

Carter Depot Tenn.
March 10th 1864

Dear Wife

Your letter of the 17th February reached me about a week ago. I had already heard the sad intelligence it contained. May the Lord be very merciful to you my dearest one and sustain and comfort you. I have written to you often since my arrival at camp but the mail being suspended accounts for you not getting the letters. I have written tow that I sent by hand one by Lt Hyde and on by Joel Conner. I hope you have e'er this time received them. Thomas Stallcup has asked for a furlough and I presume he will get it in a few days and I will send this by him if he goes, if he does not go I will try and send it some other way. At all events I shall continue to write to you whether you get the letters or not as I still hope that out of many a few will reach you. I am not quite so well as usual now. I have been slightly indisposed for a day or two but I presume I shall in a short time be as well as ever. The health of the command is tolerably good not however so good as when we were continually moving. Col Love is complaining today and Tom Stallcup is not well. Others from our neighborhood well as usual.

We are having a tolerable easy time here now, just guard duty enough to keep all hands awake.

Gen'l Jackson is making quite a vigorous war on all the command and is saying and doing some very ridiculous and some ungenerous things. He will probably by his violence effect the very thing he is trying to avoid. He says and does but little with me. When he does speak it is quite friendly. I am by him just as I have been ever since our quarrel. We are very anxious to get away from him. We at the same time feel the deepest possible solicitude about our immediate homes. We want to defend them while at the same time we don't want to be compelled to eat up the very scant supply of provisions in our native places. If the Yanks were once driven from East Tennessee we would like to pay a visit to the sea coast and help to drive them from that portion of the country. As it is we would like to go there and leave the Indians to protect our homes but we fear they are inadequate for their defences. The defense of our own homes absorbs our thoughts at present but it would be much better for us as a command to be farther off if they were only once safe.

While at this place a few of the officers have formed several societies for mutual improvement and amusement. I have joined two of them one is know as "The Halifax Literary Society" the other the "Bible Class".

The first meets of Friday evening and includes debating, declamation, historical research and poetry. Strange enough you will say for a set of rough soldiers. Col. Love is our president. The latter meets of Sabbath evenings. We propose any bible subject and find out all the bible says about it. Our subject for the next Sabbath is the History of Joseph. I am the president of this last. My paper being full I will stop for the present but will write another sheet before I send this. A kiss for you and one for Mollie and Sallie.

James