

## Letters of Colonel C. Irvine Walker

### Staff of General Arthur Manigault

[Editor's Note] Although the Kentucky Campaign was viewed as a failure, it was not without positive results, Bragg was able to recoup some of the losses of the previous year, he had forced Buell's Army out of Northern Alabama and away from Chattanooga, he had also regained a large portion of Middle Tennessee. Bragg moved his army into camps around Murfreesboro to threaten Nashville. Still the positive gains of Bragg's campaign were not enough to quiet the growing criticism against him. Irvine would be disappointed in results of the campaign, but his hopes remained high and tried to convey his optimism to Orie.

Bragg wanted a chance for redemption and that soon presented itself in the last days of December. General William Starke Rosecrans was given command of Buell's army and moved out of Nashville against Bragg's camps at Murfreesboro. Bragg now had his chance and in the predawn of December 29th attacked Rosecrans. The battle that followed would finally give the 10th South Carolina its baptism in combat and the opportunity that Irvine has been seeking. Ironically, the prediction that Irvine made at Corinth about the 10th assaulting batteries would come true, and many men would fall in hailstorm of shot and shell, but would come through victorious and live up to their reputation. Irvine would recount the fight to Orie in detail and show that the bloodshed did not slight his enthusiasm. However, the Battle would be judged as a defeat despite the initial success of the Confederates on the 10th's part of the field. Bragg retreated from the field and moved his army back to the area around Tullahoma. There Irvine and the 10th would go into a period of static camping. Irvine would defend Bragg to Orie, justifying the retreat and contemplating the Confederacy's fortunes as spring dawned in 1863.

Hd. Qrs. 4th Brigade Res. Div.

Polks' Corps, Army of Tenn.

Murfreesboro, Nov, 27th, 1862.

No. 1 of your letters was received this afternoon before we actually left Tullahoma, and a day subsequent to my writing. Our move here, the necessary confusion of settling into a new camp, and the rush of business, has prevented my answering sooner. I would not have been able to have done so even tonight, but orders have just been received to prepare for action, and intelligence just arrived, that the enemy was supposed to be advancing in force, has caused me to write before going to bed tonight. I may be prevented from writing for some time, but I rather think that this is only the first cry of wolf, and will be repeated several times before the veritable "wolf" makes his

appearance. However, they may keep us moving about and stirring around, which has the beneficial effect of disturbing a person's rest at night, sleeping out in the cold air, - marching and countermarching without object, or rations, and finally after having just got within sight of the enemy, and possibly only within hearing you fall back to some stronger position. This is the kinds of work and glory I am sorry to say the late Army of Miss. has achieved. I say "late" for Bragg has condemned the Armies of Miss. (Bragg) and of Kentucky (Smith) into the Army of Tennessee, and hereafter he hopes that they will crown themselves with as bright laurels as those won at Corinth and in Kentucky. I hope that I will be more proud to claim to be one of this new Army than of the old A.M.

You will think that I am in no better humor than formerly, perhaps so, but I can't prevent it. [illegible text]

What do you think? I have just commenced another chimney, and again comes the order to move. I think I must stop building and then perhaps we may be allowed to remain in camp. I am afraid that I will have an opportunity before the winter is out, of using my first one again.

I received a day or two since quite a comforting letter from father wherein he speaks of Genl. Beauregard's entire confidence in his ability to hold Charleston, I hope he may be successful. Father did not write a long letter, but it had a great deal in it, and it gave me much pleasure. I suppose, ere this, your Uncle is in Columbia. [Editor's note: He was Senator from Prince George, Winyah, Parish, Georgetown District and had to attend the Sessions of the Legislature at Columbia.]

I hope that Capt. Weston may be made our next Governor – he is a man worthy to fill any place that the State can offer him and a man highly deserving of it. [Editor's note: The Legislature of South Carolina, then, elected the State officers. Capt. Plowden C.J. Weston, was, at this session elected Lieut. Gov. and resigned his position as Captain Co. A. 10th S.C. Regt.]

Hd. Qrs. 4th Brigde. [sic] R.D.P.C.A.T.

Murfreesboro, Tenn. Dec. 3rd. 1862.

No. 6 was written on the 1st inst. but I think I omitted to number it, if so, just place a 6 in the corner for me.

We are still in Murfreesboro, and will stay here as long as the Yankees will allow us. How long that may be, Rosencrans [sic] alone knows – but as I have built another chimney and am enjoying the quiet of a comfortable and cozy tent, I don't care how long it may be.

You can't imagine how comfortable a chimney makes a tent. Of course, as the tent is small the chimney must be small, but they are in proper porportion. [sic] I have only [illegible] in my tent, and my desk – the former a source of pleasure, and the latter of

business. At present I have more communication with the latter than the former. But I hope I may not be so continuously confined to my writing as I have been lately – but as I have only been re-arranging after the confusion of our late active campaign it cannot last always.

Speaking of our “late campaign” I send you three proclamations issued which we were in Kentucky – two by Genl. Brag, to the people of Kentucky, and another to the same by Maj. Genl. Buckner, of Fort Donaldson [sic] fame. The first one of Braggs [sic] was published just after we entered the State, at Glasgow, where everything looked prosperous and success seemed to parch upon our Banners. After it came from Mumfordsville [sic], and then Bardstown, then we had heard nothing of the enemy, and he seemed disposed to have yielded us Kentucky without a blow – here while we were at Bardstown was the second proclamation published, threatening the Kentuckians with conscription- but the Kentuckians would not volunteer and braved Bragg’s displeasure, so he left them to their own fortunes, and the care of a powerful Yankee Army in our rear. The shameful way they treated the saviours [sic] of their country, and not the Yankee Army, of course make Bragg disposed to go back to more friendly fields of operation.

Buckner’s Proclamation  
Bardstown, Ky. Sept 24, 1862.

To the Freemen of Kentucky:

One year ago I addressed you from Russellville. The despotism of the North, though at that time only in its incipiency, had already invaded our State. The professed advocates of free-speech has crushed the freedom of the Press. The privileges of the Writ of Habeas Corpus had already been suspended by the dicta of the petty instruments of usurped power. The Constitution, which was the basis of our old Union, had been violated in all its essential provisions. Our citizens, for no other reasons than the advocacy of the principles of the Constitution, were torn from their homes and from our State to languish in Northern prisons – and denied alike the knowledge of their accusers and the privileges of a fair trial. The judicial department of the government was virtually suppressed. The Constitution, the only basis of Union, was overthrown, and all its powers usurped by the Executive and the degraded instruments, whom he chose, to oppress a free and a gallant people. Even then the Washington government was a revolutionary power built upon the ruins of the Constitution, and wielded by an unprincipled Executive for the suppression of the liberties of the People.

As a citizen of a State so dear to its own sons, and so renowned throughout the world for its love of freedom, I felt it was not only my right, but my highest duty to resist these encroachments upon our constitutional rights. It was in this spirit that I addressed you. The events of the past year have justified the decision of those who from the beginning opposed the tyranny which has since oppressed us. A northern army, flushed with a

temporary success, has pursued its marauding career with a ferocity and a contempt for the claims of justice and humanity which have astonished the civilized world. Your property has been stolen or destroyed; your slaves have been taken from you on the plea that you are disloyal, - disloyal to the tyranny and the usurpation which seek to take from you even the right of peaceful remonstrance; your houses have been invaded by armed soldiers; you have been compelled to endure, at the point of the bayonet, unwarrantable searches; our fair women have been compelled to render the most menial services to the hirelings of the North who have assumed to be your masters; no firesides have been sacred from these ruthless intrusions. The unoffending victims of this relentless despotism have been dragged to jails and to other loathsome prisons to gratify private malice or to satiate the lust of tyrannical power. And when the prisons of our own State were filled with freeman and free women, the penitentiaries and bastiles [sic] of the North still opened to receive others, until the numbers are now so astounding that even the names of the victims are not permitted to be known. The once boasted land of freedom, under abolition, domination, is one vast prison house. The starry banner, once so famed in Southern song, has been converted in the hands of Sumner and Garrett, Davis and Seward and Lincoln and Hunter and Pope and Turchin and Boyle and Butler into the emblem of all that is oppressive to man and cruel and disrespectful to woman. Yet to this emblem, degraded by being so upheld, we are required submissively to bow as to a talisman which will sanctify the most atrocious of crimes.

Freemen of Kentucky! It needs not that you look abroad upon the burning cities and villages, and the devastated fields of Tennessee and the Mississippi valley, and of our mother State, Virginia, to convince yourselves of the true character of our oppressors. Our own State show sufficient evidences of their tyranny. Nor need you listen to the piercing cries of the women of northern Alabama. Our oppressors would teach us that the nameless brutalities of Mitchell and Turchin were sanctified by the folds of the immaculate banner under which these deeds were perpetrated; for we learn that their master has rewarded these outlaws for their crimes. Nor need you look to Butler and New Orleans to see the depths of degradation to which man may descend when he becomes the instrument of abolition tyranny. From the jails and prisons of our own State the fair daughters of Kentucky call upon us to release them from a despotism almost without a parallel in history. Well may the organ of Mr. Seward exclaim that it is time the North had learned that they were "warring not only against a united South, but against the sentiments of the civilized world." The name of the "Austrian Butcher" whose cruelty was wreaked upon only one woman, conveys an idea of moderation compared with those of these Northern Despots. Let us not insult the memory of the Austrian by mentioning his name in the same sentence with those of Mitchell and Butler, and Boyle and Turchin.

Kentuckians! View the position in which the leaders of the so-called Union party would place our State. In a thousand ways they solemnly declare that any attempt to coerce the South should be met by the armed opposition of Kentucky. With these declarations

upon their lips, they gained your suffrages. But no sooner had they been placed in power, than in violation of their repeated pledges, they joined the abolition crusade against the South. Under the guise of a faithless neutrality, they devised a scheme of treachery to the people of this State, which is calculated to deprive us of all civil equality, and to make us virtually, the political serfs of the North. Through all the mazes which duplicity can lend to a tortuous course, they have sought to lead you from the support of the neutrality policy which they imposed upon the State, into making ourselves the instruments of enforcing against the South and against yourselves, the policy of indiscriminate plunder and robbery now urged by the abolition government of the North.

Freemen of Kentucky! Whatever doubts may have heretofore existed as to the designs of the northern government, they have been dispelled by the last proclamation of their President. In violation of every principle of the Constitution in violation of his own constructions of that instrument, in violation of his own most solemn pledges, President Lincoln, assuming to be the master of all his subjects and that you are his abject slaves, has now fulminated a general proclamation of freedom to the slaves and of robbery of other property of the South. It is the fixed policy of the North. If the will of this Abolition Autocrat can be fulfilled, he will make his people a nation of bandits, and will light the incendiary torch around every Kentucky fireside. There are millions of NORTHERN hearts which revolt at the thought of such a policy. Can Kentuckians be found who will any longer submit to make themselves the instruments in the hands of New England to war upon our own interests and upon the interests of our brothers of the South?

Will you light the servile torch which is to involve our own homes in the general conflagration and draw upon ourselves the contempt and derision of the abolition despots who vies us only as the tame instruments to carry out their will?

Will you consent that the proud women of Kentucky shall become the menials of the North, or will you shake off the fetters which you are bound and show that you are worthy to be freemen?

Men of Kentucky! Two Southern Armies under the able leadership of the gallant Bragg and Kirby Smith, are now in your midst. They come to relieve you from the tyranny with which the North have so long oppressed you. No peaceable citizen, whatever his political views, will be molested. We make war only against armed men, - not as our enemies do, against peaceable citizens and defenseless women and children. We ask those who, from sentiments of duty are with us, to join the standard of freedom. If you are worthy of liberty you will win it. We have arms for all who will join us. Unite your efforts with those of the South, and under the protection of providence our beloved State will not long be desecrated by the footsteps of the abolition oppressors. Let us not be the slaves and the instruments of the North to oppress our own people; but actuated by the spirit of freedom which won our independence, let us prove that the sons of our State are worthy of their parentage, and entitled to claim the right of protecting the daughters of Kentucky from the insults with which they have so long been visited.

Whether from the gloomy prisons which despotic authority has reared to crush the Spirit of Liberty, or from the ranks of this army of Southern freemen, let every Kentuckian utter a shout of defiance against the Northern Tyranny, and proclaim that under the guidance of Heaven Kentucky shall prove worthy of her ancient fame, and shall win for her sons and her fair daughters the rich heritage of freedom which they so fully deserve.

S.B. Buckner,

Major Genl. P.A.C.S.

Hdqrs. 4th Brigade R.D.P.C.A.T

Near Murfreesboro, Dec. 14, 1862

[illegible]

We had yesterday, quite an unexpected visit from President Davis; he only remained twenty-four hours. He reviewed the whole of Polk's Corps, composed of Breckenridge's, Cheatham's and Withers' Divisions. The whole of our Division was reviewed at one and presented a magnificent appearance. I suppose we had out six thousand men, drawn up in line, by Brigades. The whole Division marched past the President in fine order, the 10th. as usual attracting especial notice. The army is now in splendid condition again. Plenty of Tents, Clothing, Shoes, Blankets, and Subsistence, and are in excellent health. The sick list of our Brigade is only about 100, and that of our regiment varying from 10-15, neither was ever so small before, and that of the Regt. not since the first week at Camp Marion. We are as comfortable as circumstances will allow. I don't know that anything especially brought the President here. I think he only visited us "en route" for Mississippi. He did not stay long enough to effect [sic] much. We are delighted to have Joe Johnston here, Bragg's command was much too large for him – that of the Army of Tenn. is enough for any one man without the whole of Northern Alabama and Mississippi and the conduct of the campaign in western Miss. I hope Genl. Johnston [sic] arrival will be the opening of a new state of affairs in the West. Genl. Johnson was placed here at the earnest solicitation of Genl. Bragg. In the latter of whom, I am glad to say that the Army has not lost so much confidence as I at first expected they would. I am glad to be able to say that the whole Army, Generals not excepted, now admit that Genl. Bragg did well to retreat from the overwhelming enemy which surrounded him in Kentucky. Many facts have come to light now which were not known at first. The wisdom of his course is admitted by all. You speak of Bragg's capture of cattle and jeans – he may have, and believe did get a great many of the former – but I have heard very little of the latter, and seen nothing. He has as much as he could do to bring his army out of Kentucky and not surplus time or transportation to bring stores, in fact I know that large quantities of Coms'y [sic] and Ordnance were destroyed at Camp Dick Robinson because we could not bring them along.

Your own

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. 4th. Brigade R.D.P.C.A.T.

Near Murfreesboro, Dec 27th, 1862.

Christmas has passed and still we are in the field. Instead of passing the day as I once had with you, I spent it in the midst of camp and surrounded by camp friends. All the visions of Turkey, Plum Pudding, mince pies, egg nog, we realized in Pork and Rice, the latter being a delicacy, was the delicacy of the dinner, not even a glass of wine to drink a Merry Christmas and a toast to absent friends.

I had expected to dine in Cincinnati and had even won a bet, which would have added there to the dinner, but instead of reaching Cincinnati the brave army of Miss. reached Cumberland gap, and we were thus compelled to dine in Murfreesboro. Hard fate! We were in luck, however, in getting any dinner for neither the pork or rice arrived until the day came. Christmas Eve the prospect looked black, and my darling, how do you think we spent the day? Not like the last, I assure you. We, from the colonel down, ran races, wrestled, played prisoners base, etc. I got my ankle sprained playing prisoners base, so happily excused from running a race, but the Col. Lt. Col., Major, each ran, the two former against the like officers in the 24th. Ala., and the latter against the Maj. 19th. S.C., both Regts. [sic] of our Brigade. For the honor of the 10th. be it said that all three came out victorious. We had a merry time, although I might have found, under other circumstances, a pleasanter way of spending the day.

We are all well and could enjoy this sport. We really had an egg-nog! but the Doctor (who is from West) missed the time of day, and made it before breakfast. What do you think of that? For myself, I could not relish or eat it at that time of day. [illegible text]

The enemy are moving in our front, so you may now hear something from the Army of Tenn. Genl. Wheeler, Comdg. Cavalry in our front, sent Bragg a Christmas present of some 200 prisoners, and several pieces of Artillery. [illegible text]

Tell your Auntie that I am as fat as ever, and not yet starved. That the 10th will stand by her flag to the last. They nearly united to shoot Genl. Withers on the day of the Presidential Review because he would allow us to carry none but our battle flag on the field, so the President did not see it. Tell her that they love it dearly, and that when she hears that it is taken, she may be assured that not a man of the 10th. remained to defend it.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Headquarters 4th Brigade. [sic] P.C.A.T

Alisonia, Elk River, Jan. 8th, 1863.

Since my last, a decisive, but I am afraid, fruitless, victory has been achieved by this Army. You remember that in that letter I hinted at such an event, but for fear of rendering you anxious, I did not tell you of its approach. Thank God, I am safe, as well as all of our friends of the Field and Staff. I have not time to give you a description of the battle, but suffice it to say that all you were interested in, did well. The Army gained a complete victory, holding the field for four days, but finding that the enemy dared not attack us, and it was too fatiguing to keep our Army drawn up in line of Battle, Bragg was compelled to fall back. We will however re-occupy much of the ground we have lost. The enemy retreated as we have every reason to believe, the same night we did, but unfortunately they discovered it first, and occupied Murfreesboro.

The order of the battle was the following – Cleburne's Div. on the right, Withers' and McCown's on the left. Cleburne's supported by Breckenridge, and Withers by Cheatham. The right wing did not do much [Editor's note: This is no reflection upon Cleburne's and Breckenridge Divisions. A part of Bragg's strategy kept Cleburne thus inactive, but after we drove the Federals back to the Nashville Pike, Breckenridge's Division was brought up and most valorously but without success, charged the enemy's position.] but they held their ground. And the left wing drove everything from before it, routing the whole force opposing it, and killing the three Division Commanders opposed to us. [Editor's note: This was common Army rumor, but I think it was mistaken.]

We took the enemy completely by surprise – they evidently intended to attack us but Bragg forestalled them, and made an irresistible attack on their lines, which completely routed them. We drove them two or three miles and were only stopped by night. The next day the battle was not renewed, nor was it at all renewed. Bragg not being strong enough to attack them, as they were posted in a very strong position, and the enemy too badly whipped to venture an attack on our lines.

The Col. commanded this Brigade, and I acted as A.A.G. The Col. showed much ability and has gained great credit. I hear of no Brigade which fought better than ours, nor any Regt. which acted more gallantly than the 10th So. Ca. The loss in the Brigade was over 500 – out of about 2,000 carried in the field. The 10th. S.C. lost 10 killed, and 100 wounded. The Battle Flag was riddled, and your flag shot off the staff. The 10th S.C. brought it off the battle field safely. Among the wounded was Capt. Nettles seriously, Capt. Palmer, severely in the leg (flesh wound) Capt. C.T. Ford, Capt. Mc.White, and Lt. Easterling (wound in the foot by a shell). Glennie Herlot is unhurt. Lt. White has acted most gallantly in a skirmish preceeding [sic] the Battle, as did the whole of Company A. They, together with Comp. C., who did nearly as well, killed 2 Majors, and 14 Enlisted men of cavalry who attacked them, besides taking three of them wounded, the rest of the wounded being carried off by the enemy. [Editor's note: This was a most conspicuously gallant little affair between two squadrons of the 15th. Penna. Cavalry and Companies A. and C. 10th. S.C. Regt. The details are more fully given in my letter



of Jan. 15th, No. 29 of the series. As soon as Genl. Bragg heard of the bravery and skill of Lieut. C.C. White, he sent down a staff officer and promoted him to the rank of Captain. The only instance I ever knew of such promotion on the actual field of battle by the general commanding.]

Lt. Col. Pressley managed the Regt. most excellently, and behaved most gallantly. Not one of our men got a scratch, although we all were under a most terrific fire.

I telegraphed, as soon as I could, to Father, and suppose he sent it on to you. I will write again – when we get to Shelbyville. Hoping that the same kind of Providence which has so far spared me may continue his protection, I remain, with love to our friends

Your own [illegible]

Hd. Qrs. 4th Brigade. [sic] W.D.R.C.A.T

Near Shelbyville, Jan. 15th. 1863.

Yours of the 25th and 30th have been received since our arrival at this place. I have been endeavoring to write you fully for some time, but have not had an opportunity because 1st. of the movements incident to the recent battle of Murfreesboro, and 2nd. that I have been extremely busy since we have been stationary, collecting and writing the various reports of that engagement. All this is in addition to regular duties and to the orders of two weeks standing which are to be extended and what rendered my duties more arduous is that I was obliged to dismiss my clerk [illegible text]

But I can steal a few moments to acknowledge the receipt of your two precious letters and give you an account of the Battle. I am glad that your second is written in a more pleasant and hopeful than the first. You speak of sad faces and mourning. I am glad that you only see the result of, and not the sad battle-field itself. The grief, the sadness, the mourning of relatives is nothing as compared with the horrors of the battle ground the piteous cry for help of the wounded and cold pallid faces of the unburied dead.

Jan. 19th. I propose to give you a rather more minute account of battle of Murfreesboro that I was unable to do in my last. But before doing so let me tell you that I commenced this letter of 15th. but since have been so busy that I have not had time to write any since I left off above.

On Sunday Dec 28th, 1862. The Army was placed in position as you will see on the map accompanying this letter. [Editor's note: The map is a rough map of the field, being practically and far more accurately shown upon the official map. It was not preserved with the letters.]

Cleburn's [sic] Division on the right, Withers and McCown on the left, Breckenridge and Cheatham forming 2nd line. Withers' right resting on Stone [sic] River. On the afternoon of the 29th. the enemies [sic] Cavalry attacked our line of infantry pickets, but were repulsed.

At this time occurred the very pretty little affair of Co. A. The pickets on their right gave way, and before they were aware of it, they were completely surrounded.

[Editor's note: In my "10th S.C. Sketch" this is stated rather differently, and I think more correctly. In that is said: "The picket line on our right had been re-adjusted leaving a gap and through this a squadron of Cavalry rode in. Lieut. C.C. White, hearing of the gap had gone to right of his Company to arrange it, he (not his company) was surrounded and captured with the two right groups of his pickets."

The prisoners were left in charge of a Lieut. and Squad of men, and the rest of the Cavalry dashed on. So it left isolated, this Squad of Union Cavalry, and their prisoners. Lieut. White, a prisoner, called out "Co. A. Rally on the right", which they did, and Lieut. W. secured his freedom, as narrated in the latter.

Lt. White and Sargt. [sic] Larabour were taken prisoners, and had given up their arms, when the enemy fired on him, and White then called on his company to rally and he had a hand to hand fight with his captor, and before the Yankee had time to run he was knocked off his horse and White liberated. [sic]

[Editor's note: On returning to his company Lieut. W. formed it at right angles to its previous line, along a rail fence and Co. C. formed on its flank. The 15th. Penna Cavalry acted with distinguished gallantry. Maj. Rosengarten dashed up to the fence, and with his pistol shot down a man in Co. A. but the Company concentrated their fire upon him and the brave fellow fell, riddled. The enemy charged them several times, but only to be repulsed. Our loss was 1 killed and 1 wounded, - the enemy's 14 killed, 3 prisoners, wounded and got off the field, except three which we brought in.

White and his Company acted very gallantly. On the morning of the 30th, the enemies [sic] infantry skirmishers appeared and gradually drove our back to the edge of the woods in which our line was formed, this being accomplished about noon; they made during the afternoon a desperate attempt to drive them in entirely and find position of our line. They were aided by their Artillery, but though we were under a pretty hot fire all day, yet they could not discover the exact position of our line. This took place in immediate front of 3rd. and 4th. and 1st. Brigades of Withers [sic] Div.]

I don't know how they succeeded in other parts of the field. On this night they formed a line in our front, not over 500 yards off, and boldly built their fires and made as much noise as they choose. We could hear them talking. Meanwhile not a fire burned, not a sound was heard along our lines. Tonight we prepare for the deadly conflict of tomorrow.

[Editor's note: A very amusing little incident occurred during this effort of the enemy. So poorly were we Confederates armed, that more than half of the Companies of our Regiment were armed with old flint and steel smooth bore muskets altered to percussion. Their range was about 100 yards. At one time the entire Picket line of our Regt. was armed thus, and consequently our friends, the enemy, showed themselves

openly and rather laughed at us. Col. Manigault slipped up on the picket line, some Companies armed with Rifles, range 500 or 1,000 yards, and there was then a general scamper of the enemy for cover, as they opened fire. This is but an example of the kinds of arms the confederates [sic] were forced to use. Our Regiment was not armed all alike, with the same caliber arms, until after the Battle of Franklin, Nov. 1864, near the close of the war. Then I found many arms scattered over the field, and as the Springfield Rifle was the same caliber as our Enfield, I had our Ordnance [sic] Sergt. [sic] gather up enough Arms of same caliber for the entire Regt., previously we had three calibers in the Arms of the Regt.]

During the night, orders were received for an advance to be made by McCown's Div. and 1st and 4th. Brigade of Withers, they were to wheel round and straighten the line which made a large angle on the right of our Brigade. The movement to commence on the left at dawn of day next morning. Before daylight on the 31st. ult. the army was under arm and ready for coming contest. The day opened with heavy skirmishing and picket firing. We look anxiously for movement on our left. Soon the Battle flags of Deas' (1st) Brigade were seen advancing, Col. M. sends orders for 34th Ala. Regt. on left of our Brigade to rise and charge opposite hill, in a moment and with a shout this gallant Regt. rushes to meet the foe. Hardly have they started when they are followed by 28th Ala., 24th. Ala., 19th. So. Ca., in quick succession and the 10th S.C. wheels into its position. In a moment the quiet field is filled with contending hosts. The rattle of musketry becomes incessant, and the hail of canister, shot and shell and scrapnel [sic] is moving down the ranks of our advancing line. The 34th. and 28th Ala. Regts. [sic] have gained the hill simultaneously with the 1st Brigade and driven the enemy from it, and the 24th. Ala. and 19th S.C. continue to advance under a most terrific fire, but suddenly the enemy, (owing to the bend in our lines) open an enfilade fire on our lines, and throw heavy reinforcements to support their beaten Regts. [sic] (a brigade of Regulars) and ours, and the 1st. Brigade gives way – our right flank is exposed to the enfilade fire and our left exposed by the retreat of the 1st., and we were compelled to fall back. But they were rallied and led again to the charge and were again terribly repulsed and driven back to our first position before the men could be rallied. I had gone to Genl. Maney Comdg. our supporting Brigade in 2d. line, to bring him up to our assistance, and arrived just at this time. But before another attack was made by our Brigade, McCown's Div. and 1st. Brigade W.D. has wheeled around, flanked the enemy, and driven them from our front. The 10th being on the right were but little exposed. The ground was now clear and the left wing wheeled round and occupied a line along the road marked on map "country road" and at right angles to our former position, our right remaining stationary. The battle now raged along our whole line from left to right, the booming of heavy guns to be heard over the sharp rattle of musketry. While our line was in the last mentioned position a Battery of Rifle guns and Napoleons posted on the Nolensville Pike shelled our lines, making a great deal of noise and doing very little damage. They had not the most remote idea that we were so near them. Genl. Maney now brought up a battery near the Gin House and opened on this Battery, this drawing its attention and ordered Col. M. to charge it.

[Editor's note: Col. M was ordered to charge it with two Regiments and he most naturally selected his two South Carolina Regts. [sic]]

The 10th S.C. were brought to front and supported by the 19th. S.C. were ordered to advance.

[Editor's note: While this was going on, Genl. Maney, commanding a Tenn. Brigade, moved and formed on the left of Manigault's Brigade. Col. Manigault sent me to Gen. M to request him to make a demonstration to aid his attack, as he did not believe the Battery was unsupported, as was informed. As soon as I heard the rattle of musketry from the charge, I galloped back and found the two South Carolina Regiments had got into a hornet's nest, the Battery being supported by a heavy infantry force. I immediately ordered up the Alabama Regts. [sic] of the Brigade, and they reached the So. Ca. Regts. [sic] just as the movement of the 3rd. Brigade on our right had aided us, and the whole Brigade swept victoriously over the Battery.]

These gallant Regts. [sic] move steadily forward and when they reached the enemies [sic] line of skirmishers charged with a shout driving the Brigade of the enemies [sic] infantry from their position and silenced every gun of the Battery but one, but the 2nd line of the enemy appearing in front and a Regt. moving round on our left flank to enfilade them they were brought to a stand. The rest of the Brigade was ordered to their support, but this proved inefficient to withstand the numbers of the enemy and as the Brigades on our right and left did not move up in time to support our as had been promised, we were compelled to fall back. Just as we gave way the 3rd. Brigade on our right came up, but too late to support us, although they advanced, and drove back the enemy, compelling them to leave their Battery and take flight. McGown's Div. was advancing at this time, and they swept the enemy before them, our Brigade following, until the enemy were driven across to the Nashville Pike, where they rallied behind a heavy artillery force planted along Nashville Pike (see on map near Nashville Pike) and our forces having already driven the enemy further than they were ordered and having in their front an open field over which to advance against a tremendous collection of Batteries, our line halted in woods to N.S. of Nolensville Pike. So on the left we had swung completely round, driving the enemy more than 2 ½ miles and capturing several batteries of artillery. This has been achieved however with heavy loss. In the charge on the Battery the 10th. S.C. Regt. lost 85 men – nearly ¼ of the number on the field. Our battle flag was riddled; and the Blue State (Mrs. Wilson's) flag was shot off the staff, but it was brought off the field in safety. On the right the fighting was not so hard, we however drove the enemy back and advanced to position shown on map as 2nd position. During the rest of the day, on the left, we made no advance, the enemy keeping up an extremely heavy shelling on our position – they were so near that they did but little harm, although I was not under a heavier fire of artillery all day than at this time. Night, however, soon closed this, the longest day of my existence. We confidently expected the fight to be renewed the next day, but our army was too small to make the

attack, and the Yankees too badly whipped to move out of the intrenchments they had thrown up during the night.

Thursday, New Year day [sic], was spent in this position, we momentarily expecting either an order to advance, or an advance of the enemy, but the day passed and neither came. Friday we remained quiet. Breckenridge made an attack on the enemy but was repulsed. Saturday our Brigade changed its position to that first occupied by the Brigade. W.D. between Nolensville and Nashville Pikes and Chalmers, Deas and Anderson (2nd. 1st. and 3rd. Brigades of our Division) were moved to their right, in front of Stone [sic] River. The day was a rainy one, and we suffered very much. Our troops were now become quite exhausted, we had been in line of Battle one week. That night came the orders to retire and with a heavy heart and tired steps our brave but crippled and exhausted Army retreated towards Shelbyville. We marched all night and next afternoon arrived at Shelbyville, (25 miles). One days [sic] rest here and we pushed on to Alisonia, 26 miles, which place we only reached to be ordered back to Shelbyville so we had four days marching thrown away. I don't complain of this – I was glad that we could go back to Shelbyville.

Thus I have told the story of the Battle of Murfreesboro. It was a complete, though unfortunately, not a decisive victory. Bragg deserves every praise for doing what he has done – with an army of barely 30,000 he defeated, or say checked, Rosencrans [sic] with over 65,000 more than two to one.

Our Brigade, though every time repulsed, acted most gallantly and has been highly complimented by our commander. But the two S.C. Regts. [sic] have had the highest honor paid them. Genl [sic] Bragg “for brilliant deeds on Battlefield of Murfreesboro” presented them with the Battery we silenced on the Nolensville Pike, left it to them to inscribe the names on the pieces, to be presented by them to their favorite Genl. Beauregard as a trophy of the late Battle. Capt. White as “the most gallant officer of the two So. Ca. Regts. [sic]” is one of the escort in charge. Neddy Howard was specially mentioned by Genl. Bragg to go to So. Ca. with the Battery. So you see the reputation of So. Ca. was ably sustained by her sons in the West. I can speak for this, for I acted as Asst. Ajt. [sic] Genl [sic] to Col. M. Comdg. Brigde. [sic] and was not Adjt [sic] of the 10th., so I can tell its honors without the imputation of egotism.

Now for our friends. Col M. managed the Brigade not only ably, but with telling effect on the enemy, - he has been highly complimented by Genl. Bragg. [illegible] acting as Aide to Col. M. and [illegible] as Brigade Inspector, were fearless in the discharge of their duties, displaying not only intrepidity but much bravery. The latter once rallied and led to the front one of our broken Regts [sic]. You spoke too severely of Lt. Col. P. in the Battle he proved himself a man. He was Officer of the Day when White's skirmish took place, and managed his skirmishers admirably. When in command of the Regt. he handled it well, and acted most gallantly. Maj. Porcher was cool and collected, and was as little excited when under the terrific fire which the Regt. encountered in the charge on the Battery on the Nolensville Pike, as if he was on parade. Willie Huger was most

gallant. Corpl. [sic] Duggan carrying Battle flag was shot down, and Shaw took his flag and Willie the Blue flag and brought it off the field in safety. Capt. Nettles was peculiarly marked for gallantry and coolness and his name is inscribed on one of the Guns presented to Beauregard. But poor fellow, he was shot down in three places while leading his company to the charge. Capt. Palmer did well, but was slightly wounded in leg. LeGrande Shaw distinguished himself. But Lt. C.C. White's single handed and unarmed fight on the 29th. and his noble bearing through whole fight has made him the hero of the regt. Col. Lythgoe 19th. S.C. Regt. was mortally wounded in thigh, and died under subsequent operation. Do you remember old Corpl. [sic] (late Sergeant), Cockfield. The poor fellow was shot as he led his company in the charge. He died immediately.

[Editor's note: As I passed over the ground where the 10 and 19 S.C. Regts [sic] had been fighting I saw Sergt. [sic] Cockfield and his son both lying dead side by side, as they fell.]

Our success was owing entirely to our impetuous charges and unanticipated attack, a thing never thought of by the enemy.

It was our battery (Capt. D.D. Waters) who shot off the head of Rosencran's [sic] Chief of Staff – you have no doubt heard of it through the papers.

The providence of God, alone saved me. The shot, shell and ball seemed to strike everywhere but just as where I was. I thank Him for it.

The days of the battle were the most exciting of my life. I never passed so long days. I have seen one battle, and am satisfied – have no relish for another.

I send you a copy of Bragg's Order to troops after Battle.

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. 4th. Brigade W.D.P.C.W.S.

Near Shelbyville, Jun. 29, 1863.

[illegible]

I may now reasonably think that the time is not far distant when we will meet again. The Winter is passing rapidly away, and the enemy gains no advantage, meanwhile the people, the public sentiment of the North is calling for peace and the hope of subjugating the South is becoming fainter and fainter, the great Northwest is becoming tired of Abolition rule, and is plotting against the Government. Changes of sentiment in the North have always been rapid, and in the change about taking place we may discern the first rays of peace. Moreover the finances of the government are failing, they are throwing into circulation millions of their already depreciated currency, which will only depreciate it more – soon to become worthless, then their government must fail,

then they will come cringing to our feet, begging for the peace we have so long offered them. But apart from all this, the winter is the time of the year they claim as their own, their own to conquer us, have they done anything yet this winter; defeated at Fredericksburg, Murfreesboro, and Vicksburg? We show every ability to hold our own till spring when we may forward and carry "the war into Africa." This will bring on peace – so don't you think with me, - if not, I know you hope with me?

I am sorry that Genl [sic] Bragg is so much abused. I wish some of his abusers could have been with us in the charge on the battery on the Nolensville Pike. Do you think that they would have talked so loud. Unfortunately those who know most of our Battlefields and criticize hardest the plans of our Generals, are those farthest from the scene of action. I tell you, if Genl. Bragg had not fought the battle as he did, surprising the enemy by the desperate charges of our men, he would have been compelled to leave the field, if not beaten, at any rate ten times worse off than we were. We could, I think, have held our ground for one day, but would have been compelled to withdraw at the end of that day. So much, however, for Genl. B. I will write or at any rate tell to you, a defense of his campaign hereafter, I mind not the harsh words spoken against him, as they spring from a supreme ignorance of the case.

[illegible]

Your own dear,

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. 4th Brigde. [sic] W.D.R.C.A.T.

Near Shelbyville, Feby 22, 1863.

I have yours of the 30th ult. before me, received some days since, while I was out on picket duty. This duty and since our return to camp my indisposition, has prevented my answering sooner. I have been quite unwell for the past ten days, spending a week in bed. Only my system out of order, induced by the exposure etc. incident to the late Battle, and the marches thereafter. But I am happy to say that I am now quite restored, only feeling a little weak, but hope in a day or two to have my usual strength and resume my usual duties.

[illegible]

I am very happy to be able to state that the Army is again in splendid condition for fighting, and willing and anxious to meet Rosencrans [sic] whenever he desires to advance and try his luck with us again. I am told that the Army is stronger now than it was before the battle of Murfreesboro, and I know that our Brigade is larger now than we were before the battle. Many officers have been sent home, and are picking up all of our stragglers and sending them on. Another good thing, Bragg has done. He has consolidated every two Regts. [sic] into one – thus the 10th. and 19th. So. Ca. have

been consolidated into one Regt. Six Companies were made out of our twelve and four Companies out of the 10 companies of the 19th. The two Regts. [sic] together make a very respectable Regt. This of course calls for only one half the officers, the best half have been retained with the Regt. and others sent home to hunt up and forward conscripts and absentees – the latter I must say have done well and our increase is due to them. [illegible text]

So you have seen a snow storm at last. They are so common here that we hardly notice them. They come and go, and we never think of them. As to admiring their beauty, it is generally so cold outside and so warm inside of the tents, that we keep snug and quiet indoors and never think of going out.

[illegible text]

Your own dear [illegible]

Near Shelbyville, March 2nd, 1863.

Your letter of Oct. 31, 1862 was received on the 27th. ult., and on the following day yours of Feb 8th. 1863. This speaks a little unfavorably for the regularity of the mails of these Confederate States. I will try and answer them both in the order they were written and received.

You regret that the 10th. S.C. did not take part in the Battle of Perryville, not having an opportunity of distinguishing itself. It was not because it lacked the confidence of its commanders, for Bragg expected the great battle of Kentucky to take place near Lawrenceburg and not at Perryville, and he selected Withers' Division from this whole army as reinforcements for Genl. H.K. Smith, whose army had been sent to fight the battle. So you see that our not being in the Battle of Perryville was owing to the confidence Genl. Bragg had in our Division.

But since the writing of your letter and long before its receipt, the gallant 10th S.C. won for itself a crown of laurels on the bloody field of Murfreesboro. So if we missed Perryville, we established our fame at Murfreesboro. But when one is under a pleasant delusion it is a great pity to awake them to the truth. Bragg's train of wagons 400 miles long, loaded with warm clothing etc. for the poor soldier, on which you pardon Bragg is all a myth, not one twentieth part ever existed. Some goods may have been brought, but there was not much, I did not see it myself, no one that I can find has seen more than twenty or thirty wagons at the utmost, and I have not seen the Government issue a suit of clothes or a pair of shoes since our return, which were got in Kentucky. My darling, don't believe one half, nay one fourth what you hear. Bragg's policy in retreating can be justified by higher and more important reasons than the saving even of 40 miles of wagons, the salvation of his army. [illegible text]

What do you think of my giving three dollars for a loaf of home made light bread? Having to diet myself alone induces me, I assure you to such endurance of the



extortion. If I had been well I would never have put up with it, but it gives me an idea how the "loyal" citizens of Tenn. extort the soldiers.

In the spell of cold weather you suggested a very appropriate companion for your frolic. I heartily wish he had been there to have participated in the sport. I am afraid that we should have been tempted to prolong it rather longer than did Auntie and yourself.  
[illegible text]

Col. M. and all rest of the field and Staff quite well. Col. M. still in command of this Brigade. Probabilities of his promotion as distant as deserved. [illegible text]

[illegible]

Headquarters 4th. Brigde. [sic] W.D.R.C.A.T.

Near Shelbyville, Mch. [sic] 10th. 1863.

[illegible]

I have not heard from you since I last wrote, but as ten days have passed since then I will not keep my darling any longer from a letter – I would have written sooner, but we were sent out to the front and only returned yesterday afternoon. The Yankees have been quite independent lately and drove in all our pickets on the Unionville, Lewisburg and Columbia, Pikes, in fact on all the roads leading to N.S. So our Division was sent out to re-establish our line of outposts, and if possible capture a few Yankees. But when we got to our line of Infantry Pickets, we found that the enemy had retired and our Cavalry occupied positions nearly up to those from which they were driven. But Van Dorn made a little circuit around the Yankee forces on the Unionville Pike (the same on which we advanced) and thought he had got to their rear and our Division was moved up to attack them in front, but when we had gone 7 or 8 miles, in advance of our infantry pickets, we received a dispatch from Van Dorn saying that the enemy had escaped him – so we returned to our camp of the former night and next morning yesterday, returned to our Camp, here. Our loss in this raid of the Yankees was the destruction of a few commissary stores and of the camp equipage of one Regt. of Cavalry and a few prisoners. As an offset to this we have Van Dorn's surrounding and capturing a Brigade of the enemy, numbering twenty two hundred men. In this affair the enemy was completely surprised, they had out pickets in front, but non [sic] in rear, so Van Dorn makes a circuit, gets in their rear, places his artillery in position, dismounts his Cavalry to act as infantry, and opens fire on the enemy before they were aware of his presence. They surrendered at once, with their arms etc. I think on the whole we got rather the better of the enemy. The Arms alone will pay for all we lost, - not to speak of the prisoners – All is now quiet in front, and will probably remain so until it stops raining; which happy event seems as distant as ever. It has been raining here for the past two months, and it has not stopped yet – nor is there the slightest chance of its stopping until summer comes, or the war ends. I think this is quite a blessing, it puts off the

operations of the enemy, and every day that our Armies remain quiet is one gained for us and lost to our enemies. If it will rain all spring and keep the enemy quiet it will benefit us much.

I thought that a short time ago I could see the beginning of the end, but I was rather too hasty. I believe that the causes which will effect [sic] the close of the war and the restoration of peace, are beginning to act, and make themselves felt in the North, but I looked for the end to [sic] soon; I did not allow sufficient time for these causes to act, but I hope to eat a Christmas Dinner with you this year, and expect it to be a right merry one, too, so look forward to this, my dearest. I think it is fully time for the war to end. I am completely worn out in all except body and spirit. My clothes are rusty, dusty and torn – my bridle and horse trappings are falling to pieces, and I can't get to any civilized place where I can replenish my outfit. I write home for what I want and get it about six months after I write. I write for summer clothes, and by the time they arrive it is winter, and vice versa, so I think that either the U.S. ought to take compassion on my dilapidated condition and stop the war, or Genl [sic] Bragg ought to allow me to go home to refit. One however, is about as likely as the other, although the former is more preferable. I have one consolation I will have home on my route when I return so I can make my appearance before you like a gentleman.

I am happy to say that I am quite well again, and hope never to miss another day's duty while I am in the army. I have been extremely fortunate, the period of this sickness of mine, which kept me from duty a little more than two weeks, is the only time I have missed a day's duty from any cause, since I have been in the Army. I certainly have a great deal to be thankful for indeed, when I think of the sickness and death around me. [illegible text]

Your own dear

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. 4th Brigade W.D.R.C.A.T

Near Shelbyville, March 17th, 1863.

All is quiet on our front now, and if I am not mistaken something is going on within their (the enemies [sic]) lines, You will remember when I last wrote the enemy was pressing us hard on our whole front, and it took a very large part of our force to sustain our outposts, also that the enemy were pressing us very hard on our left, now they have all withdrawn and it is certain that they have not even an outpost five miles this side of Murfreesboro and our scouts report that the Yankees [sic] advance post is only two miles south of that place. The conjectures as to the meaning of all this are many and conflicting. I don't know enough to judge myself, but patiently await the unfolding of events. I hope it may mean that Rosencranz [sic] has fallen back, and that the demonstrations last week were intended to cover the movement. It really does appear

strange that if the Yankees were at Murfreesboro, that their pickets, which had hitherto been 12 miles off, should be drawn in to two. Two armies must be very near each other that that their pickets should be drawn in so close; we know that this is not the case, therefore, what is it? If other pickets (cavalry) are as far from their army as heretofore, then they must have withdrawn. But as I said before, I don't know enough to judge, therefore why should I argue on the probabilities. Therefore I will let it alone, if the enemy has retreated, you will know it before you receive this.

I was interrupted here by the Col. who wanted me to look over the tactics of "Brigade Drill" with him, so you may thank him for cutting your letter short. [illegible text]

Your own dear

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade, W.D.R.C.A.T

Near Shelbyville, March 22d., 1863.

Yes, you shall hear from me "very soon" or as soon as the mail will convey this to my own [illegible] – Yours of 14th. inst [sic] was received this morning, Sunday, and on Sunday my thoughts always wander to those happy days of yore when I saw my [illegible] certainly every Sabbath, so as I cannot be with my dearest in person I will approach her by means of my pen. As there is no news in this exceedingly dull place, I cannot do otherwise or better than answer your letter. The tornado which you wish to know whether I enjoyed or not did not do any damage but in a portion of the town, and as we were out on a little expedition to the front at the time, did not experience its intense violence. The wind and rain certainly awoke me, and as I lay listening to its beating on my tent, and thinking of the poor men who were without tents (only 1 wagon being allowed to Hd. Qrs. and none to the Regts. [sic]) I heard a tree not more than twenty feet from my tent begin to crack and finally came down with a tremendous crash. I knew the direction the tree was going to fall, which was from the tents, so I was not alarmed, but I must admit I felt some anxiety, for perhaps I might have been mistaken or perhaps the wind might "misdirect" it, or perhaps, etc., etc. – but this thoroughly awakened us. Soon the colonel called out to know if there was any water in my tent. I told him no – not dreaming of such a thing, when what was my astonishment a few moments after to find my whole tent flooded by the rain, which had come down in torrents, and the ground was too flat to drain it off sufficiently fast. I was on my cot, my clothes were on a chair, so after making a bridge to put my boots on, I soon after dozed off. This little incident was one of the pleasures of Camp life, a little better however than riding in the rain, as I had been doing all day.

[illegible text]

Answer this letter as promptly as I did yours, Au revoir.

[illegible]

H. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade,  
Near Shelbyville, April 3, 1863.

[illegible]

Everything is quiet out here, both parties are preparing, I suppose, for the summer campaign. The only item of interest is the capture of eight hundred of the enemy by Forrest within 9 miles of Nashville. It is considered quite a feat to have got, as he did, so completely in the enemies [sic] rear capturing the prisoners, and then to have brought them off so successfully. Getting in the enemies [sic] rear is frequently accomplished by the daring leaders of the Cavalry of the army of Tenn [sic], but the bringing off of the Infantry prisoners, they having to move comparatively slowly and making the circuit of the enemies [sic] forces in safety, is an act which entitle the Comndr. [sic] to much praise.

Your [illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade W.D.P.C.A.T.

Near Shelbyville, April 10th, 1863

[illegible]

When I left you I expected to go the Charleston and probably to have taken part in the gallant and so far successful struggle at my beloved home. Yes, the long looked for attack at Charleston has commenced and with the assistance of God we have been so far successful, and this success makes us confident of ultimate defeat to our enemies. We have dispatches up to last night. I wish that it had been our lot to have partaken in the fight. I would rather risk my life there than at any other point. [illegible text]

But if I had my choice now I would rather remain with the Army of Tenn., bonded as we are together, by common sufferings, the blood shed at Murfreesboro, than leave it and its gallant commander and go even to the defence [sic] of my home. I think, perhaps erroneously, that this is the best army of the country. Its valor has been shown at Perryville, Shiloh, and Murfreesboro, its endurance by the Kentucky campaign, and its discipline in both, admitted by all. I will always be proud to say that I was "of the Army of Tenn." I hope that the results of its future deeds of valor may be more fruitful than that of Murfreesboro, and of this army I am proud to belong to the finest Division, a gallant and ably commanded Brigade, of which I am an officer and the finest Regiment in the Army. I rather look upon the Regt., however, as an old but absent friend, I have been separated from it for so long, and see no chance of returning to it soon. As to the Army Commander, I am one of his most ardent admirers, and I hope some day to make you agree with me. [illegible text]

Yours as ever,

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade, W.D.A.T

Near Shelbyville, April 19, 1863.

[illegible text]

We are all quiet here, nothing new except that they are getting the army on the same amount of transportation and camp equipage as we had last summer in Kentucky. I don't know that this means Kentucky again, but any move, except to rear, would be a change not altogether disagreeable.

[illegible text]

Your own

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade, W.D.A.T.

Fall Creek, April 25, 1863.

[illegible]

I have not heard from you since I last wrote, but as I have a good opportunity now of writing you I could not let it pass neglected. It is assuredly a pleasant and perhaps a profitable way of spending this, the Sabbath evening. We are still out on Picket Duty as you see by the superscription and since I last wrote have spent a very pleasant time. When on outpost duty we have our Hd. Qrs. in a fine (for this country) house and have a better opportunity of providing our table. Those however are the general advantages; the special pleasure for the past week was a dinner that our mess ventured to give. Are you not surprised at a regular course dinner, in the face of the enemy, and while on outpost and still more particularly after the representations I have been making you of our fare. But in spite of all these disadvantages we really presumed to undertake the enterprise, and to crown our presumption, invited several ladies to honor us with their company. We arrived out here Monday – Tuesday and Wednesday we sent out in different directions to obtain the requisite supplies. The house was cleared out, one room for a parlor, and another arranged as a dining room, a table was put up in the dining room, and on Thursday morning we breathlessly awaited the arrival of our guests. At last the ambulances drove up and the following ladies made their appearance, your friend, C.I.W. doing them the honors of the house. Mrs. W., in all seven. After the necessary introductions and warming before the fire, the violin was brought in and with light fantastic toe, we amused ourselves until Dinner. About 3 P.M. the momentous hour of dinner arrived and we were marched into dinner by the violin. I

give a bill of fare, Soups, Gumbo Fille, and Vegetable, - Fish, Stewed Oysters, - Boiled Fowl with white sauce, Roast Turkey, - Side dishes, Rice, biscuits and corn bread. Desert – Cake and Custard. Capt. M. our Brigade A.Q.M. was specially charged with that part of the entertainment, and he did his part well, and exactly correct. The only trouble was that the interval between the courses was rather long for we only had one set of plates, and the changing of them occupied some time. After dinner we danced again until it was time for the ladies to leave us, which they did very early, as they had six or more miles to go home before dark. Of course ladies did not like to be out after dark when within the lines of so large an army, particularly as it was one in the immediate face of the enemy. [illegible text]

All is quiet here, the enemy shows no disposition to advance upon us, while our army is not being placed in the lightest field order. We are again cut down to the Kentucky allowance, and many expect that Kentucky will again be the theatre of our summer campaign. I would like this, for I am getting tired of staying in one place and doing nothing. If the Yankees persist in staying at Murfreesboro, I think Genls. [sic] Johnston and Bragg will feel themselves called upon to do something to get him out of the place. I do hope that the coming Summer campaign will be more successful to our arms than the last.

Hope this will find you all well,

Yours fond [illegible]

Headquarters Manigault's Brig. A.T.

Near Shelbyville, May 9th, 1863.

[illegible]

We are still near Shelbyville, though not camped on the same ground from which so many letters have been written to you. We are now on Lewisburg Pike, and in a very beautiful camping ground, I assure you. And as we are doing outpost duty on this road we are excused from that at Fall Creek, so we remain in the same camp all the time, instead of going out one week in every four.

I received your letter of the 28th. ult. a few days since but the inclemency of the weather prevented my answering it as soon as I desired. I am reduce [sic] to using a "fly" for an office, and the weather changed very cold and rainy and we were obliged to build a fire near the front of the fly, and only leave it when actually called off by business. In fact from the number of persons around the fire, if I had attempted to write, I could not have succeeded, and the tent was too cold to admit of such a thing. So you'll excuse me this time, for, as soon as the weather has become more reasonable, I sit down and write you this.

We are spending a very pleasant time here now. I was at a picnic last week, one the present week, and expect "Bragg volente" et "Yankee volente" to have one in the Brigade next week and hear of another to be given the following week. You must understand that we only invite the "Secesh" ladies to these picnics. I must say that I did not enjoy myself at either of the two preceding ones as much as I expected. They were too stiff; they had too much talking and too little dancing and music. When we give ours we intend to show the quiet unsophisticated inhabitants of Shelbyville what a picnic should be – nothing but dancing and music – and we will endeavor to avoid every appearance of stiffness. [illegible text]

I see no prospect of any movement on the part of our army for some time yet. "Rosy" is either not able or not willing to advance and we are very much in the same condition, though I must admit, more willing than able. I am very well satisfied where we are, although I am getting tired of remaining so long in one place. If we have to be stationary, Shelbyville will do very well, but to an army which has moved about as much as ours, quiet is to say the least, unnatural. Bragg will wake the enemy up yet, if they don't look out.

I am very sorry to hear that you have given up your horses, - your old friends. Never mind, we will reap a rich harvest for privation endured during this war. [illegible text]

Your own dear [illegible]

Headqrs. [sic] Manigault's Brigde. [sic] A.T.

Near Shelbyville, May 17th, 1863.

[illegible]

"From the fulness of the heart, the mouth speaketh." [sic] so, as I have not forgotten quite yet, a most delightful picnic, given by our Brigade yesterday, you must excuse me if I give you a full account of the affair.

Several of our officers, among them your most devoted, etc. etc. have attended the picnics near Shelbyville, and we came to the conclusion, after mature deliberation, that the primitive and transitory inhabitants of Shelbyville knew nothing about giving picnics, so we (flattering ourselves) determined to give them a picnic, to demonstrate the principles of "picnic giving", and more particularly to excel the Artillery, who pride themselves upon such things, among many other sources of conceit. The momentous questions having been decided, i.e. "That Manigault's Brigade should give a picnic to surpass anything of the kind during the war times in Shelbyville" preparations were made to carry out the design. Your humble servant constituted himself Chairman of the committee in general, and Capt. M. [illegible], our Brigade A.Q.M. was upon the same authority made Chairman of Dinner arrangements. We called in certain officer to assist us, and the whole affair of the Committee was arranged, certainly satisfactorily to ourselves, and I have reason to believe to the public generally. The Country, the town,

and the Comsy. [sic] Dept. were foraged assiduously under direction of Capt. M., and a place was selected and arranged by my Committee for the picnic.

In a very pretty spot in the woods, we had a very large arbor built to cover the dancers and the most of the party, seats being arranged all around the arbor. At one end was a music stand, very prettily ornamented (so say all the ladies) with flags, arms and flowers upon a background of cedar – at the opposite end of the arbor was the word “Welcome” worked in cedar. The ground was carefully cleared of all roots and inequalities and large tarpaulins, borrowed from the Artillery, were stretched down to dance upon. About 12 o’clock enough of the company had assembled to commence dancing, two sets being on the floor – very soon, however, the six sets were formed, some of them double, and the whole party seemed to be enjoying themselves very much. We danced until 3 P.M. when dinner was announced, and to the “Marseilles” we marched to the table, which I must say was as handsomely spread as many a one I have seen at home in peace times. We had a perfect profusion, lamb, pork, beef, oysters, bread, green corn (canned) pies, etc. etc. and cordial. Everyone got as much as they wanted, seemed very much pleased with both the appearance and real merits of the table. At 5 o’clock we resumed the dancing and continued it until dark, put an end to the day. Everyone was exceeding pleased and expressed themselves much gratified. They say that it is the handsomest picnic that has ever been given in Shelbyville. We were fully satisfied with the results, the entertainment of the fair ladies of Shelbyville, being sufficient reward for all of our pains. [illegible text]

Everything is as quiet as possible about the enemy now, prospects of a move perhaps not quite so remote as formerly. No news of any description save the “picnic”, so as I have given you that in full, I cannot have much more to give.

I send you an invitation, certainly after the feast but as I did not expect you to come, I send it only to show that I did not forget you.

I heard a day or two ago of father’s safe arrival in Nassau.

Yours own dear

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Manigault’s Brigade. W.D.P.C.A.T.

Fall Creek, June 7th, 1863.

[illegible]

But the fact of the matter is that we have had a little moving of camps, to the north side of Duck River, in rear of our line of fortifications, and subsequently some little excitement in front about Murfreesboro being evacuated by the enemy. This last I have believe twice upon good ground (so thought I) and have been twice deceived, so I have determined not to believe that Murfreesboro has been evacuated until I see it myself.



Last week dispatches were received from the Cavalry that the enemy were in motion in our front and apparently retiring on Nashville, so on Friday our Cavalry made a general advance supported by the infantry; but whatever they may have discovered, still they did not capture Murfreesboro – which the enemy still held in sufficient fame to prevent our taking peaceable possession. Our Infantry was within four miles of the place. Everything has quieted down again, even the Yankees have made no endeavors to find out the meaning of our recent advance. This is all the news.

Col. M. has not received his commission yet although it is known that he has been promoted to be Brig. Genl. It is very provoking the commission was signed in Richmond more than a month ago, and nothing has been heard of it since. [illegible text]

Your own

[illegible]

Headquarters Manigault's Brigade, W.D.P.C.A.T.

Fall Creek, June 11, 1863.

[illegible]

I send you enclosed Genl. Polk's official report of the operations before Murfreesboro, from Dec. 29th. 1862-Jany. 4th, 1863. I send it because, 1st. I understand Bragg's report was not published in the South Carolina papers, and fear that this may not be also. 2nd. because I consider it a very good report, and giving a better description of most of the fight than Bragg's report does. It is also generally speaking impartial, although he does praise the Tennessee troops rather more than they deserve – and more than the other troops. No one ever fought harder nor met with greater loss, as the actual statistics will show than Wither's Div. Just let me point out one or two mistakes which the old General has made.

Notice ( ) marked X – where he speaks of Genl. Maney coming up to aid Manigault etc. Genl. Maney really did come up, but not until we had completed our three attacks on the enemy's line, and he did not fire a shot – either of musketry or artillery. If our attack accomplished what Genl. Polk give us credit for, Genl. Maney cannot share the success.

Again, he speaks of Anderson's advance in conjunction with the Brigade on this left i.e. Manigault's, - and goes on to praise Anderson, etc. etc., making out that it was done in accordance with orders, or was a piece of generalship – but the fact of the matter was that Genl. Anderson only moved up to support our Brigade when we charged the Battery in our front, and by solicitation of Col. M. this I know, for I carried the request to Genl. A. to advance. Genl. Anderson made a successful and brave advance, but it was the result of chance that he accomplished what he did – Not chance in the execution. but in the original intention – the motive.

You will no doubt notice what I say about his leaning toward the Tenn. troops. This is but natural.

If you have not seen Bragg's report I will try and get the paper for you. I have no doubt it can be procured in Chattanooga.

Everything is quiet here. Bragg is pushing up the work on the fortifications. I don't know what it means – as the enemy show no disposition yet to advance. However, we will "bide our time" and see what will turn up.

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade, W.D.P.C.A.T

Near Shelbyville, June 15th, 1863.

[illegible]

We are still doing outpost duty on the Unionville Road. We had hoped to be relieved today, but we were not, and look forward to next Monday as our day of release. We are very comfortably situated, not however in a house as in our previous tours, the weather and the flies drove us to our tents. As the Yankees are very kind and considerate, we have not been disturbed at all, and are just as nicely placed here as when in camp, but there must necessarily be a great deal of constraint put upon our movements (individually) as we have to keep on the alert continually, so it is not altogether so comfortable as camp life within the lines.

All is perfectly quiet in our front. Rosy is no doubt awaiting the result of the seige [sic] of Vicksburg. If we are successful there let him look, out – for Bragg and his Army. We may then have another race to Louisville before the summer is over. I do want to go to Kentucky again very much. I am satisfied to be in Shelbyville generally speaking, but I would rather be on a move again. I like the excitement and then I think it is time for the Army of Tenn. to recover Murfreesboro, and Nashville. Everything depends, however, upon Johnson in Mississippi. If we are victorious there, not only will the Army of Tenn. be heavily re-inforced [sic] and moved forward in its march of conquest, but the war must soon end. I can hardly look upon the possibility of our defeat there, when I consider the consequences, it would lengthen the war several years. But I have confidence in Genl. J. and his army, and look hopefully to the result. If Genl. J. needed more troops I have no doubt that they would be sent from this army. I dread to think of going to Miss. The graves of so many brave men of this Brigade are upon Miss. soil, I am almost afraid to see it go there again.

[illegible]

Yours own dear [illegible]

Head Qrs. Manigault's Brigade, W.D.P.C.A.T

Near Chattanooga, July 8th, 1863.

[illegible]

When I last wrote I thought we were on the eve of a great battle which would be decisive and fortunate for the causes of our country in Tenn. but I was greatly mistaken. Instead of a glorious but hard fought victory we have had an inglorious but necessary Retreat. Bragg will be again censured by the country for failing to do what was impossible, - not only for him, but for the greatest general of the age had he been in his place. Bragg's army, about 25,000 men was disposed along the line of Shelbyville and Wartrace and guarding a large extent of country extending some distance on each flank - which necessarily extended his line so much that every point was weak compared with the force the enemy could bring against it. To counterbalance this weakness as much as possible, fortifications were erected around Shelbyville and Tullahoma, the latter being in rear of Wartrace. Hoover's Gap, on the Manchester and Murfreesboro Pike, was guarded by an infantry force, in addition to Cavalry videttes and outposts. Our whole front was covered by a large body of Cavalry. Our force was dispersed in this manner and everything had been particularly quiet along our lines for more than a month when about the 25th. of June the enemy surprised our Cavalry outpost, came down on the infantry and captured Hoover's Gap, with little opposition, and resisted our efforts to retake it. This position seems to have been of some importance, judging from subsequent events. The enemy now advance in heavy force on our right, and made demonstrations against Hardee at Wartrace. He pressed Hardee very hard and compelled him to fall back on Tullahoma. On the 27th. inst. Polk's Corps was moved from Shelbyville to Hardee's support, this outline of defense was abandoned, and the whole army assembled at Tullahoma. Soon after we left Shelbyville the enemies [sic] Cavalry came down in overwhelming force and after a desperate resistance by Wheeler's the place was taken and Wheeler badly whipped. We lost three pieces of Artillery, and about 100 men in this skirmish. On the morning of the 29th, we formed line of battle around Tullahoma and expected a battle the next day. Our troops were industriously employed completing the entire line of fortifications, and before night we had a strong position and could easily have defeated the enemy had he dared attack us. But such was not his intention, he kept on moving on our right and threatening our communications. We were not in sufficient force to attack him, and he would not attack us, but threatened to destroy our line of communications, - hence arose the necessity of a further retreat. We, in a night march over the most execrable road, fell back across Elk River and occupied Alisonia. Here we drew in our cavalry force, and waited the enemies [sic] advance one day, but he still refused to fight. We could not maintain ourselves where we were, the country was so poor, so another "change of base" became necessary. Rosencrans [sic] still pushing on our flank, and endeavoring to cross the Cumberland Mountains. After a most fatiguing march over mountains and rivers and on the worst roads that ever were seen, we at length, on the afternoon of the 6th. of July, arrived at Chattanooga.

We have lost a great deal of territory by this unfortunate Retreat, but the Army, in its stores, men and equipment lost comparatively nothing. I can hardly think that the fatigue and hardships endured by our noble army can be equalled [sic] by the sufferings of any army on this continent. As an instance, for two days and one night (more than 36 hours) we were continually on the march, crossing the Cumberland Mountains, not resting a moment, hardly, and during the last 24 hours without rations. This too, during a heavy rain most of the time, and over roads all but impassable. However, I will reserve particulars until I come home.

As to the policy of the move, I think those most acquainted with all the circumstances are the best judges, and I have heard but one opinion in the army – that of regret, but a strong belief in the necessity of the move. Genl. Bragg could not have done otherwise. However, whatever may have been the motives, I hope that this move will be highly advantageous to the country. 1st. because Bragg can not afford to send Johnson reinforcements [sic], thus hasten the relief of Vicksburg, and thereafter reinforce this Army by Johnson's and march onward into Kentucky. I firmly believe that ere two months have passed, a large Army will have crossed the Cumberland Mountains and played the same game upon Rosencrans [sic] that he played, so much to our cost.

This is glorious news from Virginia. Hope it may all prove true.

Love to all,

Your fond [illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brig. W.D.P.C.A.T

Near Chattanooga, July 27, 1863.

[illegible]

Everything is still quiet here. Our Army is now recruiting everything, man and beast and I hope it is a preparation for more active duty. I should not be surprised to move forward towards Kentucky at any day. I hope when we leave Chattanooga again it will be for the last time during the war.

[illegible]

Write soon to

Your dear [illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade, W.D.P.C.A.T

Near Chattanooga, July 19th, 1863.

[illegible]

Our Col. has at least received his just promotion, and is no longer Col. but Brig. Genl. M. and in directing your letters in future, you can address your devoted servant as A.A. Genl., care of Brig. Genl. M., Comdg. Brigade, Withers Division, Polks Corpts [sic], A.T. Our friend [illegible] has been recommended for promotion as Lieut. Aide-da-Camp, [illegible] is to be A.I. Genl., [illegible] is to be Major and Brig. A.Q.M., Dr. [illegible] lately acting as Vol. A.D.C. to the Genl. Intends to become an Assistant Surgeon again, and desires to be appointed to 10th. S.C.V.

I have given you the above changes and I hope for the best that has occurred in our little family during the past week. The only source of regret is that we lose [illegible] from the staff. However, he is doing what all his friends think for the best, and we could not wish him to do otherwise.

I received your letter of the 12th, inst. during the past week but did not answer it, for I have put aside Sunday for writing to you, and the middle of the week to mother, so between you two, you ought to hear from me twice a week at least.

I am very glad that you did not say all you felt about Genl. Bragg, for you may desire some day other to change your feelings and a word spoken can not be recalled easily. I need hardly inform you that Genl. Bragg had made his preparations to attack Rosencrans [sic] at Tullahoma and orders were issued to Chiefs of Depts to prepare for an engagement on the morning following the night on which we evacuated, but he received an order from the Secty. [sic] of War not to risk a general engagement. I think this shifts the blame, if there may be any, upon some other honored gentleman's shoulders. Do you think you can forgive Bragg now? I would advise you to come to the same conclusion that I have, my dearest, not to express an opinion of military movements unless you are certain that you know everything about it. We have no means of judging the movements of our armies, for we have not the information that Commanding Generals have, and are therefore incompetent judges.

I wrote a consolatory letter to Mother on the "Situation" a day or two ago. I hope she received it and you read it, and it had the desired effect. We can never hope to win our independence by great and crushing victories, the North is too strong, and we are too weak for anything of that kind. Our only hope and the hope, is that we can desperately contest their advance, delay them as long as possible, and finally the North will get tired of the war and be at last convinced that we cannot be subjugated.

I think recent demonstrations show that the North are beginning to feel that they cannot conquer us, but on the contrary are being conquered themselves by their own government. Let his spirit spread, let revolution and resistance begin at the North, and then we may hope for peace. We had better look there for peace than to our armies in the field.

[illegible]

Yours ever,

[illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Brig. W.D.P.C.A.T.

Near Chattanooga, Aug. 9th, 1863.

[illegible]

We are now perfectly quite – No news of any kind stirring. I should not be surprised at any moment were we ordered to some other point. The next two weeks will determine however, whether we are to go to another army, wait here for old Rosy, or assume the offensive. I only hope that it may be the latter, for I am burning to retake Middle Tenn., Murfreesboro, especially. Why Murfreesboro? I will explain, but you must not tell any one, not even, or rather particularly not even, your dear Auntie. The blue silk flag given us by our kind friends in Georgetown is at Murfreesboro. In the battle, the staff was completely shattered, and all thought it best to send it from the field. It was given to Lt. E. to carry to wagons in rear, and he expected to go there, but when he got to the field infirmary he was ordered to Atlanta, so he turned the flag over to a Captain of the 10th. who was wounded, but was going to stay at Murfreesboro. On the night of the evacuation this Captain would not put it in his valise for fear of losing the valise, so he left it out, intending to carry it in his hands, but he was hurried off precipitately, and he had to be carried down stairs to the ambulance, and he left the flag. He remembered it only when it was too late. He is not to blame, for he was very painfully wounded and could not even take care of himself. We have this comfort that it was left in the house of a good secessionist [sic] and it is either destroyed, or safely hidden. For had it fallen into the enemies [sic] hands we certainly would have heard something of it – but either of the two former contingencies was preferable to the last.

Now be certain and don't let Auntie learn a word of this. I have kept it from you even for more than seven months, so you may judge that we want it kept secret as long as possible for we hope to reclaim the flag, then its temporary visit to Murfreesboro may be spoken of as a piece of romance.

The position of affairs generally looks very blue, but I trust in God and the righteousness of our cause, that in a few months this dark cloud may have passed over, and the news of peace arisen to light our paths.

Yours ever, [illegible]

Hd. Qrs. Manigault's Brigade H.D.P.C.A.T.

Near Chattanooga Aug 16th. 1863.

[illegible]

Do you notice anything strange in the superscription of this letter? H.D. instead of W.D. as formerly. Yes, we have lost Genl. Withers, he has been transferred to some duty in Ala., this Division is no longer Withers but Hindman's. Genl. Hindman, of Arkansas fame, assumes the command tomorrow. I regret our losing Genl. W. I dislike the changes in general and we had become very accustomed to Genl. W. and long acquaintance has made us overlook his faults. We know nothing of Genl. H. as a Division Comdr. there I can't say whether I will like the change. His Arkansas career however does not prepossess us in his favor. One thing is certain, whether he be a good officer or a bad, he has the best Division in the Army, and ought to be the best div. Comdr. I hope we will get on satisfactorily together.

[illegible]

I see the Yankee cabinet are quarreling over what terms they will offer us – now that they have conquered us. But I think they are counting too soon. The only terms they can offer us, at any time, will be “recognition” – they might just as well spare themselves the trouble of considering any other – unless the people at home don't intend to stand up to the Army. If the people will trust in God, and the righteousness of our cause, and cheer on the soldiers, they, the army, will accomplish the freedom of our country, even in spite of the traitors who are now speculating on the necessities of the country.