

Head Q^{rs} 3^d Brig 3^d Div 20th Ala
Camp Schuifer Near Memphis Tenn
April 28 1863

Dear Annie

I have not heard from you for a long time though I think I have written two or three letters since I received your last I wrote something more than two weeks ago giving you a commission to buy a certain book for me I dont know but it will be inconvenient for you, and if so of course I dont want you should do anything about it

I acknowledged the receipt of your beautiful birth day gift on the same evening that I received it I believe I have never received any letter from you since that time Have you secured that situation as teacher which you spoke of? I hope you have and perhaps that is the reason you have no time to write If so I can thankfully excuse you

I received a letter from Sarah yesterday She spoke of having had a letter from you in which you said you had not from me for a long time I was quite surprised for I felt that I had been extra continually generous in the Epistolary line for the past three weeks

Our Military Status remains unchanged
We go through with the same round of
Picket Out-post and fatigue duties while the
days pass into weeks and weeks are numbered
by months. I feel no disposition to complain
for I know we are doing all that it is safe
or profitable for us to attempt. We are making
our position impregnable to any force the Southern
Confederacy can bring against us and if it were
possible for us to advance we should only extend
our ~~front~~ Communication and weaken our lines without
any corresponding benefit to ourselves or injury to our
enemies. I see by the papers that Gen Banks
has been quite active recently. Perhaps your friend
Merritt has had an opportunity to encounter the Enemy.
What is the number of his Regiment? I have forgotten.

It really looks as though we were gaining some
success at Vicksburg. I hope the reports may
prove true and more too. Many think that when
the Rebel Army evacuates Vicksburg they will mass
their united Armies in front of us. Well! let them
come. Perhaps we will be as well able to entertain
them as anybody. The Rebel papers seem to agree
in the opinion that the great battle of the war
is yet to be fought in Tennessee. Time alone
will decide the truth or falsity of their predictions.
Personally I have no desire to participate in another
battle like that of Stones River. But I am not here to

Consult my own inclinations I shall try
to be faithful wherever my duty leads me
For several days past we have enjoyed the most delightful
weather I ever knew. There is a softness in the atmosphere
which is hardly known to our Northern Atlantic Cities. Last
week while on out-post duty about two miles from here I
feared in the luxury of green fields - Shady groves and wild
flowers besides some flowers that were not so wild the product
of gardens and yards in the vicinity. I had a log out on
my desk all the week. Don't you think I am making
progress? But I cannot spin out my yarn any longer
to night for perhaps I shall hear from you tomorrow
and shall then want to write again.

Yours Always

Chas M. —