skirmish line and the attempts of the Rebs to dislodge them by a superior force, in which they were foiled in each attempt.

Moved into position, tired from our hot day's march and were soon lost to all fatigue, in sound and quiet sleep. Did not take up our position on the high hill, that being now rather much to the rear, but occupied a second line of works in rear of 20th Corps.

Yesterday the 5th and 20th were moving to their new line of works now completed, which the Rebs did not seem to relish at all, and expressed their disapprobation by throwing shell on them, all day; many of which they very carelessly passed over our heads. However, nothing occurred above the usual amount of dodging as the missiles would come whizzing by and above us. Their 32-pounders, our boys talk of as "the camp kettles", and such expressions as, "there goes a camp kettle", "there goes a spinning wheel", "there's a Doctor hunter", etc, etc, were very common throughout the day.

As the 20th Corps advanced to the new line, we moved up to the old line; and now occupy it; very good works and the position a comfortable one. Up to present date, have had no duty to perform (3 o'clock P. M.)

After our line was established yesterday, I was riding along the front line making an examination of the position in order to be familiar with the ground, should necessity ever require our going to the support of the front line, and while thus employed, two of the enemy's sharpshooters who had been annoying the line all day at about a distance of a thousand yards, determined to give a salutation as I was passing the portion of the field exposed to their fire. I was looking in the direction of them and saw two little

puffs of blue smoke, and presently one ball whizzed in front of me, while the second, rather a better shot, hit poor Jim (horse) in the hind leg just above the knee joint, passing between the bone and hamstring and passing through both legs. We passed out of range ere another shot could be given, but expect I shall have to put Jim in convalescent camp for a few weeks. He is a little lame today and stiff from the effects of it, but 'twill not disable him for long.

Shortly after, I suspended further observations for the day, at least on that part of the field. Last evening passed away without anything occurring and today thus far but little has been done. In front of the 16th Corps, on our right, the skirmish line has been advanced some and soon after being done, the Rebs to try their hand, made a slight advance against the skirmishers of our front, but a few well directed volleys sent them back in haste.

The firing brought to the front many of our mounted Officers and Staffs, amongst whom was Gen'l. Thomas, and after the firing had subsided, a number of them passed to the front of our line, that is, between the first and second line of works; when presently coming in range of my rebellious friends of yesterday, bang, bang, bang, went the sharp report of their pieces, while away scattered the horsemen out of range; much no doubt, to the merriment of the Rebs. On examination 'twas found that Gen'l. Thomas' horse had suffered nearly as bad as Jim, one shot in the fleshy part of the upper thigh did not seem to disable him however; though he will evidently have to report to convalescent horse camp also. I have Jim bandaged up today in the most approved style.

Nothing further has occurred during the day, other than I met old Col. McCrea of Bloomington, who used to be Asst. Supt. of the N. A. & S. R. R. in its early days. The Col. is Chaplain of the 33rd Ind. and a jolly old man he is; passed an hour very pleasantly with him, then home to dinner; and now to thoughts of my real home and those I love there. Am expecting to hear from you by today's mail and am anxious for its arrival.

Also anxious to see the papers to learn more of Grant's last move on Petersburg; I fear from what I have read to date of Aug. 2nd that his assault had not proved a success.

Don't know what they are doing on our Right, though for two days it has been talked, what it was to swing for the Macon R. R.; don't know that they have yet accomplished it.

I wrote you of the disaster to McCook's Div. of Cavalry; 'twas not as bad as reported; he succeeded in capturing a very large train with an abundance of Quartermasters, Commissary's clerks etc and of destroying most of it; but in trying to bring off a part of it, the mules and provisions, were attacked by a superior force and had to fight his way out. He is in himself, with 1200 men, and says three fourths of his Command are safe; the balance, one fourth, killed, wounded or prisoners. Col. Harrison, 39th Ind. (now the

8th Ind. Cavalry) is reported captured.

Stoneman's great raid on Macon is now the subject of much talk. Yesterday, though no particulars were given, 'twas spoken of at Corps Headquarters as being the grandest and most successful raid of the War. Today, floating camp rumors are conflicting, some saying that a portion of his Command has been captured. I trust however, that all has gone well with him, though his raid has certainly been of the most dangerous character.

The forces of Atlanta yet frown down upon us, occasionally sending north a shell to remind us of their presence. But for all that, I think everything is going well.

The Chattahoochee has been bridged and yesterday the trains came to our very camps, whistling defiance to the trains of Rebel-dom. All supplies are plentiful and the condition and morale of the Army, first rate.

I see the Gov. has decided to call for 112 regiments of one year troops; I have hopes that the loyal North may respond with alacrity, at least I hope so; if not, then the draft must come, better that than to be driven to the necessity of protecting your own soil, as the people of Penn. find themselves called upon to do.

To respond with alacrity to the President's last Call, with his reelection to the Chair of State, and the Rebellion is done for completely and effectually ere the year closes, or I shall miss it much. On the contrary, lukewarmness to the call, defeat of the Pres. and the Confederacy will be established on the downfall of the present Army in the field. But I have no fears but that all will go right, notwithstanding the doings of "The Sons of Liberty" and other traitors of the country.

Don't be discouraged by the course of events in Harrison Co., they have had always a strong leaning toward the South and I guess have not improved of late.

But enough of politics, I would rather, much, think of you, Frank and all at home having a quiet afternoon and wishing for Dan to come home, as he responds cheerfully to the same wishing; and which, through the protection of Divine Agency, I trust you will see accomplished ere long.

My love to all at home, kiss our boy, be of good cheer and remember I ever think of you, dearest.

Your husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
5 P. M. Aug. 9th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Yet in the old position of reserve to the 20th Army Corps, although half our Brig. are now on the front line, while from time to time we do our share in putting up new works on the front. A strong detail have just gone to the front armed with spades, picks and axes, as well as their "shooting irons"; and by morning Mr. Rebs will find a line of earthworks where we have now but a skirmish line; and several hundred yards closer to them.

Have just returned from a ride on the line, but this time kept out of range of sharpshooters; as a consequence, I am back and the horse I rode on, O. K. Jim is yet a convalescent and marked unable for duty. Our Batteries have been annoying the enemy considerably this afternoon, but have succeeded in drawing from them only an occasional shot. Our Corps, in the last few days, have been doing some work on the Right, advancing considerably, driving the enemy from three of their temporary lines of works and capturing several hundred prisoners. I have heard of but little loss on our side, principally in the 2nd (Regular) Brigade.

Gen'l. Palmer has been relieved at his own request, of the Command of the Corps, because of some question of rank between him and Gen'l. Schofield. I hear he (Palmer) has tendered his resignation. Gen'l. Johnson is at present Commanding the Corps and Gen'l. King, the Div. Don't know whether they will look up a Maj. Gen'l. for us. For my part, I would prefer to see the additional star on Gen'l. Johnson's shoulders and leave him where he is. But 'twill be all right when fixed up; better to let all the discontented spirits out and have the Commanding Officers a unit, is my motto.

But of this enough: we are not yet in Atlanta, but going in that direction slowly. All their rail communications are cut, though it cost the some of our Cavalry to accomplish it. From what I can learn, I think Gen'l. Sherman has been taken prisoner; at least so reports say, with from 500 to 900 men.

Have had several days rain and the atmosphere has been quite intolerable during the time. Robert and Charlie were over to the Right on Sunday afternoon and saw Dr. Payne; he is in charge of the 2nd Div. Hospital; is looking and doing well.

I wrote you of receiving your last and shall look for the next news from George, who if he starts as contemplated, (provided the fog don't rise) should reach us in a few days. Then I shall have

the detailed account of Frank's personal appearance, good behavior, etc, etc.

But here comes the inevitable supper, after which I am to repair to Brigade Headquarters for a short time; then perhaps a social game of cards to pass the evening ere retiring to think of you and home. Meantime, or until I write next, be cheerful and happy in the knowledge of all being well.

Love to all at home; kiss Frank and the little folks for me.

Your loving husband,
Dan. W. Griffin.

Six O'clock, Sunday Afternoon

My Dear:

I know you will be disappointed in looking and waiting ere this reaches you, for yesterday and today there was no mail north and none will leave until tomorrow morning. But when it does come, 'twill give you one days later advices, that is of my being well and of living in the same comfortable style as yesterday.

All quiet on our front is the word for today; and in fact we have had altogether a pleasant Sabbath, considering the closeness of the enemy. Last evening the rain came down in torrents and to while away the hours ere bed time arrived, we had recourse to a game of euchre. A very good one with Robert for a partner, against the Major and Lt. Van Dusen. In the midst of our game came the mail and with it yours of last Sunday, together with one from George. The game was at once suspended for the reading of the above documents and the giving of the latest points of news. All are interested in Frank's performances and I must tell how he is flourishing. Expect to hear much from George on his arrival, which I will look for the last of the week. Am glad to know that all is going well with you, that Gen'l. G. has been so fortunate as to get so close to home and that your mind has been set at ease on the receipt of mine of the 23rd. Another relief will be when you get dates later than the 28th; and since that time affairs have been rather quiet, although they have had an occasional tussle on the right.

Our game of euchre progressed after the letters and news were disposed of and I went to sleep feeling quite relieved after hearing from you. Dan is a smart youth to guess first time where to carry his "basket full of letters for Aunt Mollie": "under the sweet apple tree". I see you yet have a weakness for something good to eat; can't you send me one? Have not seen an apple or peach this summer yet and in fact, had almost forgotten there were such things.

Don't know what you will do after while if Master Frank is now able to conquer; guess I will have to come home to take him in training unless you can send him to me; perhaps after a few days of wholesome army diet, he would not be so obstreperous.

Today had Services in the Regiment and the sermon by the Chaplain, McGree of the 33rd. Had a real good sermon by the way, the old gentleman making a first rate army sermon and listened to, with interest by all. Had him to dine with me and in the absence of all chickens, had to put up with peach rolls for dessert! a pleasant hour after dinner passed in conversation; then a few official communications to look at and sign; then a visit to Col. Coburn of the

33rd, and the afternoon is passed or is being closed with a little talk with you. Which Carpenter is disposed to put a stop to, as I hear him hurrying up the boys with the table.

Services were again held at five o'clock. It seems queer to be attending Divine Service when the continued cracking of the skirmishers rifles, with an occasional ball whistling over head tells plainly of the enemy and brings home a realization of the position. And yet if you were here for a time, you would sit with nerves as unmoved and your attention less attracted than perhaps were you in a cushioned seat behind a row of bonnets that must be criticised on return home. Circumstances and experience seem to make a man used to almost anything.

George writes that he will bring all the papers I wrote for and I trust ere many months to be with you. Am glad to hear of Col. Scribner's improving and would like to see him back for the time we remain here. All is going well in this Dept., so be not cast down by any rumors you may hear, nor any sayings of the old gentleman at the Glade. We have already destroyed or placed "hors de combat" fully one-third of their entire Army and they have none to send to their support unless they be from Richmond, and from there I opine, they cannot be spared. Our Army is very strong still, in numbers and in spirits.

Have not seen Dr. Payne recently; his Div. is to the right of us; and being temporarily detached from the Corps, are several miles from him. His Div. has had no recent engagements, however,
My love to all at home.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
Thursday P. M., Aug. 11th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

No further news of startling interest to write you. Are not yet in the city, but are half a mile closer than my last position in reserve, from which I wrote you; and now occupy a part of the new front line. A most excellent position for Infantry, which we have well intrenched; and for Artillery, which we are now rapidly putting into position. This completed, we shall be able fully to return the Rebel compliments that they have been offering freely for the past two days. I have a nicely constructed, fortified house, and live in safety from all passing missiles. The men likewise are well protected and only chafe a little at having to stay so close to their works for safety. However, there is much on the front to keep up the interest, being within a thousand yards of the enemy's works; and 1500 yds. of their large forts; a mile, or mile and a half from the city, there is much to be seen and much to be looked after. As the Reb guns are seen to go off, the word is given, down go all heads behind the works and the missile passes without harm to any. Many narrow escapes are had, but without these, the boys would have but little to talk of. This morning the skirmish line was advanced, driving the Rebels from their pits and occupying them; this relieves us from an annoying fire from sharpshooters. As soon as our Batteries are in position I look for some interesting Artillery practice on the front; 'tis exceedingly interesting to look at from a position of safety.

Guess all is going well with the Army; have not heard directly from the Right or Left, but from the sound of artillery, we know they are drawing in around the city. Yet I do not expect to surround the place, as I look upon it as too much and cannot be accomplished without more aid. We may however, cut off all means of supplies and thus make them come out to meet us or leave the position. So far as my observation goes, all seems to be well.

'Tis now almost sundown and the day's labors will soon cease, although the labors have consisted principally of lounging around my fortified house. Am daily expecting George to come up and expect much news from him, in detail. How often I wish I were with you, yet these are days of duty and of vital importance to the Government, which I trust will be sustained in proper spirit, this Fall.

Expect they will raise a new regiment or try to, in the 2nd Dist. Hope they may succeed, and that at an early date, although I think the chances doubtful as to success. Don't let Frank go, on the first call. Love to Sister and all at the Glade. How is Gen'l. Gresham? I trust that leg has been cured.

Ever your devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin.

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
Afternoon, August 11th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

In the pits on the front; a very romantic place to write and give glowing details of army scenes and army life. But since my days of romancing have long since settled into plain reality, I can promise you nothing either grand or sublime. Here I am, seated in my southern home, consisting of a square 12x16 ft., dug 2 ft. deep in the slope of a gentle declivity in rear of our lines, the earth from the interior furnishing material for the parapet of our miniature field work, the resettlements being composed of small pine logs. The floor of this elegant establishment consists of small pine poles laid on mother earth, then a layer of thick pine boughs furnish both carpet and bedding; the roof consists of a tent fly stretched in the usual style, the ridge some 12 ft. high, affording a large, airy, comfortable, and I might say safe, habitation. From the southwest corner runs a ditch to carry any water that may fall or drip from the eaves of our shelter. Around us stand some pines of small growth giving some shade; and altogether 'tis a place of much contentment, when one thinks of what he would be exposed to, outside the protecting walls. At night our blankets stretched on the aforementioned carpet make an excellent place for repose, and from the scene around me, would judge it no mean place to lounge away a hot and sultry afternoon. Major C. reclines close by, reading Harper for Aug.; Van Dusen who has just wakened, is looking in vain for late news through the columns of the Chattanooga Gazette; Sergt. Maj. Hazzard, a good looking youth, is resting after a walk from the Q. M. and culinary Depts. situated half a mile to the rear; Corporal Martin is writing no doubt, a love letter as young men often do; while your most obdt. seated on an ammunition box, leaning against a friendly tree, thinks much of home; perhaps goes so far as to wish himself there to pass the evening with kind friends.

While all this may seem quiet and cosy to you and you almost wish you were here to enjoy the comforts of our retreat, let me tell you of the flying balls, the bursting shell and whistling round shot, as they go whizzing past and close above our heads or bursting with a report equal to a cannon, send the flying missiles around us in profusion. 'Twould amuse you to see how excessively polite all are at the approach of these distinguished visitors; making timely obeisance more lowly than "a country school marm": even at times amounting to adoration, by falling flat on the face before the august presence. Yet with all this, we pursue our daily

toils, cook and eat a full supply of Uncle Sam's rations and but very few hurt; so few indeed that it is a matter of daily wonder with us that all escape so well.

Our present position is the result of moving our main line to the front, about half a mile, on yesterday morning; this accomplished by first driving the Rebel skirmishers from the ground to be occupied. Then just at dusk on Tuesday evening, a detail of 400 armed men with spades, picks and axes, repaired to the line at or near the skirmish line, and though the small balls whistle often uncomfortably close, yet ere daylight we have a line of earthworks in a very commanding position and able to defy any advance on the part of the "Johnnies".

At day-break of Wednesday my line of the Brig. advanced to the new position and soon with their united efforts, completed the rough works. Batteries are now being placed in position and by tomorrow we shall be fully able to return the enemy's shell with interest. We are now within a thousand yards of the enemy's main line, their heavy forts frowning upon us, but still we press slowly on. This morning an advance drove the Rebs from their skirmish pits, which relieves us much from the annoyance of their rifle balls. Tonight, some 32-pounders are to be made provision for, on our front and as we are not more than a mile or mile and a half from the city, the inhabitants thereof must look out for their heads. The siege advances slowly and I make no prediction as to when we shall enter the city: suffice to say, we are progressing; hold one of their rail-roads, have partially destroyed the other, and encircle fully one-half, if not two-thirds of the city: health is good, spirits ditto, and rations plenty.

Love to all at home and think of us often, as we do of home and those who fill the fireside: nor let patriotism flag in the North till this Rebellion be crushed out completely.

As ever yours,

Dan.

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,

Sunday Afternoon, Aug. 14th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Entertaining friends and attending Meeting have well nigh used up the day; almost to your exclusion, but I can hurry in a few lines yet before the closing of the mail and the invitation for supper comes along. 'Tis now after sundown, the day closing fast, and so far as my observation has gone, it has been one of rather unusual quietness. Very little firing on our front, in fact all seem to have realized that the Sabbath is with us and have acted accordingly, or rather in accordance with early teachings and training.

But to the news of the day while day yet permits. Last evening our line was relieved from the front and today we have lain quietly in reserve. Should no more of importance call us from here, we will remain in reserve for some days. Our lines are gradually approaching the city and ere long, you may hear of its being badly damaged if not taken.

George reached us Friday evening, sick, too sick for duty and has gone to the Div. Hospital for a few days. Charlie and Robert have been to see him today and report him much better, so we may look for him back soon.

Tell Sis I would much rather join her peace (green) party than her peace at any price party. I think this affair should be settled now and settled beyond the possibility of revival in after years. To do this, all that is now wanted is a united North; this accomplished and the end can be foretold by all. Without, may come anarchy and ruin to the whole country; unless indeed, the majority shall prevail in sufficient force to keep down the traitor element to the Government.

I would that circumstances were such as would admit of the return of the Indiana soldiers to vote this Fall, but this I do not anticipate although spoken of. I cannot see that their presence can be spared from the field and from the front, where most of them are. In our absence however, we shall expect much of the influence of the women toward raising the standard of loyalty to the Government high and sustaining it under all circumstances.

Long ere writing this far, have I been interrupted, first by an Officer on business, to be followed at once by a call to supper, and now after the evening chat is over, the Major and the boys retired, I shall proceed to pay my attention homeward, having made arrangements to have the letter taken out at early morn.

James Shields (late of Corydon) came down with George, and is staying with us. Don't know on what business he comes to the

Army, but as an old friend and acquaintance from home, he is a welcome visitor to our fare and habitation. Yesterday showed him around the lines (our lines) giving a view of the city and its defenses. He having been with the army before on campaigns, as well as a participant, and in the gallant defense of Corydon in 1863, I found him not of the nervous temperament but able to walk the front with but little dodging; although none become so calm as to prevent a gentle inclination or ducking of the head when the unwelcome visitors come whistling by.

Our Parson gave us today a good sermon and altogether I feel that I have put in a profitable Sabbath, not the least of which was repairing to a small stream near by, this morning, having a glorious wash, and clean (army washed) clothes. Have gone so far as to indulge in the luxury (?) of a paper collar; in fact am dressed up, all but the shaving; but as it has been but a week since that was done, I don't think you would refuse to kiss me on that account, and in that case I should be happy enough anyway. You mustn't insist on your husband looking remarkably nice after a hundred days campaign, but think of him with features, well, exceedingly tanned; my high top boots; old light blue pants that you used to think were made for Mr. De Pauw or his size; my woolen overshirt, and coat well worn; while the only article that I sport as new is an army hat, such as the boys wear and at the cost of \$1.65, sets off the upper portion of the man in style: a little crusing in of the crown a la Burnside, the placing of a cord sewed on by these hands, and the hat is not only genteel but comfortable, and I might say, pretty. Yet altogether the personnel is not such as the gay and young of your clime are found luxuriating in.

Speaking of elections, reminds me that our Lt. B. Parke Dewey is anticipating somewhat the nomination for Congress (Republican) in the 2nd Dist. and is extremely anxious to get it; this too, I would think a hopeless task, but Parke takes up with it in his usual style of bright anticipations of success. Possibly he may get the nomination for the reason that those at home if they deem it hopeless, will be glad to have some one to make the race. If prospects are good for success, then many will be found only too willing to fight and bleed for the cause: human nature again.

Had visitors today in the persons of Adj. Slemmons, Lt. Martin and Lt. Applegate, all three of Harrison Co., and Lt. Sisloff of New Albany, all from the 68th. This regiment is close to us, has lost pretty heavily on the campaign, but now doing well. I find they have but little regard for their Major (Morrison) now in Command, Col. Martin having gone home; sick.

The 23rd are some two miles on our right; have not seen Babbitt (Lt. Col.) since his return. Expected him today, but learn that he has but just arrived; as I have his valise and tobacco at my quarters, I think he will be around soon.

Have not heard from Dr. Payne since I last wrote you, but the news for the Right where our Corps is, is to the effect that but

little is being done; a few prisoners and deserters being taken in daily. So you and Mr. McGrain cannot agree on the War questions of the day. Don't wonder, if the Cincinnati Enquirer is his textbook. Don't allow his dark pictures and forebodings to have any effect on your mind; in fact I think his mind is so set in his position that nothing could turn it; besides his nature is to love controversy. I like your plan of not allowing yourself to be led into discussions with him, as it could only end in discontent. I honor him for some high traits of character and for what he once was. But in fact, I do not think his mind has ever been the same since the death of his first wife and subsequent family troubles. I love to bury his faults and think of him as he once was, a good and true friend and guardian to me. Tell Sis to remember me to Lide in her next letter to Ireland.

I discover in your last letter much of the old vein of Mollie when feeling well and light hearted. I trust it was the case and may continue. Shall expect to hear of the Saturday ride you and Lizzie were to have, of where you went, what you saw, etc, etc.

And of our chubby boy, how goes the world with him? How I would like to see him and how much my dear, would I love to see you, you can guess by a measurement of your own feelings.

How goes the recruiting in the Dist? Will they raise a regiment or await the coming of the draft? No commutation, 'tis either fight, desert or challenge the authority of the Governemnt as some of the Copperheads may try to do; but which I trust may not occur, as the consequences may prove more than they anticipated or bargained for.

I like the news from Mobile, though I doubt if we have at this time a land force sufficient in that vicinity to capture the city. But the possession of the harbor, is of itself a good thing and if the forts be taken, the power of the place for treason is broken effectually.

Grant's first failure, I think will but aid him in the renewal of efforts, 'tis hard to change his purpose or thwart his will, while the entire Army is at his command. Here though going slowly, 'tis going surely and well.

But for tonight, I kiss you adieu. Love to all at home.

Your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin.

Col. Scribner has tendered his resignation, on the grounds of closeness of expiration of term of service, his absence from the and continued ill health. I have anticipated it, as I hardly thought he would again join us without promotion. I cannot blame him for feeling and acting thus. More is due him than has been done by the Governemnt, and he could hardly have done otherwise. I will advise you of the result, on return of the papers.

Dan.

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,

9 P. M., August 15th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Robert starts for the city of Nashville in the morning on duty, to be gone ten days; I shall forward this by him, hoping it may reach you somewhat sooner than by the usual mail route.

Lines rather quiet today, and tonight our big guns send a shell occasionally into the city, a painful reminder to the denizens thereof.

Went over to Div. Hospital today to see George; found him some better but looking poorly. Dr. Dixon thinks he will have to send him to the rear rather than to the front; when I spoke of having him come to my quarters, believing 'twould suit him much better to be with us. Don't think he will be much sick, if prudent. Went from there to the 23rd and en route met Col. Babbitt, who in his emphatic style, gave me something of a history of his travels in Hoosierdom and besetments on the way. He is particularly happy in his expressions when on the subject of the Grutchfield House, Chattanooga.

Returned at noon and have for most of the afternoon, been quite busy in the Office. I send by Robert to draw some pay for me at Nashville: if he succeeds in getting it, he will send up to you, perhaps by your father, should he meet him. Should he fail to get my pay, he will send to you anyway, on receipt of his own pay, the sum of \$200.00. Expect you will look upon it as a Godsend at this juncture of affairs. All I hope is, that you may get it soon.

Am sorry for Tom, but I wrote you the faction would be strong against him. I trust he may yet succeed.

Am anxious to join you and see Frank climb trees, eat "hard tack", etc, etc. He progresses well; guess he is a smart boy! Geo. says he is at any rate.

Everybody asleep but me, the pickets and the inhabitants of the city on the lookout for shells. I must to bed, to rest and to dream of you. My love to all.

Hear today, the enemy's Cavalry are about to cut our road near Dalton: should our mail communications be cut at any time, don't get uneasy. I look upon it as next to impossible to prevent all their raids, in fact expect a goodly number. So be of good cheer, though they should cut off your letters occasionally. I wonder they have not done it before.

Ever your devoted husband,
Dan. F. Griffin.

Favor of Lt. Chesbro, to Nashville.

In Front of Marietta, Ga.,

5 P. M., August 18th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Have just returned from the Right where I have been on duty, that is, putting in proper shape the applications for muster out of Service, of Officers and enlisted men of the Command, who go out in Sept. Have forwarded same. Our Officers have not stood as fast as I had hoped for, though they were not bound by pledges, unless they may have made such to their men.

Out of twenty-seven, eighteen have made application for muster out, including myself; which I assure you was hard to do, when I saw so many ready to leave at once. But I do feel that my duties and interests at home require me; and I have acted accordingly.

I have doubts of the muster out being ordered, as there is much talk of Gen'l. Thomas holding the Officers; in that case, resignations will be accepted, or at least considered. Rest assured I shall not forget my duty to you and our boy.

But my friend Shields is just ready to start for the 23rd, from where he starts tomorrow for the North: I must close to give this to him. Will write you in full, tonight: meantime good-bye, my dear. All well.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
August 18th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you a few lines this afternoon to forward by Mr. Shields, who is to start tomorrow morning with some of the 23rd resigned Officers for the North. Trust it will reach you early, as it will doubtless be the first through, since the repairing of the road. We expect to start a mail from here in the morning and have some hopes of getting a mail and papers in return.

Col. Babbitt and Capt. Duncan, an Officer from the 17th Corps, have been with us all evening; and they with Devo, revived many associations of the past as well as some good stories of the last trip, interlarded freely with Babbitt's adjectives. Lt. Col. B. has been mustered in and now stands ready to receive a pair of silver leaves. They have left us, others about, are enjoying the evening moonlight, while I find more pleasure in a chat with you. I told you in my note of the afternoon of having started today, the application of those Officers and men whose time will expire on the 18th day of Sept. A week or two may elapse ere we know the action of the Dept. on the subject of mustering out the officers: but really I am not sanguine that it will be done; in fact, the precedent seems to be that Officers will have to go out on resignations. But in the absence of Orders on the subject, I thought it best to follow the Orders as published and ask for muster out. The Dept. seems to be particularly severe on Officers who went home on Veteran Service: in fact on the 19th of Jan. an Order was issued in our Dept. allowing none to go without they would give pledges to remain in the Veteran Service. Of course, all who went after that date, are in honor bound to remain. But the Dept., so report says chooses to make this Order apply even to those who went North before the issuing of it. Not being disposed to take rumors on the subject, we have applied to them to define their position in writing; after which, should it prove adverse to our views, circumstances will govern our actions in the matter. Be the decision what it may, I have decided that my duty to you, our boy and to myself, requires that I should suspend operations in the field; and I will leave no stone unturned to accomplish the desired end. Am I not right and correct in my position?

I do dislike the idea of leaving the boys at this time, but feel better satisfied when I think of Capts. Jenkins, Perry, Low and Leonard remaining with them: men of experience and capable of making good Field Officers. In fact I have been disappointed in the action of some of our young Officers who, so far as my observation goes, have nothing to call them from the field; but perhaps they may have good reasons, and having served three years, I cannot say aught against them, unless promises were made to their men.

But do not let me, or let this worry you; all seems to be working well and whatever Gen'l. Thomas decides, I shall presume to be correct, or at least, done from the best of motives and if not in accordance with my views, then I shall act in due time as my judgment tells me is correct and best in the premises. Will keep you advised of the progress of affairs, though I expect some time may elapse in these days of field movements, ere we hear from Dept. Headquarters on the subject.

On my return from Div. Hdqtrs. today I called on Dr. Payne at 2nd Div. Hospital; found him in the midst of business, but just ready for dinner; to which point I accompanied him, partaking of a very good dinner indeed. Dr. is well and expects to go North about Nov. 3rd, Orders not preventing; desired to be remembered to "Mollie" and insisted on my staying all day; all of which I declined as I had then been absent since sunrise (breakfast hour). On my arrival at camp I found all quiet, no changes since morning, and as we are on the 2nd line, have nothing particular to pay attention to. George is staying with me, is very much better and completely sick of hospital. I advised him to come, believing the cheerful influence of friends would do quite as much toward a cure, as would hospital, medicines and cooking. Col. Moore sent him a tent from Brig. Hdqtrs., so that he is doing well; and with faith in Carpenter's cooking, I think he will soon be able for duty. Our big gun on this front is sending a shell about every five minutes into the city; the skirmishers, to not be behind hand, are trying their hand occasionally by moonlight, most generally resulting in a waste of gunpowder.

I wrote you of Robert's having started to Nashville some days since and that I had given him authority to draw my pay, which if he succeeds in doing, he will send you. Should he not get it for me, he will at any rate secure his own pay and from it, send you \$200.00 borrowed last Winter; on receipt of which, you can dispose of as seemeth best. I hope he may succeed in getting my pay as I would much rather have it forwarded from Nashville than to run the risk of sending it from here; if we ever get it down this way! I trust he will be able to send you sufficient for immediate wants.

Am at a loss how to address this, your last spoke of coming up home and George tells me that you were to come this week. How he gets his information, I can't see unless "Nora's brother" has joined the Army again. At any rate I will try New Albany, as that can't fail for more than a day. I see the Major making preparations for the night and I shall soon follow, to dream of you and our boy Frank. How I would love to be with you rather than here at present: but for our country we must do and suffer much, and I hope the factions at home may not add new complications to the already large task. Give us unity of action at home and less than a year will see the end of treason. That it may be so, is my earnest prayer, in which I know you join heartily. But I must close. With love to all, a kiss for Frank and several for his mother, I am

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin.

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
Aug. 20th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Our first mail for four days came in this afternoon, but amongst the mass nothing but Official papers for me. I however, look for better things tomorrow, for we anticipate our daily mails again, at least until the Rebs prove themselves able to again make for the rear. This time 'tis true they cut the road, but 'twas of little importance, they being soon driven off; while we have suffered nothing from it except the delay of mail and papers. Rations are plenty and 'twould take a break of at least twenty days duration to bring us to half rations. But the Rebs have much to do looking after their own communications since Kirkpatrick has again taken the war path and is even now hammering away at the Macon R.R.

Yesterday there was to have been made a dash for the road; have not heard from there today: in fact we have had an unusually quiet day, interspersed with almost as many showers of rain as showers of shell. Our Brigade yet occupies the old position. Last evening the Regiment moved to the front line after a six days rest in reserve and are now comfortably fixed. Close to us are several Batteries, a 32-pounder and some 20-pounders that throw shell, hot shot, etc, etc, into the city. The enemy show but little disposition to open their Batteries now that we have an equal number with them on this front; consequently this line is but little troubled.

Some advantages have been gained by us on the Right in the past few days, but cannot say to what extent: rumors are so wild and varied that I shall await further advices. All seems to go well with us.

George is rapidly recovering; is still staying at my Hdqtrs. in the rear; as I do not bring Carpenter to the front line with his cooking dept. but have in fashionable style, meals sent to my room. George is not yet reporting for duty; when able I presume he will report to Brigade Hdqtrs. We are all waiting to hear Gen'l. Thomas' decision on the application for muster out, a month hence; but this may be a month reaching us. Meantime affairs go on as usual and under the influence of our late rest, we are feeling in good health and good spirits.

I would be glad to see Atlanta fall within the month, ere the mustering out of our non-veterans and I am much in hopes of seeing it accomplished. I could then leave the field with a better grace than now, while so much uncertainty envelopes our position: but as I have told you before, I think my duty should now be to you, and having faithfully fulfilled my contract with the Government, have

decided to be with you and remain with you. Let us hope and pray that this day of happiness may speedily come, for surely we have together borne well our part in this affair of our country's peril.

I trust the Governemnt and its friends are in such strength throughout the land as to relieve us from further obligations: although I have much to fear on this point.

Love to all at home; to our boy, a kiss and to yourself, many of them. Hoping to write you soon of good news in this Dept. and to receive the same from you,

I am as ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

Lt. Col. 38th. Ind.

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
 Tuesday Evening, Aug. 23, '64.

My Dear Wife:

I must confess to a disappointment today in not having a letter from you, but have concluded that it either went into the culvert near Elizabethtown with the train, or else the guerillas have gobbled it en route. Nothing from you of later date than the 10th which to me seems very long: however, yours and Frank's general good health leaves me in good spirits as to your condition. I can at least hope with some degree of certainty that all is well with you even as it is with us. Later advices from home through "Nora's relations" tell me of your expected return to home the latter part of last week. Tomorrow I shall look for my letter certain, and feel that I shall not be disappointed.

All is going with us smoothly here; although on the front line no danger attends it; only an occasional bullet whistles past. In fact, both sides have nearly tired of picket firing and on most of the lines have ceased by mutual consent, to be resumed only in case of advances being made. But as we have some heavy guns on our front that pay their ten-minutes compliments to the city, we have to keep their pickets pretty close; besides they love to annoy the gunners whenever possible. Should no more occur in two days more, we again take the reserve.

George has recovered altogether and will report to Brig. Headquarters tomorrow for duty; however, his resignation papers have gone forward and I think with very good prospect of success; a day or two will decide. Col. Scribner's resignation, I hear has been accepted, though I have not the Official information: today his appointment as Brevet Brig. Gen'l. came to hand: George has it and will take it or send it up soon. Capt. Lopp's (Co. B.) resignation has also been accepted. So one by one they pass away.

But the application, I wrote you of having submitted for muster out of Officers of the Command, has been acted on adversely. They now seem to decide upon holding all Officers to Service: those who went home with Veteran Regiments for their terms; and those who have accepted promotion three years from date of their last muster. Resignations however, will be accepted or considered, particularly those who have served three years; so that our Officers will have to go in that way; that is those that choose to go. This may detain me for a time; but it shall not be longer than the necessary time for placing the Command in good condition and in good hands (Officered). This much I feel due the boys; at least I shall try

to do my duty by them; with the distinct aim however, that I will join you as soon as possible and as the exigencies of the case will admit. Don't on receipt of this, get blues on thinking of it, for rest assured I shall make the time as short as possible and I know you would have me leave the Command thus; both in justice to the men and to the Government. The time grows short now till the 18th of Sept., after which date, affairs will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

I wrote you a week since of Robert having started for Nashville on duty, that I had given him an order to draw my pay and forward the same to you if he could get it for me, and should he not succeed in this, he was to forward you \$200.00, money that I had loaned him. I have not heard from him since starting and tonight I have heard that about the time he started North, a train was captured with several Officers. I cannot think Robert was one of them and yet such a thing is possible. Should the money not be at hand by this time, I know of no other cause of delay; so write me on receipt of this whether you have received it or not, or whether your father has seen Robert in Nashville. I trust that all has gone well and that the money is with you ere this.

I see by the papers that W. W. Curry has been nominated for Congress in the 2nd Dist., thereby blasting poor Dewey's prospects and he has been flattering himself with the hopes of getting it and of spending the whole campaign at home with his young wife. I can sympathize with him on part of his disappointment; and would like much to be home to vote in the coming contest. I see friend Kelso has taken to the field, tell him if I cannot get there myself, he can at least have Frank's support and suffrage.

Am making no predictions as to when we shall go into Atlanta: perhaps soon, but in fact I am not advised of the time. Gen'l. Kilpatrick succeeded in cutting the Macon R. R. a few days since, but I think not badly. All seems to go well and the men are having quite a rest, something badly needed.

My love to all at home and kind remembrances to friends.

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

In Front of Atlanta, Ga.,
 Aug. 24th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you last evening and cannot by this time have much additional to tell, except that George has had his resignation accepted and will start for the North tomorrow morning, a happy boy. I cannot think of having him start without taking to you at least a few lines from me. For the details of how we live, what we are doing and what going to do, I refer you to him: he can tell all and will doubtless have ample time to tell it. I will not harass my mind by saying and wishing it were I; you well know I could do it with a good grace; and in fact I begin to look forward to that bright day for both of us; happy, will it not be? As the time draws near I feel it more keenly than ever and would, were it possible, hasten the time. Yet you know much of the duty I owe these boys and our country; and 'twill not be well of us even at this time to act from selfish motives. But let us look forward with hope and in so doing, forget not the Divine Power that alone can carry us safely through. I feel that you join me in these hopes and prayers, and feeling so, have every confidence in their bright consummation. George will tell you of our position and of my determination in the premises; and with what I wrote you last evening will give you very fair views of everything. I can still ask you to give way to no despondency, be happy, cheerful, in short be "Mollie"; that comes nearer expressing all than any other word I can mention.

No letter for me yet, but tomorrow I shall look for it with certainty; if it does not come soon, I shall begin to think perhaps my little wire is sick; but I hope and pray not, in fact will not think so, but fully make up my mind to have a good long letter from you tomorrow, perhaps containing a good long P. S.

Wrote you last evening of Robert's having gone to Nashville and of a bare possibility of his capture; this evening through Capt. Davis, I learn of his safe arrival in Nashville, but that up to Monday last, he had been unable to draw any pay, no funds on hand. He would wait a few days longer on that account: I trust he has succeeded and that ere this, he has sent you some money, as per my request.

All remains quiet with us on the lines to date: still occupying the old position. Today just after sundown, Charlie Fowler was severely wounded by a rifle ball striking him in the right breast. Am in hopes it is not so severe as anticipated by some. I will let you know as soon as I can get the opinions from the Surgeons at the Div. Hospital, where he was taken. Poor boy, and so near his time to go home. He was very carelessly lying on top of our works at

the time and was struck by a stray ball from the skirmish line.

But the night wears away and I must to my couch to dream of you and home, not forgetting our brave boy, Frank.

Love to all.

Ever your devoted husband,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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

Thursday Morning, August 25th.

MY DEAR:

George has just taken his last Army breakfast with us and will be off for the North ver, soon. All well this morning and quiet on the line.

Kiss Frank for me, retaining many for yourself.

Ever yours, Dan.

Favor of Adj. DeVos.

On the Road,
 Twelve Miles Southwest of Atlanta,
 Sunday P. M. Aug. 28th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Have had no chance for some days to write you and as our Corps is on the move today, I cannot see any chance of sending a mail, for you see that we have almost cut loose from northern communications and will now force Mr. Rebs to come out of Atlanta to meet us, or give up their railroads south.

Are now halted in rear of 4th Corps, and my Regiment temporarily detached to move with a Battery. Don't expect to go far to night, nor see any Rebs, as they are secured hereabouts. May see them very soon, though I have but little desire to do so, yet I feel that a successful issue of this campaign will enable me to see you sooner than otherwise, and besides may save the country.

Health very good and all moving along well.

Capt. Wright, formerly of Gen'l. Grant's Staff, (who met us at Murfreesboro) will try and send this through for me by his Corps (4th) mail.

Met Dr. Payne on Friday; very well. Thinks he will be home in Nov.

Have not heard from you since the 10th and fear you have been sick, yet I trust not and hope not. I also trust and pray for a happy and speedy issue of this Campaign.

With much love, I am in haste,

Your devoted husband,
 Dan. F. Griffin.

Love to all at home. Don't be uneasy at not hearing from me as I anticipate it will be very difficult to send the mails North. Have no fears for the safety of the Army.

Dan.

Twenty Miles south of Atlanta,
Tuesday, 4 P. M., Aug. 30th, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you Sunday afternoon while passing the 4th Corps and trust the letter may have reached you; as our Brigade and Div. mail facilities have about given out. Today the P. M. of the Regular Brig. came up bringing papers as late as the 26th and by him I shall try and forward this to you. The fact is, we have struck away up here into Ga. on a huge raid, seeming to care but little for communications at present. Have thus far progressed without meeting scarcely any opposition.

On Sunday afternoon, struck the Atlanta and West Point R. R. twelve miles south of Atlanta; and yesterday effectually destroyed, burned ties, twisted iron, etc, etc, for six or eight miles. Today we are striking in the direction of the Macon R. R., in the direction of Jonesboro. Our Corps has met nothing but Cavalry and all seems to be going well, though I hardly expect to see the road occupied without any opposition. What the effects of this move will be yet remains to be seen: they must leave Atlanta to meet us in force, for anything short of a large force would stand but a poor show. I yet trust that the objects may be attained without much bloodshed.

The weather is intensely hot, but our marches being slow, the men stand it well; besides it is like a visit to the country to get away from the old camps and works of Atlanta and reach the open country, where Georgia peaches and apples can be found. This, to both men and animals has proved of much value. I have had several feasts of corn and had given up all idea of having any for this season, long ago. A few apples have likewise been seen and eaten.

Have not had a letter from you since the 10th and anxiously look for one next mail. I hear today that Joe Williams started yesterday for the river with our mail, but his horse broke down at Sanatown. We had about given Joe up for captured, he having left us four days since without letting any of us know where he was going; and supposing he had gone for a mail to the rear, by the road we had traveled, we gave him up for gobbled. If he only reaches us with the mail, we will forgive his indiscretion.

Health is good, and so far as I can judge, everything is working well.

I have written this while seated by the roadside resting: I will close it this evening and I trust you may be so fortunate as to get it. Be not discouraged at not receiving letters from me, for until we close this Campaign, I see but little chance of getting them back to our lines of communication. Have no fears for our safety, we have plenty of rations along; besides if necessary, this country would afford a fair living.

With much love to yourself, Frank and the folks at home, I am
Ever yours, Dan. F. Griffin

Sundown, August 30th, 1864.

My Dear:

Wrote you while seated by the roadside today. Have just gone into position for the night, in a good piece of country, two and a half miles from the Macon R. R., and about five from Jonesboro. The advance today, have encountered nothing but a small body of Cavalry. I have been somewhat surprised at not finding any opposition. We are in strong force and every night put up hasty line of works in a few hours, that defy the Rebels.

Have no additional news to tell you, only be of good cheer and do not get uneasy at non arrival of letters. You know the character of Gen'l. Sherman's movements, cut loose from all communications, do up the necessary work and write afterwards. Yet I hope I shall be able to keep you advised of movements and of my whereabouts.

Citizen George will tell you the news: say to him, I received his note from the Chattahoochee about the "hoss" question.

Kiss our boy and with much love,

Believe me yours,

Dan. F. G.

Major G. and friends all well.

D.

Jonesboro, Ga.,

Friday Evening, Sept. 2, 1864.

My Dear Wife:

Away down in Dixie engaged in the action of yesterday and no way of communicating to you that I am well, is the only drawback to general good feeling; for we met and thrashed the bigger half of the Rebel Army yesterday, the old 14th Corps doing nearly all of it. Charged their works, taking the part of the line charged on, with 8 pieces of Artillery and about 1000 prisoners, including one Brigadier (Gen'l. Goran); 'twas Hardee's and part of Hood's old Corps, the flower of the chivalry and who say 'tis the first time their lines were ever charged and taken. It may not be the last.

The 38th were in as usual; charged and carried their part of the line, then swung at right angles to their works and swept our whole Brig. front, sending in 80 or 100 prisoners. But in doing so we suffered some; Maj. Carter, a flesh wound in the same old wounded thigh, not dangerous: Capts. Jenkins and Perry both I fear, mortally wounded; and Lt. Osborn, killed. In addition to this, had 9 men killed and 23 wounded. Tell Col. Scribner the old boys behaved handsomely and did well.

List of killed and wounded will be forwarded for publication as soon as mail communications can be had. None from New Albany injured.

Don't know when this may reach you but will try and forward it by Courier lines.

I trust the worst of the campaign is now over. Can't learn whether or not Atlanta is yet ours; have reports to that effect and presume a few days will tell all.

Have been resting today and can't say when we shall leave here nor where go to; at any rate we have such an army as can take care of itself anywhere and against the united Rebel strength in this quarter.

Be of good cheer for my sake: a Kind Providence has again carried me safely through and I firmly believe, will return me in safety to you; for it let us be thankful.

Write to Sister, kiss our boy; and love to all at home.

Ever yours,

Dan. F. Griffin,

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