

Jackson Miss

Nov 17th / 62 Monday Morning

My dear Sam

An opportunity presents itself to get a letter to you. I have suffered much in mind since I left you & would now give any consideration for a letter from you.

After leaving home I came down to Abbeville & remained there during Sunday & then went by way of Grenada to Brooker, where I remained one night. Found sister Martha & family well but much perplexed to know when to go & what to do. I don't think they will go to Texas. Brooker is in favor of going to Calhoun County with most of his force, but is unfixed in any plan for the future. I met Frank there & came with him to Paula town where his Regt is encamped. He is well pleased with his position of private. He belongs to the same Company but is now at home on furlough. I have endeavored to get some one to go into Washington to after our muskets & to deliver them to Brooker but can

not get any one to go. I have written to Bowdon
requesting him to come for them & to do with
them as he does with his own. They are nearly
all women & children & therefore would not
be so apt to run away. I am much perplexed
about them & will feel very uneasy until I
hear what is to become of them. I hope Bowdon
power will attend to the matter for me. But
this does not give me half a one hundred part
of the uneasiness that your situation does.

I can't believe that our Army will fall
back any further south. Holly Springs will
therefore be the debatable point & where both
armies will have occasional skirmishes. I
feel much confusion there on Christmas & which
almost makes me crazy to think that you &
Ma will be cut off for me & perhaps treated
cruelly. Now my advice is, I hope Ma will
reflect & act upon it, this. If you see that danger
threaten you either from the Army or otherwise don't
hesitate to pick up your household & come South.
Both that property and every thing of the kind should
perish than that either one of you should suffer
indignities outrages & cruelty. You can
call on any of my friends for assistance & support

not hesitate to ask for the loan of money
if you need it. In case of an emergency both
you & Ma can come across to Mr Cheatum's
in Gays County. He & his family would doubtless
be glad to see Ma & you too. To reach his house
you get off the N.Y. Central RR at Vaughan's
Station 20 miles from Canton & he lives between
that point & Gays City some 5 or 6 miles from
the main road. Or you can go to Calloway with
Bowdon if he goes there. But he & sister Martha
are exceedingly anxious to have you & Ma with
them. Let Aunt Zilley & Andy take possession of
the house. Tell Ma to send Tom & Harriet South
if they are willing to go but not to force them
to leave unless it can be securely done. Tom could
get employment here or anywhere South & so
could Harriet. Tell the negroes for me that I have
always been kind to them - that they have never
suffered for any thing in life - that I now rely on
them to protect my family - that if freedom is
all they want say so & they may go - but that
when they come home they leave to be picked around
& surrounded by the poor whites of the North & will
soon regret that they are not back at home - but
then tell the Freed that they are free if they take

proprietor of Holly Springs. I endeavored to get
Wash to go with me to the Army but the R R Road
will not release him. I will therefore have to take
Henry. Mr Courtney, who has our negroes in
Washington, has notified me to take them
away. I have, as I said above, requested Bonham
to send for them. Hope he will do so. I have
not time, as I am under orders, to remain long
enough to attend to them.

Did Lili get off? I am exceedingly anxious to
know. I will leave here for Chattanooga, where I
learn my Rest is, to-morrow. Direct all your
letters to me at Chattanooga. My command is 27th Miss
Regt, 4 Brigade, Andersons Division.

I have every confidence, my own dear, darling
wife, in your good sense & judgment & you will
now have to act in obedience to the dictates of that
judgment. Ask yourself to withstand all hardships
& trials & never forget that you are in the hands of
a just God who doeth all things well. I pray
Heaven that we may soon be again together to enjoy
that peace & happiness that was once ours. I cannot
doubt that we will again meet - It doubtless would

consolation & happiness. If he fails in any particular
to render obedience, respect & love to such a Mother
as can as there is a just God in Heaven just
so sure will he be punished. Tell him that
God has so entrusted matters as to place the
happiness of that noble Mother within his keeping
if he fails he will be cursed while living &
when dead will meet with a terrible retri-
bution. You has peculiarly blessed him with intellect & he
in return will have to praise that intellect so as
to place it in the way of usefulness.

Tell Laura I have every confidence in
her that she must be a good girl & she will
never regret it.

If you need any assistance here call on
Capt J. C. Mc Maden or Gov Peter, or any of my
friends don't hesitate to borrow money if you
need it. If the Federals take possession of Holly
Springs you know how to conduct yourself.

Kiss my dear Mother for me - the how often
will I send my thoughts to you & her.

And now, my own dear one, farewell - God unto
whom all secrets are known & for whom all good cometh, unto
Thee I commit my wife, my child & my Mother - farewell
Upon my devoted love rest.

render me miserable & I will not think or
write about it. You know, my darling, the deep
devotion of my heart - you know that you have
a husband who gives to you his whole heart - that with
you he is happy without you life is to him, but
a burden & the grave would be to him a place of
rest I don't write thus -

A thousand kisses to my dear boy - talk to him
of me - teach him to be upright, candid, honest
virtuous, brave & above all teach him to be truthful
Teach him to suffer every privation, all kinds of
sufferings even death itself rather than to tell a
falseness. Don't let him become of an envious or jealous
disposition - such a disposition renders the proper a
man of misery & unfit to enjoy life here or hereafter.
Never deceive him in any thing - if you promise
him any thing always fulfill it even in the most
trivial matters.

Say to Jimmy G. if he is with you, that an awful
responsibility rests upon his shoulders - God has blessed
with with a bright intellect in return for which he
is to be placed in a position of responsibility. A
true, noble, intellectual mother claims on him for

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My dear Jeanie

An opportunity presents itself to get a letter to you. I have suffered much in mind since I left you & would now give any consideration for a letter from you.

After leaving home I came down to Abbeville - remained there during Sunday & then went by way of Grenada to Brohon' where I remained overnight. Found Sister Martha & family well but much perplexed to know where to go & what to do. I dont think they will go to Texas - Brohon is in favor of going to Calhoun County with most of his force, but is unfixed in any plan for the future. I met Frank there & came with him to Panola town where his Regt is encamped. He is well pleased with his position of private- he belongs to the same Company but is now at home on furlough. I have endeavoured to get some one to go into Washington Co after our negroes & to deliver them to Brohon but can not get any one to go. I have written to Brohon requesting him to send for them & to do with them as he does with his own. They are nearly all women & children & therefore would not be so apt to run away. I am much perplexed about them & will feel very uneasy until I hear what is to become of them. I hope Brohon however will attend to the matter for me. But this does not give me half a one hundredth part of the uneasiness that your situation does.

I cant believe that our army will pull back any further south. Holly Springs will therefore be the debateable point

where both armies will have occasional skirmishes. I fear much confusion there on Christmas & oh it almost runs me crazy to think that you & Ma will be cut off from me & perhaps treated cruelly. Now my advice is, & I hope Ma will reflect & act upon it, this- If you see that dangers threaten you either from the enemy or otherwise dont hesitate to give up home & furniture & come South. Better that property and everything of the kind should perish than that either one of you should suffer indignities outrages & cruelty. You can call on any of my friends for assistance & must not hesitate to ask for the loan of money if you need it. In case of an emergency both you & Ma can come down to Mr Cheathan' in Yazoo County. He & his family would doubtless be glad to see Ma & you too. To reach his house you get off the Miss Central RR at Vaughns Station 20 miles from Canton & he lives between that point & Yazoo City some 5 or 6 miles from the main road - or you can go to Calhoun with Brohon if he goes there. Both he & Sister Martha are exceedingly anxious to have you & Ma with them. Let Aunt Tildy & Andy take possession of the house. Tell Ma to send Tom & Harriet South if they are willing to go but not to force them to leave unless it can be securely done. Tom could get employment here or any where south & so could Harriet. Tell the negroes for me that I have always been kind to them - that they have never suffered for any thing in life - that I now rely on them to protect my family - that if freedom is all they want say so & they may go - but that when they leave home they leave to be kicked around & murdered by the poor whites of the North & will soon regret that they are not back at home. Let them tell the Feds that

they are free if they take possession of Holly Spring. I endeavoured to get Nash to go with me to the Army but the R Road will not release him. I will therefore have to take Henry. Mr. Courtney, who has our negroes in Washington Co has notified me to take them away. I have, as I said above, requested Brohon to send for them - hope he will do so - I have not time, as I am under orders, to remain long enough to attend to them.

Did Sister get off? I am exceedingly anxious to know. I will leave here for Chattanooga, where I learn my Regt is, to-morrow. Direct all your letters to me at Chattanooga. My Command is 27th Miss Regt, 4 Brigade, Anderson Division.

I have every confidence, my own dear, darling wife, in your good sense & judgment & you will now have to act in obedience to the dictates of that judgment. Nerve yourself to understand all hardships & trials & never forget that you are in the hands of a just God who doeth all things well. I pray Heaven that we may soon be again together to enjoy that peace & happiness that was once ours. I cannot doubt that we will again meet - the doubt would render me miserable & I will not think or write about it. You know, my darling, the deep devotion of my heart - you know that you have a husband who gives to you his whole heart - that with you he is happy without you life is to him but a burthen & the grave would be to him a place of - but I wont write thus --

A thousand kisses to my dear boy - talk to him of me - teach him to be upright, candid, honest, virtuous, brave & above all teach him to be truthful. Teach him to suffer every privation, all kinds of sufferings even death itself matters.

rather than to tell a falsehood. Dont let him become of an envious or jealous disposition - such a disposition renders the posse[ssor] a man of misery & unfit to enjoy life here or hereafter. Never deceive him in any thing - if you promise him any thing always fulfil it even in the most trivial matters.

Say to Jimmy G. if he is with you, that an awful responsibility rests upon his shoulders. God has blessed with with a bright intellect in return for which he is to be placed in a position of responsibility. A pure, noble, intellectual mother leans on him for consolation & happiness. If he fails in any particular to render obedience, respect & love to such a mother as sure as there is a just God in Heaven just so sure will he be punished. Tell him that God has so conducted matters as to place the happiness of that noble mother within his keeping & if he fails he will be cursed while living & when dead will meet with a terrible hereafter. God has peculiarly blessed him with intellect & he in return will have to guide that intellect so as to place it in the way of usefulness.

Tell Laura I have every confidence in her - that she must be a good gil & she will never regret it.

If you need any assistance here call on Capt. T. C. McMacken or Gov Pettus or any of my friends dont hesitate to borrow money if you need it. If the Federals take possession of Holly Springs you know how to conduct yourself.

Kiss my dear mother for me - oh how often will I send my thoughts to you & her.

And now, my own dearest one, farewell. God, unto whom
all secrets are known & from whom all good cometh, unto Thee
I commit my wife, my child & my mother - farewell

Your ever devoted husband.