

2.

It was certainly rather amusing to see how the men would lay and watch for some sharp shooter to show his head, or fire from bush and then they would let a volley of ten or fifteen shots as hi. Then, if they saw their victim run they would give hem a cheer. From day light until dark it was one continual rattle of musketry. the whistling balls almost playing a tune as they passed over us. the most that were shot were shot through the head. there was on an average six killed out of each brigade per day. The balls passed over the first line and wounded more back of our second line of works. Casualties in our battery are as follows: James Robinson, shot through the knee. Leg amputated. Edward Cane, wounded while laying in bed Not very seriously. The ball struck his hand,passed down the side of his head, striking him in the breast. Quite a number had very close calls having holes shot through their clothing. They used but little artillery on us for some reason. We suppose their next stand will be made at Atlanta. We have not got possession of the best iron works in the southern Confederacy also their best Salt Petre works. We are going to rest a day. Our horses are running down very fast. We are only allowed four pounds of corn per horse per day,and sometimes they cannot get that. They were two day without anything. We get full rations about hal of the time. the rest of the time we get three days to last four. The rebels works were evacuated on the morning of the 5th. With the exception of the few rebels which the boys found asleep. They said they did not know when they left, but my opinion is that they wanted to be taken. There dead men of both armies lying between our lines for ten days. they produced an awful stench an were so badly decayed that no one could have recognized them. I do not know but some of the Vicksburg soldiers might like such fighting as this but I do not. The health of the men is very good. We are having some wet weather now. Mulberries and huckleberries are ripe. I cannot say that we have had any very warm weather yet. You have all spoken about the hired hand that Father has,but none of you say where he is from,whether he is young or old,married or unmarried, whether Dutch, Irish, English French or Yankee, black or white. The news we are receiving for Gen Grant is very encouraging. We learn that he is ready to proceed to Richmond. Frank Blair is said to be coming to this department with reinforcements. We are now probably 120,000 strong. The rebels have about 100,000. 40,000 of which are Georgia State Militia. I shall be glad to hear all of the news concerning the draft. We get our mail regularly. The army is in good cheer.and we are going to make a big march in this state.

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP A FEW MILES FROM THE RAILROAD
IN THE WOODS FOUR MILES FROM MARIETTA.
IF YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE YOU KNOW
MORE THAN I DO,

June, 12th, 1864.

Gertrude:-

I received your welcome letter dated on the 2nd of this month and you say you have not heard from me for five weeks. this is the fourth I have written since we left Nashville. since I wrote you last the army has been lying still, I suppose to get some rest, but day be fore yesterday our lines advanced. We found the enemy in a strong position not over four miles from our lines. We immediately moved up and built fortifications. From what I can learn we have sent two or three corps around on our left flank and are going to try and cut off their place of crossing the river. Rumors are that there is only a small force on this side of the river. We are about thirty miles from Atlanta at present. Everything goes on smooth and I think we are going to have success, although they strongly contest every foot of the ground. While I am writing I hear considerable firing on our right. It all consists of musketry, but there has been some artillery firing on our left. Probably ten miles distant.

We heard, Wednesday, that V.B. Stanford, is dead and that his body had been sent home. From what I hear from Ohio there has been a great amount of sickness this year. More than common.

It has rained all day today and I can almost say for a week. The roads are almost impossible, or rather the woods and fields for we do not travel a great on roads of late. We are receiving flattering news every day from General Grant's a my.

It seems to be the general opinion of rebel and Union soldiers that this is the last year of the war. This seems to e all that I can say of this last week's campaign.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP ON THE 2ND. LINE OF BATTLE 3
MILES WEST OF MARIETTA, 4 MILES FROM
KENNASAW MOUNTAIN.

June, 26th, 1864.

Respected Sister:-

I received your welcome missive of the 18th. of the present month and was pleased to learn that all was well at home. I wrote to you on last Monday and I told you that all was quiet along the lines, but in less than an hour after I had sealed the letter, our battery and the other one in our division were ordered to the skirmish line for the purpose of shelling our front to find the position of the rebel's battery if they had any. We succeeded in drawing fire from three different batteries. They had a murderous cross-fire on us but we only lost one man. D.E. Griswell from Ravenna. One bone broken in this right arm below his elbow. The other battery had two men wounded and lost eight or ten horses. We had a few wounded. Since that day we have not tried to drive their center but once and we were victorious in that undertaking. It was done to straighten our lines. We were under artillery fire once since last Monday's spree, but we kept our heads below our works and let their shots go screaming on. We are constantly in range of their sharpshooters, but by being careful one can get along without being exposed very often. Last Wednesday we made an assault on their lines with the artillery to draw their attention while some other parts of lines were advancing. I am sorry to say that Robert J. Crockett was wounded but not dangerously. A musket ball passed through the fleshy part of this arm. The day before Peter Yachamer received a similar wound. Last Thursday James Curtney was shot through the hip and only lived twelve hours. There is scarcely a boy but can relate some narrow escape he has in this campaign. I suppose the people at the north all think we will be in possession of Atlanta by the fourth of July. I cannot see it yet but hope it may be so. I can tell you they do not drive worth a cent. We find them in good fortifications everywhere we go. Our captain is chief of artillery in this division. Lieut. Scovel has command of the battery. We all consider him competent. It has not rained for a few days and the prospects are now that we shall have some clear and I suppose very warm weather.

Yesterday there was heavy cannonading on our left. I heard of the result. Last night I was uncommonly quiet and the general opinion was that they were evacuating, but we find it quite different. We find plenty of Johnnies in the ditches in our front yet.

2.

The rebels have eight or ten pieces of artillery on the top of Kennasaw mountains that they amuse themselves with by shelling our lines and wagon trains. The infantry are up so close to the foot of the mountain that they are out of danger.

Our long range twenty pound Parrot guns can throw shell to any point of the mountain. The mountains are two peaks and should have been called twin mountains. They are so much alike that one can hardly be distinguished from the other.

Give the enclosed order to father and he can go to J. Kendrick and draw my bounty money and put it to any use he chooses. We get but little news from Grant's army but I think he has placed himself in such a position that it will bring things to a focus pretty soon. Things must come to a head in this department pretty soon now. I have just heard that the 15th. A.C. is moving around to the right so we are going to flank them a little. That is what gets the Johnnies. No more at present.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN RESERVE BATTLE LINE TWO MILES FROM
THE FRONT SKIRMISH LINES, 5 MILES SOUTH
OF MARIETTA.

July, 4th, 1864.

Respected Mother:-

It is with pleasure that I write to you today. I received the letter you wrote on the 22nd of last month. I am well and enjoying uncommon good health this summer. the weather has not been very hot yet. When we awoke yesterday morning to our surprise we found the rebels works around Marietta evacuated. We immediately took up our lines of march, but before we had gone a mile beyond the town we came in contact with their rear guard and brisk skirmishing continued the remainder of the day and up to the present (12 P.M. midnight) we have not succeeded in driving them. It is my belief that we are not pressing them very hard. The fourth A.C. is on the extreme left. The remainder of the army is going to flank them on the right. We took two thousand prisoners yesterday. Marietta is a very pretty town as is also the country around. I do not hardly think that any of our forces will get to see Atlanta today as has been predicted by some of the papers. From what I can learn they dont calculate to make a stand there. they may make a feeble one at the river which is six miles this side. The deserters all say that they are gong to make a stand nine miles on the other side of Atlanta at Cedar bluff. Every thing is working in our favor here and from what I can learn General Grant has the Johnnies in a pretty tight place at Richmond.

Mother, this is rather a different way of spending the 4th. from what they do in Ohio. I am in hopes by the next 4th. that I shall be where I shall not hear the booming of cannons an the screaming of shells. I f they should boom let them only be charge with the blank cartridge.

Mother you must excuse the shortness of this letter for from some cause or other you always want to hear from me the oftenest when I have the least time to write. When the excitement is all over here then is when I can write best, but I suppose it is then that you have the least concern about my well-fare. Dont give up writing, Mother, I can read them very easily. All the trouble is I do not get to read enough of them. Good bye,

From your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT ROSSELL, 15 MILES FROM
MARIETTA, 18 MILES UP THE CHATTAHOUCHA
RIVER FROM WHERE THE RAILROAD CROSSES IT

July, 11th, 1864

Respected Sister:-

I received your letter a few days ago and perused it s contents with much pleasure. from what you say about your trip to Alliance there must have been two pretty sick girls about that time. When you get those pictures wont you send me one. I should like a photograph of each one of our folks. You spoke about Mart and John Engledue being in the army but you do not say what regiment they belong to. If you can find out send me the number of their regiment, division and corps for I expect they are in this department. Most all of the western troops are here. The main part of the army lies about twenty miles below. Our division and one division of cavalry was all that has been here for some time. Yesterday the 16th. A.C. arrived here. Things look now as though Atlanta was going to be flanked on the left. Every body at the north seems to think Sherman would be at Atlanta by the fourth but the time has not come. I do not think he wants to take it yet. From where we were on the 5th of July we could see Atlanta very plain although we were twelve miles away. The rebels hold a fortified position on the north side of the river, also the bridge. Our cavalry took possession of this place on the 5th. of July. There were several large cotton mills driven by water, all of which were ordered burned by the orders of General Sherman. They must have cost hundreds of thousand of dollars. Some of the buildings were five stories high, all brick and stone. The village contains about one hundred houses. They are nearly allowed by the same man who owns the ills. His name is King. He had a son killed at the Battle of Shilo. He was a Brigadier General.He has since lost tow more sons. He has gone to Atlanta now. There were three hundred women here. They sent them north today. The whole town is as good as destroyed. We got here last Saturday evening so yesterday was well put in by Battery A. One would laugh to come into our camp an see what we have. We have full access to all of the houses, so you may guess have out tent well furnished. If it is only for a few days. I see some less than a dozen tables some nice parlor tables, cane bottom chairs and all sorts of dise dishes. I just saw one of the boys nacking up a lounge that looks very much like the one in our parlor. Nearly every man has a mattress to sleep on. One of the boys has a great big mirror put up on a tree.

2.

Before me sets a beautiful mirroe looking glass. I will just say that I am writing on a table. Since we came out here on the flank we have been living on the top shelf. As long as we stay up near the large part of the army we get but fet vegeatals

But now we have plenty of applies, black berries, potatoes, squashes ,etc. We also get a few other luxuriesxxx lately such as chickens, turkeys, onions, cucumbers, honey, peas, beans, and all kinds of garden sass.

You inquired of me if I knew of any thing going on on the 4th. I can tell you what kind of a time I had. We lay in the second battle line all day. The ones in the front line had a rather a rough fourth of July ball. We get but little news from the army of the Potomac.

The health of the battery is very good at present. Maxwell sits before me on a lounge talking about various things. One thing he said that he would like to listen to the sweet notes of a \$90.00 melodian about this time of the day.

Tell Celestine I see Mr. W bent over a sheet of paper and I guess that his is writing to----

Writing as often as convenient, and you will oblige.

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP 8 MILES NORTH OF ATLANTA, GA.

July, 17th, 1864.

Respected Father:-

I received your welcome letter written on the 2nd of this month a few days ago. From what you say and what I can learn from the papers it is a general complaint all over Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan that the crops are light a general thing. With a good crop of corn farmers in Ohio can get along very well. You get a very good price for your wool, but my opinion is that if gold keeps on the rise wool will be higher. I have seen quotations already as high as one dollar. I expect to see things on the rise as long as this war lasts, without there is some other kind of money system adopted.

You say you have purchased a share in the south half of Grandfather's old place, and that it cost you about \$32.00 per acre. Now, does 32 dollars in green backs pay this. Even if they should get to be so useless as to take \$5.00 to buy one of gold now is the time for men to purchase land. I do not think it rises in proportion to other things. That land would have brought that price before the war commenced. Other things have risen to double to what they were three years ago. What does Uncle T. Maxwell pay per acre for the north half? It is certainly worth considerably the most. All that I can say for the election held in our town is that I am in hopes that I shall hear as good a report from the elections held this fall. As far as I am posted the army is as well satisfied with the men nominated for our next president and vice president as they could be. It would have been impossible to get men that every one would vote for.

I am very happy to inform you that A. Southworth is all right. He was not in the engagement you spoke of. Nearly the whole loss was in the army of the Cumberland which consists of the 4th and 14th A.C. Southworth belongs to the 23rd A.C, the army of the Ohio. That corps has lost but two men in this campaign.

Battery D is in the 23rd A.C. I was over to see the boys yesterday. They lay on the left of our corps. They say they have fired as many rounds as all of the rest of the batteries in their corps and they have lost but one man killed and one wounded.

2.

They have not fired as much as our battery has. the way the blunt of this campaign stands now is as follows: First in the number of killed and wounded is the 4th.A.C. Second, the 14th A.C. Third, the 20th. A.C. fourth the 15 & 10 which are bout equal. 5th, the 17th. A. C. and last of all is the 23rd A. C.. Every one both rebel and Union seems to think that this is the last year of the war, but I do not have the least doubt but that most of the troops will have to say in the field another winter. The cursage sinking the Alabama was a beg thing and I'll bet my bottom cent it made Johnny bull's eyes stick out till one could have snapped them off with a grape vine. English oak and iron so much famed in poetry will not stand the Yankee inventions of 64. There has been some excitement in the east by that rebel force of fifteen or twenty thousand getting up close to Washington, but I say and so does every soldier in the front, let them go it. If the state militia cannot rally and drive the cavalry back. I do not think they will get General Grant to let go his hold on Richmond. In my opinion he has a sure thing on Virginia though it may take months to get it entirely rid of an army. A rumor is afloat that Joe Johnson has sent two corps of his army to reinforce General Lee. Others think they have gone to Mobile. Last Friday it was reported that our cavalry had possession of Atlanta. Cols. of regiments read this to their men and said that it was orders from General Sherman that each commander should read it to his men, but I do not think they stayed there a great while. From all accounts there is no large force in our front at present. We have not fired a gun for nearly ten days and I hear but little skirmishing. there are but tow corps across the river here. they are the 5th and 23d A.C. the 16th A.C. crossed ten miles above this place yesterday. I hear some artillery firing on our right. Cant say what it amounts to. It must have been on the north side of the river. We have our position well fortified with both flanks resting on the river. We have three pontoons thrown across the river here and the pioneers are now building a stationary wagon bridge. the pontoons used in this army now are an improvement over the old one. They are light frames constructed like a wood rigging, are about four feet wide, twenty inches deep and nearly twenty feet long. This frame is covered with heavy duck canvass. they leak but very little and are much lighter than the old wooden pontoons.

Today there was one or two divisions of our 8th.A.C. and a part of the 23rd A.C. went out to reconoiter. some say that the 14th. A. C. are going to lay another pontoon below us and in the front.

3.

It is now about ten o'clock and do not hear any noise. It has been my opinion for the last week that the Johnnies had about all left. Sherman does not seem to crowd them very hard. he acts just as if he wanted them to stay by him. I believe we could have been at Atlanta weeks ago if it would have been policy to have done so. We have been blessed with numerous showers this summer and for my part I cannot see any objections that one can raise about the climate of this state. It is but little warmer than in Ohio

I have just heard that Arthur Davis was taken prisoner while out black berrying, or rather he went out and has not been seen since.

Some of our boys got a letter a few days ago from R. J Crockett. He is in the hospital at Nashville and is doing well. This army seems to think they will be paid off soon. They are making out the pay rolls for six months pay. There is a report that the 20th. and 13th. A. C. have gone to the army of the Potomac. We are all waiting very patiently for the news of the surrender of Fredericksburg. It certainly will come before many days.

Father I think this will suffice for the news from Battery A. With my best wishes for your health and well-fare, I remain

Your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ONE MILE AND A HALF OR TWO MILES
FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

July, 24- 1864.

Dear Sister:-

I received your welcome missive of the 12th. Your detailed accounts of what every one was doing about the house and form puts me in mind of telling you what is going on in our little squad or gun detachment. We have not captured Atlanta but are in battle line on at least three sides of it. Day before yesterday our left had a very heavy battle, but the fourth, 14th and 20th A C had but little to do but advance their lines to the position they wanted. The battle was fought by the 15th 16th, 17th and 23d A C. The heaviest fell on the 15th and 16th A C. Our men had to fall back a little at first but before dark they gained the ground they wanted. We lost General McPherson. Our men say they lost between six and eight hundred men. Our men held the battle field and yesterday they burried two thousand five hundred rebels and three are a great many to bury yet. it seems that our men literally mowed the enemy. Our Generals say were it not for the loss of Gen. MhPherson it would be by far the greatest victory of this campaign. Our division an the 20th A C had a severe fight the day before but it was light to what the fight was on the left. Since that time there had not been very heavy fighting. We are in range of the fguns they have mounte around the City and we are fortifying our position. We worked all night night before last and now we have works safe as far as the fire of the rebels artillery is concerned. Our guns being of short range we are posted at a point to repulse a charge by the enemy. We have our works about completed. With a nice bowery built over our works. None but the ca noneers are with the guns. We have a hogshead laid on the side and sunk into the ground for a magazine, and we are well supplied with canister and shell.

Now you may think this rather a critical position but after all there are lots of jokes passes. Scarcely a minute passes but there is a shell or solid shot goes screaming over our heads or burries itself in the works. the enemy have several guns, may be twenty, at differen points that they can bring to bea5r on us. We do but very little firing with our battery. When we get our forts finished we will play them such as tine as they never head. We have of the brass horns to do it with. The boys stick pretty close to the ditches. One can see from one to a dozen men collected together here and there along the works watching for shots from enemy's guns. When they hear it coming they hollow lay down, and down bob their heads.

2.

Probably the shots go over our heads and go bounding and bumping along and do not stop until they get a mile in the rear. As soon as it passes over the works they look to the rear to see who it may scare. Yesterday a solid shot came over our works and struck in the rear and passing so near one of the 73rd Ind. boys that it brushed his leg. He jumped nearly as high as my head. The boys all yelled out that he need not dodge for that was one of our shells. When our battery fires the boys hollow out "Joe Johnson here is your shell". We change it now for prisoners say General Hood is in command at present. General Ruseau is here with reinforcements. It may take a week to get this place but I don't think they can stand a siege. We see a light in the direction of the City. We supposed they are burning some of their property. They kept up a constant artillery fire all night yet I have not heard of army men being killed yet by their shelling. Battery M of our regiment reported to General Howard's headquarters. This is the battery that William Maxwell belongs to. He was over to our battery one day but I have not seen him. You speak about there being cold weather up north. So I think of the weather down here. Yesterday was nearly as cool a day as I have ever seen in this month. The heat is not half as severe as I had expected.

You inquired of me if I tented with Charley yet. I do not. He and I have dissolved partnership without any serious loss on either side. I can think of nothing more to write at present but hope I may date my next at Atlanta.

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ONE AND ONE HALF MILE FROM
ATLANTA, GEORGIAJuly, 30th, 1864.

Dear Mother:-

It was with pleasure that I received your letter written on the 19th. The report that you heard about our battery being cut up was false. We were in a pretty hot engagement on the 20th. And lost three men. We have lost none since. You need not believe any reports until you see it in the official report and receive it in a letter from some member of the battery. I am very sorry to hear that Mary Maxwell is not going to live long. Little did I think when I saw her nearly three years ago that she would waste away with the consumption in so short a time. What regiment did Stephen Osborn belong to? I cannot help but think that Robert Crockett will get along all right. The last we heard from him he was getting along fine. The would was a light one in the fleshy part of the arm. I am sure it will be a great relief to Thomas and the girls to have a boy live at our house, if he can only make himself agreeable with all of you. You wanted to know whether Charley is my partner yet. He is not my partner any longer. Nicholas Knapp and I keep house together for the present. You know what I said about having Charley for a partner, but one day we had a few words and we dissolved partnership. Before that he never said a word against me but came down heavy against all of the rest of the Bloomfields, and now he tries to make me out a little worse than any of you. I have one consolation of knowing every man in the battery takes him to be a d- liar.

Since I wrote last Sunday we have not advanced over a hundred yards and have done but little firing, but the enemy keep up an almost constant artillery fire from their forts doing but little damage. When they begin to shell we get behind our works and sit there safe and laugh at the music. We have orders to make our lines impregnable and I think we have them nearly so. We have several batteries near enough to throw shell into the City and they have kept up a steady fire, some throwing a shell every two minutes, others every five or ten. We have not got the place surrounded yet. But we have all of their railroads. Two of our corps had a heavy battle on the left on the 22nd. Then three corps went around on the extreme right and they had another heavy battle on the 28th. Both result in great Union victories. You can learn the particulars from the papers. It is the belief of every one that the enemy are going to evacuate this place as soon as they can get their wounded away. It is our opinion that General Sherman will succeed in surrounding this place in a few days if the enemy don't slide out

2.

We have their main line of infantry pits and have driven their skirmishers all inside of their forts. The pickets keep up a constant firing.

Mother, you or some of the girls will oblige me by sending a blank nook for a diary. Get one about the size of that one that I got while I was going to school at Alliance. Get one that has not been purpose for a diary. I want one entirely blank. You can send a package to a soldier in the army for eight cents per pound. The weight must not exceed four pounds. The weight must not exceed four pounds.

It is pretty warm now, but heretofore it has been quite cool for July.

Write as often as convenient,

From your son,
A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP 3 MILES NORTH OF ATLANTA, GA.,
1 MILE IN REAR OF BATTLE LINE.

Aug, 7th, 1864

Dear Brother:-

It is with pleasure that I seat myself in my pup tent this pleasant morning to answer your letter of the 24th. You say the crops were poor. That seems to be the complaint from all parts of the state. I am in hopes that the corn crop will come out all right. I am glad to hear that you are going to school this fall. No doubt you are making the time profitable besides having a good time. Where do you calculate to board.? I think from what you say about meetings at the Five Corners and dances there abouts that times must be livelier than common around Hard Scrabble.

You say there was a crowd at the old red mansion. You say that I would have through boys plenty this year had I been there. I must say that they must have been boys and some of them pretty small ones. As for the quantity of girls, there is no doubt but that any one could get a house full of them. But the query in my mind is that would bring them out?

As for the draft I have but one thing to say and that is bring the men out. Now Thomas, this war question is a pretty serious thing in my mind as well as to all of the rest of the soldiers. I must tell you a little how things look to me. The first call was mostly filled with good Union men and advenxxxxxxxxx turesome young men; by far the greater portion of these men were in such circumstances that they could have packed up and left their country on very short notice. the wealthy men that have property to defend are a as a general thing, the last ones to go. Some would pay their three hundred dollars and stay at home. I am glad that has played out on them. But here is the worst feature of the thing. A greater portion of these men are good Union men but still they will allow a minority to plot treason right in their faces, make speaches and do all manner of devilment to defeat the cause, for which thousands are sacrificing their lives every day to defend the government that protects their property. We have read about the plot of old Valls that was laid in Ohio, which was lately detected. If the north is'nt careful how they work their cards, they will et into a greater muss than the south has. If the north should get divided the country will be depopulated.

Without Union the men are strong enough to put the rebellion down? The soldiers in the field are being is charged daily. Now, they are old seeds. They have seen blood shed

2.

and misery to the highest degree. They have seen their best friends fall at their sides. Very few of the regiments go home with one-fourth of their original number; and were it not for the civil law thousands of those copper heads would be killed as coolly and deliberately as ever a man was shot in battle. Now let such a guerilla warfare commence in Ohio then there will be no law and these men, discharged soldiers will rally in a minute, to get an opportunity to get their revenge, and every one feels confident he is good for any two of the. Recollect that these men are mostly single men and are in very poor circumstances as far as worldly goods are concerned, so they have no one but themselves to care for.

Just compare a citizen living at any place north unmolested by soldiers and military laws, the two things that always molest a free and civil community, with those of a soldier in the field. The citizen has the privilege to go and come as he pleases. When Sunday comes he rests. When night comes he goes to bed in a comfortable and earthly bed and in good quarters. His rations are changeable to suit his taste. He can spend the long winter evenings by a comfortable fire reading or enjoying a company of friends or of his family. His life and health are always free from all of the exposures of a soldier. When the soldier enlists he leaves all of his friends and kindred, even the most dear on earth, probably is unfortunate enough to get under tyrannical officers, lives under military law, never have a moment of time that he can call his, from the time he enlists until he is discharged. The rations are those a northern man would turn up his nose at, though we eat them and say we have plenty to eat. He is liable to be up all night of weeks and out in all kinds of weather. Quarters as nearly good for nothing as they can be. We are wet often for days at a time. Have long and heavy marches to make on which he must carry his rations, camp equipage etc. I will admit that this is an extraordinary campaign, but during this campaign, which make the ninety-third day, thousands of men have heard the whistling and bursting of the enemy's shell every day; and for the last sixteen days every man has been awakened by the bursting of shell and the din of battle. Yet these men are enduring all of these things and thousands of other things that I have not mentioned, to secure the liberty of a pack of aristocratic people, a portion of whom do nothing but pay a tax which in comparison with other things is insignificant. Who wonders that there are so many desperate characters among the soldiers. These are my feelings concerning the rebellion. You need not think that I am personal.

3.

for I am not. Nor, that I am dissatisfied, for I am not. Everything is working with satisfaction at the front. Yesterday the 23rd A C charged the enemy's main line of works on our extreme right and were repulsed. Some say with heavy loss, I cannot say how true that report is. Four pieces of our battery have been off on the line for one week. The rebel skirmishers are all driven in their main line of works. In front of the 4th and 20th A C picking firing is kept up almost without intermission. Our men have several batteries and heavy guns in good positions and with the exception of today there has been a steady fire kept up night and day on the enemy's works. Some of the guns bear on the town and the whole fire is concentrated there. We think, and the rebels say, they expect reinforcements. Deserters come in every day. I suppose that General Grant was repulsed, but I do not think it will put a stop to him carrying out his plans. he will show them there is more than one way to do some things. John Fox started home last Monday. he is going to pay you a visit. You will find him the same old cap. I cannot see any changes in him.

Write as often as you can. Tell all of the news, as of course you can muster plenty, while you are going to school.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP TWO MILES FROM ATLANTA, GA.

Aug, 14th, 1864

Dear Sister:-

Gertrude I take this opportunity to answer your letter which I received yesterday. I am thankful for your photograph. There has nothing happened here of vast importance for the last week. One section of our battery remains on the lines yet. Sherman has several heavy guns ranging from 24 pounders up to 100 pounders mounted around Atlanta and for the last three days they have been throwing shells into the City. Some of our light batteries are close enough to shell the City. Last Friday our left section threw one hundred shots into the City. there are four or five and perhaps more, that throw shells into the City night and day. The shots are fired at intervals of five minutes. We can see our shells burst in the streets and we can see the citizens hurrying to and for. There are but few shots fired at their forts. Scarcely a night passes but some of their buildings are burned by our shells. Some say that we have thrown some hot shot but I cannot vouch for that. last night there was one continual roll of artillery all night. It has partially subsided today. Our skirmishers keep some of their forts silent. The general opinion is that they expect reinforcements, bullet them get their reinforcements We can hold five to our one in our front. The only why they can get us out of this is to cut our communication and flank us out. We have their communications completely cut and I think we shall be able to keep them so. If they do not evacuate soon their town will be complete ly destroyed and a soldier will not be able to get boards enought to make him a bunk. Afairs seem to be proginging finely in the eastern army, but General Grant was never known to bestir in any of his undertakings. he has tried two different ways to get Richmond and maybe hius lasat will work but if not, I think the rhird willlbe the charm. The news here from Mobile is that our forces captured the City and a part of the fleet. From what you say I think some are worse scared there abou tthe draft that is to some off than the men here that are laying in line of battle not knowing what moment they are to have a general engatements I am in hopes that a good per cent of that strip will get drafted. I am sorry to learn of Bradford's and Hiram's sickness. The 100 days service will be perfect scare to the people who expect to be drafted. We had inspection today. That is all of any importance that has taken place. We have a pleasant camp and are all healthy. The old boys who did not reinlist ar every jubilant of late. they are expecting to start home in a few days. They number about 30.

Your brother, A. s. Bloomfield.

CAMP TOW MILES NORTH OF ATLANTA- GA.

Aug, 21st, 1864.

Dear Father:-

I suppose you are all very anxious to hear from me as you now we are battering away at the rebels works. For the past week it has been tolerably quiet on the west wing of the army. both armies are trying to get some advantage over the other by strategic movements. our corps commenced such a movement last Wednesday to get the rebels to draw their forces from our right. Early in the morning one division of our corps was ready to march and did march all day but when night came they pitched their pup tents on the same ground that they struck them o the morning. From the rebels main line of works they can very distinctly see our troops march along a road that runs over a hill near our lines. But just after they descended the hill as they marchd to the east, they struck into a heavy piece of timber. There they took a left wheel around in the rear of the hill and came out where they started from. By so doing one division could keep a steady line moving to our left. The regiments were accompanied with their ambulances and pack mules. The regiments would change their colors; large regiments sometimes leaving out half of their men on one round to make the deception more complete. In the read of the division followed a long ambulance train and baggage wagons. Then followed four of our guns. We drove along the line driving up onto every knob that was near their lines unlimbring and making as much noise as possible. This we did after dark. We went outside of our main line of works. At some places we would come action to the front and then have our bugler blow water call then bed call then stable call. After going as far to the left as we could we returned to the camp after the night was nearly spent. It was evident that the rebels were paying very strict attention to our movements for one could scarcely hear the report for the musket in our front.

The next morning we had an amunition and supply train moving to our left. It was evident that our labors were not in vain for just at day break the rebels opened on the fourth A.C. with all of the artillery they could bring to bear. They shelled us for about one hour. Our guns made but few replys. This was the heaviest shelling they ever gave our liens. our men just got a little closer to their works and laughed at the trick they had played on the Johnies. I

2.

did not hear of a man getting hurt.

As the rebels opened on our lines the 23rd. A.C. and another corps on the extreme right made a strike for the Macon road. and took possession of it with but little resistance. All day Thursday there is a great deal of artillery fired along with whole length of our lines but no general engagement was brought on. Our siege guns keep up a steady fire day and night on the City and their works. Scarcely a night passes but what the town is set on fire.

Thursday morning the rebels opened on us, so Friday morning we thought we would try the game on them. We opened with all the artillery on the line except that belonging to the 4th.A.C. Our battery did not fire a shot. It is on the extreme right of our corps and joins the 20th.A.C. so we had a good chance to see the fire works which lasted about fifteen minutes. The firing extended seven miles to our right. This was the grandest sight I ever saw in artillery practise. there was not less than one hundred pieces, all firing as fast as was safe. A great many were siege guns. The flashes of the guns and the bursting of the shells kept the whole heavens lit up. The air seemed full of shell. The earth trembled and there was one continual roar. Since that they have kept very quiet. We have their skirmishers driven inside their main line of works. If reports are true the 23rd A.C. have gone on a raid into Alabama. Some say their destination is Montgomery where they are going to join some other corps. I think it possible they may make a junction with our fleet from Mobile at West Point or some other place below. I think they will leave their marks let them go where they will. Deserters are coming in every day, and they say that Old Hood is going to fight it out here.

We have our lines in such a condition that they are called impregnable and the rebels do not seem disposed to try them.

I hear today that Stoneman's cavalry has burned another train of three hundred wagons for the rebels. The rebel's cavalry was in our rear for a few days and succeeded in cutting the railroad but they will find out that it will take a larger force than they have to spare to keep our communications cut. I still of the opinion that Grant is going to out wind the energy in Virginia though it may take months yet.

Father, there seems to be some fear here among the boys that there will be trouble in enforcing the draft. What do you think about it? Do you think the copperheads have any secret

3.

organization with the intention to resist the draft? I know there is not so many copperheads in our neighborhood as there are in some other parts of the states. I think if the Union leaders of the north expect any such things they should get them selves into some kind of an organization to be ready with arms to put it down. There being old soldiers discharged every day that would delight in a hunt and if the officers would let them to in it the copperheads had better be in hell than in their fingers.

I am in hopes that they will not do as they did in New York City the time of the riot, use blank catridges until they have knocked down and crippled half of the cannoneers with stones and clubs.

I have just heard that the copperheads held a meeting in New Baltimore to raise money to clear the township. My health is good. It is quite cool for this time of the year. It has rained at least thirty days out of forty.

Nor more at present.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ONE MILE EAST OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA"
Sept- 9th- 1864.

Mother:-

It is with joy that I humble myself today to answer your very kind letter that i received from you and continuing yours and father's photograph which I highly prize. I t gives a great deal of satisfaction to one to once in a while to even look at the pictures of their friends and relatives when they are 110 miles away. Now , I want Ella's and Thomas''s and then I will have the whole family. I have good health at present. I suppose you have learned of the great flank movement which resulted in the evacuation of Atlanta. The movement commenced on the 25th.b last month. All of the army moving to the right expect the 20th. A C which fell back across the Chattachoucha. This movement alarmed the enemy very much. They did not seem to understand the mosement until we have possession of the railroad in the rear of Atlanta. Our men struck the road near Jonesborough twenty to miles south. The greater portion of the army was concentrated here. Three corps' of General Sherman's army swung around and held the road for ten miles between Jonesborough and East Point. This move but the rebel army in two, leaving a portion in Atlanta We cam near capturing their army at Jonesborough. Their loss was much heavier than ours at the army of the Cumberland only had a few hours of fighting to do. We captured some artillery and I saw five hundred prisoners. We followed them six mile below the latter place where we found them strongly fortified. Our rations were about run out and s the object of the campaign had been accomplished, we fell back to Atlanta. I can say where the army of the Ohio is, neither can I say where the army of the Tennessee is going to be stationed. Our officers tell us that we are to have six weeks rest.

Mother, it is no use for me to try to describe this campaign. It is all going to printed. Every Captain ahs to give in his report. I have seen a portion of the city which was once a very nice place about the siie of Canton, but the Yankee shells have disfigured nearly every building. Some are; completely demolished Our non vets. Started home this morning. I sent a pocket diary by one of the boys., Richard dunning, is going to mail it to you at Cleveland. It seems very odd not to hear shelling and musketry. Every day seems like Sunday. I received Celestine's letter the same day I got yours. I heard that Ely Yarian was wounded by a piece of shell in the fleshy part of the arm. Not seriously. General Sherman is the man for this army. I only wish you could se the old General.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Sept, 14th, 1864.

Respected Father:-

Received your letter yesterday that was written on the 4th of the present month. I suppose that you was going to wait until the draft but from all accounts the draft is going to be postponed for a few days. We have had the Cincinnati commercial of the 5th. And from accounts enlisting never went on faster. Some counties have cleared themselves from the draft. News from New York and Pennsylvania is very encouraging for our cause. Boston has filled its Quoto. I think Gen. Sherman's victory here got more recruits in ten days that \$100,00.00 would have got and let the enemy keep this place. I did think a while that Gen Grant was going to have more than he would be able to finish this summer but know I see that he is getting reinforcements at the rate of two thousand a day. I think the most of the five hundred thousand will be sent to Grant and Sherman and now I think that Grant will be able to hold his ground all winter if necessary.

I don't anticipate that there is going to be any bloodshed to get the call field. I think the copper heads are going to drop it until the presidential election, when there will not be so many Union men in the north to oppose them.

I am going to tell you just what I think will knock all of their plans higher than Gilroy's kite, that is for General Grant to occupy Richmond a few days before the election. Such a victory would be worth thousands of armed men to the civil Authorities of the United States. You seemed to think when you wrote that General Sherman fought a Battle at East Point, but that was a mistake. We struck the railroad several miles south to East Point. The right being on the road at Jonesborough 22 miles from Atlanta. Here is where all of the fighting was done. The army of the Tennessee occupied the place and done most of the fighting. The 14th A C had a brisk engagements in the afternoon of the second. They lost several men in a charge in which they took the enemy's works with tow batteries and considerable other property. Also five hundred prisoners.

The enemy left all of their dead and wounded on the field. If the day had been a few hours longer we might have captured one division. The 4th and 23d A C were getting in their rear. The next day we followed them up six miles to Bear river where we found them strongly entrenched and by the morning of the 4th. It was found that the remained of Hood's army, the corps that evacuated Atlanta has joined him. This was found out from Prisoners taken on our

2.

left flank. They had passed around us to our left. We destroyed twenty-five or thirty miles of the two railroads, so I suppose General Sherman thought that this work was done for a few days. On the morning of the 3rd, before day break, we heard an awful noise in our rear that created considerable talk in camp. Every one knew that no battle would be fought with the force that was left sounding half as terrific, although it was eighteen miles air line from Jonesborough we could hear the shells burst very plain. Could also see the light from the burning trains. They burned eighty cars loaded with ammunition principally shell. We saw some eleven inch shells. These explosions lasted for over two hours. There were several car loads of musket and one battery of light guns. The engines were partially destroyed. They burned their rolling mill after taking out the tools and nearly all of the machinery. I have only seen two stationary engines. Left in the City. One was at a watering tank the other was in a brewery which was burned and stood near our skirmish line. I have spent two days in looking around the City and the more I think and look the more I become convinced that this was one of their important points. The city is about the size of Canton, Stark County, Ohio. The railroad facilities are far ahead of Chattanooga and Nashville, and I think they are nearly equal to Cincinnati.

There are four or five engine houses, two of them are the first class. One is stone and the other brick, are well finished and complete circles, and will accommodate forty engines each. To one is attached a large repair shop. There are two good depots; one is a splendid brick and will contain four trains. There is a large car shop but from appearances it has not been run very strong for the past two years. There are plenty of warehouses. Everything is ready for our men ship months or years supplies. The City is already fortified. I have only seen five siege guns captured here but they say there are more.

The Works around the City are very great. I do not think they could have been taken by any assaulting party with a single line of infantry. I only wish you was here to see the work the shells done that were thrown into the city by our batteries. Some of the buildings are in perfect ruin. I see some brick buildings with more than a hundred holes through the walls. In a brick building a shot made a round hole the size of the ball, but a frame building it tears all to pieces. Every family had their gopher holes dug out in some favorable slope. One Citizen told me that our shells killed several. One man and his wife were both killed in bed. Another came out of this hole to chop some wood one morning and a ball came along and took off his head. His wife ran out to this aid and a shot struck her in the killing her instantly. It sounds like peace not to hear

3.

the rattle of musketry, the booming of artillery and to see the cars running regularly. From all accounts Wheeler is making a big raid up in Tennessee, but that does not affect the grit of the army. The boys say it is well enough for the fellows in the rear a little to do. General Ruseau will hold them about level. We are on three quarters rations now. But still we must have six months rations this side of the Tennessee river. We are getting all of the forage we can from the country. I thin we have made a pretty large whole in Old Jeff's haversack. We are daily expecting the news of the fall of Mobile. It certainly will not hold out much longer. The way this army is distributed, as near as I can tell you, is as follows: The army of the Tennessee consisting of the 15th, 16th and 17th A C is commanded by General Howard, are on the extreme right at shantytown. Howard at onetime had command of our corps. He has but one arm. The army of the Cumberland, consisting of the 4th, 14th and 20th A C form the center and are station ed at this point. The commander is General Thomas. The army of the Ohio is the 23rd. A C commanded by General Schofield. They are on the extreme left at Decatur, eight miles from here.. General Sherman has always had his headquarters with General Thomas. There is scarcely a private in the army but who has seen him frequently. He was the first General I ever saw having command at Louisville when we first came out. He is the man that told the government that there should be two hundred thousand men in this department to do any thing. the authorities at Washington pronounced him crazy, so Gen. Sherman says. I heard than Col. Manderson was mortally wounded on the 3rd. of this month. I have not heard of his death.

No more at present. From your affectionate son,

A S Bloomfield.

CAMP AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.
Sept, 25th, 1864.

Respected Brother:-

This is Sunday and as sure as I live it seems more like Sunday than any day I have spent in the service.

We are had no inspection today, but are to be inspected tomorrow at 9 A.M. The infantry in our old division are going back to Chattanooga to relive Gen. Steadman's command. I know that one of the batteries are going b ck that belong to the second division in and for all that I know we will go. There is some talk that the 4th. A C are going to do guard duty along the railroad. I have not heard from home since the 4th of this month. The last letter that I got was from Father. The rebels cut the railroad between there and Big shanty last night capturing the mail train and burning it. I guess they got my letter. The report is now that we are going to be paid off this week. We heard here that some soldier gave your Professor a sound threshing one night at a dance somewhere in Randolph. Is it so, and where did it happen? What was the difficulty and who was the soldier that would dare to strike the pet? I don't know but he would be good enough fellow if it was not for this father. Every veteran from Randolph owes Dr. price a threshing, but I don't suppose he will ever get his just dues from the boys. Maybe the day is coming when some one will pay him off.

We have heard of Sheridan's victory in Virginia. How many thousand votes did that secure from Old Abe? How do the people think the election is going in Randolph? Who has volunteered in Randolph and Marlboro? And who are drafted, if you have any drafts? Our battery has been consolidated and is now a four gun battery. No.3 and 5 squads were broken up. L. B. Maxwell is Q M Sargeant. We have a very pleasant camp well policed. We have drawn our clothing. I threw away the boots which I got of you today. You have probably heard about the way the rebels bury their dead. We are now encamped on the ground that was so hard fought over by McPherson and Hood. Now, I am going to tell you what I saw within a hundred and fifty years of our battery,between here and the weel which we get our water from. I think I will be telling the truth when I say these is half an acre here on which there are fifty dead rebels laying in piles on top of the ground and were pretended to have been covered up but the heavy rains have washed all the dirt off again and how their bones are bleaching in the sun.

2.

I have no doubt that some one will write home that they could pick up wagon loads of skulls but I cannot tell quite as big a tale as I only saw five skulls in one place, but there are thousands of skeletons that will be turned up if the ground is ever plowed. Every thing is quiet about Atlanta and news from the other parts of the army is very good.

We are getting good rations and cannot complain of such soldiering.

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Oct, 2nd, 1864

Respected Sister:-

I write today not knowing whether the mail leaves this place or not. We have not received any for nearly a week. I have not heard from home since the 4th. of last month. There has been considerable trouble in the rear of our army. I think it will all come out in our favor. But the rebels have destroyed several miles of our railroad. There is a report that the bridge across the Chattahoochee river was washed away by high water last night. I know of three divisions going back. With that exception our forces here are the same size that they were while the siege was going on. Brute Sherman, as the Richmond papers call him, has got this place cleared of cities. I have not heard a shot of any kind since we captured the place. Have you seen General Sherman's letter to General Hood? And Hood's reply? There is a report that Governor Brown of Georgia and General Sherman are communicating under a flag of truce concerning the way to pursue to get the state of Georgia back into the Union. We have heard of General Sheridan's great victory in Virginia. He once had command of a division in this corps.

Yesterday we had a telegraph dispatch read to us from the secretary of War. It stated that the 10th and 19th A C had crossed James Creek charged the enemy and driven them out of the works capturing four thousand prisoners, fifteen pieces of artillery. The enemy were completely surprised. I think Richmond will have to cave before many days. There is a report in camp that General Grant has received orders to cease firing until further notice. If this is true the dispatch will be read to us at roll call. General Sherman is the best General we have ever had to send the news around to his different commands. The army is very much encouraged again. Benjamin Yarian was down to see Dave today. He heard that Eli was going home on a furlough as soon as his wound get well enough for him to travel. Tell all about the draft if there was any. I shall expect to hear from home soon,

From your brother.
A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP NEAR GAINESVILLE, ALABAMA
CHERROKEE COUNTY, ON THE NORTH SIDE
OF THE COOSA RIVER

Oct, 22nd, 1864

Respected Brother:-

I take this opportunity to you, the only I have had since the 2nd. day of this month. Since then I have received two letters from you and one from Celestine. I was very glad to get your photographs and equally glad to see Ella's which very plainly shows that she is growing and getting the appearance of a woman. None but those who have been away so long from home and friends can tell the many pleasant thoughts that will come back to them when they have the likeness of their friends to look at.

Well enough of this. I know what would be your first question me if permitted. I am going to explain as well as I can. On the morning of the 3rd fo the present month we receive orders at midnight to be ready to march at daylight. We started. the whole army following expect the 20th and 16th A. C. which were left at Atlanta. We soon found out what our errand was. We were to follow the rebel army which was going for our hard tack line. They struck the railroad at big Shanty the same day we crossed the Chattahoucha river. We took our time and let them get their whole force onto the road. It seemed to excite some very much, but Sherman was letting them get just where he wanted them. One of our little excitable officers rode up to General Sherman soon after then got possession of Big Shanty and told him that the enemy held Big Shanty. All the reply Sherman gave him was lets make them hold it. We offered them battle but they would not fight. They preferred going ahead and see if they could not capture some of our small garrisons along the road where had rations stored. One of those places was Altoona where they lost heavily and failed to get the mammoth pile of hard bread which seemed to be almost within their grasp. The place contained a million and a half hard rations. They had to take the same route that we did when we flanked the rebel army out of the past. We took the inside track which is at least one hundred miles nearer and again Sherman let them get onto the railroad between Resacca and Dalton. Again we moved up and tried to get a fight out of them but still they moved on toward Chattanooga rather preferring to fight their way north than south. but at Tunnell Hill they met Pap Thomas and he gave them a good threshing. At that they flew the track after come near losing their whole command. If we had succeeded in getting a fight

2.

out of them they would have lost heavily. It would have been the ruination of Hood's army. They had fifteen days supplies with them when they started expecting to feed their army from our commissaries, but I do not think they got a day's rations from us. There were three corps of them and each corps had one hundred and fifty wagons with which to load the rations they might capture, but instead of that they loaded their wagons with dead and wounded. We took more prisoners than they. They are retreating on the north side of the Coosa River and I guess by this time the last of them have crossed. We have driven them into the Blue Mountains in Alabama and now the whole army is resting in this valley. Our corps has not lost a man. They say the rebels are striking to a junction of one of their railroads where they can draw rations. They are nearly starved having nothing but what they forage from the country. Some of the prisoners we took had nothing but pop corn and boiled sorgham cane. The army is better off for this tramp than they would have been laying idle at Atlanta. Our wagon trains have all been sent back to Rome, that being the nearest point to the railroad, for clothing and rations. General Sherman has issued a general order that the troops shall live as much as possible off from the country. We are allowed to take any thing that is outside of the house. We draw about 3-5 rations from the government. We get nearly all of our meat from the country. The truth is that we are taking nearly every thing that can be eaten by men or animals, and we sued rails recklessly when we get into camp. We have a great deal of talk about where we are going on our next campaign. General Thomas is at Louisville, Ky. organizing an army of 60,000 new troops. I think from what the Johnnies say they are getting pretty badly discouraged. The last news we had from Richmond was of very encouraging character. I think every thing is working our favor. The cutting of our railroads do not amount to any thing. We can lay five miles of track per day and from both directions at that. We have one years rations for all of the troops left at Atlanta. We have only receive two mails since we left Atlanta. I cannot say when this will leave but there are some prospects of mail going out now. I received three packages of paper. I got the one that had that diary and one bunch envelopes and one quire of paper. The other two packages had two quires in each. there were in all five quires of paper one bunch of envelopes one diary, just the kind that I wanted, and twelve cents of postage. From what you say there must be some back yet. but I am much obliged for it. Sent me the cost of the articles and I will pay you for them.

3.

I saw Frank Ingledue a few days ago and spent several hours with him. From what you say I think you have a pretty early snow in Ohio. It seems curious to talk about snow this early. We have only had two frosts. One of them was last night. I think we are going to have another one tonight.

I was very glad to hear of the draft going off with so little disturbance. I think the election will be held throughout the north without the least doubt but the girls wanted to do something for their country. Infantry comprises the main strength of the army. You explain Emmitt's case entirely different from what I have heard it. I can tell you what Doc done for the veterans of Randolph. If it had not been for him we would have received \$150.00 instead of \$100.00. He did his best not to let us have any bounty. He made speeches at meetings in Randolph in which he tried to persuade the people not to pay us any bounty telling them they had us tight. We had enlisted down at the front and that it was throwing money away paying us a bounty; that they had better save the money to clear the town and so they can keep such traitors as the Stallsmiths and other, at home. There are soldiers here that will not forget it if they should live until their heads are as white as snow. We know who our friends are if we are a thousand miles from home. He is a good Union man as long as he can stay at home, make money and keep his son out of the ranks. What did he do to get his delicate little boy out of the service? If you do not know I can tell you.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP NEAR GAINESVILLE, ALABAMA, TEN
MILES FROM THE GEORGIA LINE, TWENTY-
SIX MILES FROM ROME, GEORGIA.

Oct, 25- 1864.

Dear Cousin:

I received your welcome letter several weeks ago but owing to our unsettled condition I have put off writing until this late day. I have had the best of health this summer and fall and I never saw our company so robust and rugged as at present. I found out that there is a good deal in knowing how to be a soldier. Well, Lewis you said you were waiting for the draft to come off before you wrote to me. So I thought I should wait until I heard from the draft in the 19th. district. I am much pleased with the news that I hear from all of the northern and eastern states. The 500,000 were raised with much less disturbance than I had expected. That was the break of day for the Union cause for the United States, but I must say that I am sorry that some of the ones that were drafted got off. But then some will say, and I shall have to admit it to be true, that an army raised by volunteers is better than a drafted one.

You spoke about the presidential campaign, so I must say something concerning it for I take a deep interest in it as every soldier should. You know that when I enlisted I was not much of a politician, but as one changes in habits so will his mind change. Now the strength that our authorities show was the cause of the quotas of the different states being filled so promptly. I think it has done more for the coming election than a dozen of the best speakers in the state could have done. Now, we have got Atlanta. Before that the copper heads were noisy, yes boisterous, but when it fell they were more mild and now, that the presidents call has been responded to, they can be seen talking amongst themselves in very low tones. Then General Sheridan" Victory in Virginia spread over the states like wild fire. Then they could be seen standing around corners or congregated together in grogg shops talking convalescent tones. Now, I can imagine that I can see far enough into the future to see the very hour they are going to expire. The day will be six hours after the polls are closed. That will be about midnight a very suitable time for death. They will have but one ceremony afterwards, that will be to fall in line with with picks and shovels and bury their noted grave digger. The man that could not take Yorktown with 180,000 men when the enemy had 13, 000- men and no first class fortifications. Now, Richmond may fall and I am in hopes that it will before the election.

2.

comes off. It will only make their dying hours more dismal. It will be like torturing them with a red hot iron.

Now, I see this working in our own battery. they used to swear xxxx they would vote for McClelland but now they say they will if they are allowed to. I assure you will let them but I cannot say what will be consequence...

Wednesday Morning, 26th.

I suppose that long before this reaches you you will have learned from the papers of the movement of this army and a portion of ours. On the morning of the 3rd of this month the 4th, 14th, 15th, 17th, and 23rd A. C. received marching orders. It was a great query among the troops what was up but before many days we knew what was the matter. Hood's whole force consisting of three A.C.'s were in our rear. They struck the railroad at Big Shanty, three miles north of Kennesaw mountains going north, tearing up the track, burning the ties and bending the iron. They destroyed the road to Acworth, about six miles. Where they burned several buildings and tore the station to pieces. From here to Altoona pass they did but little damage. At a small creek two miles from the Pass there was a small garrison of sixty men. They were in a good stock where they fought and kept them off all day killing eighty they not losing a man. But after dark the enemy crawled up poured turpentine on the timber and set it on fire. The smoke compelled them to surrender. Their next attempt was to take Altoona Pass. There our men had good works. They made several charges getting up within twenty feet of our men, but such a murderous fire was poured in on them that they had to retreat leaving over four hundred dead and wounded on the field. We had a million and a half of rations at this point, and the rebels had four hundred and fifty wagons with them that they expected to load at the Pass. But still they were not satisfied. They took to the left and crossed the Altoona mountains, where Sherman's men did when they flanked Hood out of the Pass in June. Our army passed up the railroad while the enemy went almost one hundred miles around. The next place they made their appearance was at Rome.. But our main army was too near they thought, so they made a rapid march and struck the road again north of Rasecca. Here was a large ridge and considerable rations stored. They were guarded by three small forts with three pieces of artillery. They came near losing their whole army here once and perhaps thinking that it was an unlucky place for them they did not attack the garrison but one ton tearing up the road. At Dalton there was a small garrison of twelve hundred negroes. There are various reports as to what became of the force. Some say that they were all captured others that they took to the woods.

3.

One thing is certain that they did not fight as they should have done. the Johnnies passed on and took the two most important Passes in Rocky Face ridge. their next effort was at Turnnell Hill where General Thomas had collected a small army. Some say thirty thousand, but I doubt if he had half that many. The Johnnies attacked and were repulsed. The report is that they left six hundred dead on the field. B this time their rations had run out and the meat were living on fresh meat an corn that they gathered from the fields that they passed. Someofo the prisoners were took had nothing but parched corn and sorgham in their havesacks. They all admitted that they were almost starving. Their raid was a perfect failure. They did not capture a day's rations, did not destroy any of the large bridges and failed to make us evaculate Atlanta. they were afraid to go into Tennessee, so they took to the left and retreated into Alabama keeping on the north side of the Coosa river. They are now in the vicinity of the Blue mountains, several miles from here. The report is that Beauregard has command of the Johnnies. General Sheridan has fought another battle in Virginia. In the commencement he was shipped and driven five miles losing eighteen pieces of artillery Afterwards he was reinforced with fifteen thousand pitching into them and giving them a good threshing, taking thirty pieces of artillery and recapturing all that he had lost at the commencement of the battle. I have not see the official report of the battle as yet. We have received no papers, but expect some soon. We have had only two mails since the second of this month. I shall expect to hear from you soon after the presidential election. With my well wishes for your well fare I am your friendxx and cousin,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

Oct, 30th, 1864.

Respected Sister:-

I received your welcome dated on the 18th of the present month. When I wrd e home before we were at Gainesville Alabama, sixty two miles from here. We marched here in three days, arriving yesterday after dark. this morning we moved into town. None came this way but the 4th. A.C. the report is that we are going to Decatur, Alabama. The infantry took the cars and I suppose we are waiting for transportation.

There is a rumor that the 4th A C is going to Missouri to reinforce Rosecrans. To my surprise this morning I met Owen Gaskell. He is the 83rd. Indiana. I think I shall go over and see him this evening. Lieut. E. B. Belding is promoted to Captain of Battery E. Capt. W. f. Goodspeed is promoted to Major. Lieut. Scovel I think will be our Captain.

The road is line with new recruits. I am in hopes that Bill Bates will get caught by some provost marshal.

You must excuse me for not writing more for I am scrouched up under the gun carriage tokeep out of the sun. When we get settled I shall write more than I have this time.

We have not seen any thing of the new recruits for our battery. I do not think they can get into the battery as it is full at present..

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP AT PALASKA, TENNESSEE, SOUTH OF
NASHVILLE ON THE R. R. RUNNING FROM
NASHVILLE TO FLORENCE.

Nov ,6-1864

Respected Sister:-

I received your welcome letter dated Oct, 25th This was the first mail we have received since we left Chattanooga. When I wrote home before we were at Chattanooga awaiting transportation. The 4th.A.C. were all shipped by rail to Athens, Ala. This place being thirty-two miles west of Huntsville. We went one hundred and forty-four miles on the cars and it took us tow nights and one day to make the trip. I suppose you want to know the news of Shermans army. Some of our boys came from Nashville last night. They say the 23rd A.C. was there. There is a report currant in camp that Sherman has gone from Mobile with the army of the Tennessee. The rebels are constantly making raids into our lines of communications tearing up a few miles of railroad or cutting the telegraph wires. They do not seem disposed to fight if they can get away without. From all accounts Hood's whole force is in the vicinity of Florence. We are fortifying his place and we have the strongest kind of natural positions to build ou rworks on. The report is that this is to be the head quarters of the army of the Cumberland. This army is getting largely reinforced with new recruits which is encouraging to our army. Our battery has not gotten any yet and I do not think we will. This town is the county seat and is about the siize of Ravenna. The county is quite thickly settled for Tennessee. These is [prospects f our getting ay soon if Hood does not give us marching orders soon. We are having cool and windy weather now, and it has rained about half of the time for the past week. I do not know how you sent those stamps but I am much obliged for them. I am in hopes that Bill Urwin is married by this time for I believe that I have hard of his marriage at least half a dozen times this year. We hard some firing yesterday. It was a great distance off and I have not heard what force it was. We are all right as long as the rebels leave us alone and we draw full rations. With my respects I remain,

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

IN CAMP AT PALASKI, TENNESSEE.

NO, 13th, 1864

Respected Father:-

I seat myself this pleasant day to let you know that I am all right. I have never in my life enjoyed better health than I now do. Last winter and fall I was some troubled with the Rheumatism. The doctors say that the army is the healthiest now that i has ever been. There is not a man in our batter now but what is able to do duty. We are having some very pleasant fall weather. It has been cold enough to freeze the ground a little once or twice.

Well the election is over. It was very quiet here. There did not any one seem to be in the least excited about the result of the election. I lay it all to the army being so confident that the Union party was going to gain the day. Our battery went sisty-five for L & J, and three for M C & Co. One of the latter notes was put in through mistake. Several notes for old Abe were put in by our boys that were back with the wagon trains. The 14th. O V I vote was 319 for L & J and 9 for M C & co. One Tennessee regiment in our corps to a man for Lincoln. Every regiment that I have hard from went as strong as two-thirds for the Union. The exceptions were among the regiments that contained a great many canadians. There is no end to the abuve and slander that is heaped on those who voted for M C & P. No news of the election arrived there until last Friday, when there was a telegraph dispatch sent to the state agent by the Governor of Ohio and also to the 4th A C Headquarters. I t as to the effect that L & J were elected in every state except New Jersey, Delaware and Kentucky. The dispatch was read before every command in this corps and loud were the cheers that went up from among the valleys and hills surrounding this town. The soldiers have added a new sentence to one of their camp signs. It reads as follows now: "In 1864 we stuck Old Abe for four years more". It used to be sung this way: "1864 Old Abe socked us for four years more". We expect late papers soon as the road is to repaired between here and Nashville. We have been informed that the mail goes out this evening. High waters have washed away a small ressele and also took the Duck River bridge out of line. We have been here over one week. During this time the 4th. A. C. has not been idle. We have a strong line of works around this place with abbattises.

2.

in front of them. Besides there was an old fort here that has been built over a year, that will hold eleven guns. There is a much stronger position here naturally than there is at Atlanta. Our force is estimated at 15000 strong. We calculate that 50,000 cannot get us out of here without they starve us out. The town is down in a deep hollow and is about the size of Ravenna.

Since I wrote home before the longer looked for paymaster has come around. We received seven months pay and two installments on our bounty, amounting in all to \$203.00 for veterans. the most of the troops were paid off in government bonds. I have sent \$200.00 home by the state agent in bonds. It goes to the Governor of Ohio and he sends them to the different county treasurers. You will get mine at our county treasurer's. I suppose you will get a treasury note when it arrives there which will not be before the middle of next month. Now this money I gave the state agent is turned over to the pay master here and the Governor sends other money. Now, if you can draw such bonds as I turned over do so for there are several dollars interest due on them now. Feb 15th. there was six months interest due on them. \$100 of it was in a bond drawing 7 & 3-10 per cent. There were two \$50's drawing 6 per cent compound interest payable semi-annually. I calculate that these bonds are worth more than \$200.00 in greenbacks, but I have thought all of the time that when you came to draw it some one would have them converted into green backs. Now if you can possibly get the bonds such as I turned over do so unless you think there money better, and if you get it put it to such use as you think best. there is some prospects of us getting two months more pay before the pay master goes back. Our battery has sent home over \$12,000.00 and our state agent says he has sent to the state over \$400,000.00 and he has several regiments to go to yet.

With these few lines I remain, as ever,

Your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP AT PALASKA, TENNESSEE.

Nov, 21st, 1864.

Respected Sister: _

I seat myself this evening in front of the fire, buring in a small fire place just sufficient to warm our tent. There are three of us staying in one tent. I received yu welcome letter y er a week ago but owing to the inclemency of the weather put off writing until last Sunday. The day you know I always write, but yesterday was all put in building our chimney and making other improvements. It has stormed every day for over a week. It has been blowing and snowing all day to day. This evening it is freezing and the ground is white with snow, but never-the less we have good quarters if we are only permitted to stay here this winter. Clothing one can have all he wants to draw. This is a beautiful place for troops to encamp in. I wish you could only behold the scenery that I can by stepping in my tent door. We are on a large hill about the center of the main body of the 4th. A.C. I can very plainly see the camp fires of at least ten thousand troops all on the slope of the hills, towards us so that thy preset the appearance of a clear evening when one cnot count the enumerable stars. I wrote to Father one week ago last Sunday and sent him a receipt to draw my money at Ravna. A part of the 23rd A. C. are encamped within a few miles of here yesterday. I saw Benj. Yarian and Lark Craig. They are well and hearty. I cant say as there is any thing going on of any im portance in this department. The country is full of gurrillas and they are some trouble to the railroads and our forage parties. I suppose you have learned long before his reaches you that General Sherman has stared with the army of the Tennessee and the 20th. and 14th.A.C. Atlanta is evacuated and ever thing is destroyed We will hear stirring news from him in twenty or thirty days. The western army will be the ruination of old Jeff yet.

Every thing looks very prosperous for the Union army at present I almost hear that this protracted wet weather will hinder his progress but then I cannot think that defeat can be possible for such a manas General Sherman with the backing he has. We have the enemy in just the right shape now and we have a spare army to harrass and pitch into their weak points. I received a letter a few days ago from Celestine I should think that you would feel as if you was deserted about tthe place with the dogs all gone. Now, Gertrude you wanted to know my opinion about the Melodian. I must say it put me in mind of the old woman.who told her boy to never go into the water until he learned to swim,so I think it would have been good policy to have learned to play on one before putting so much money in an inst tument but ow you have a

2.

good opportunity to learn,so be sure to improve it so you can say the money was well spent.

You say they call you Bloomfield's Melodian. Well, you know if they did not talk they would not say any thing.

Well you said you was going to have company. All I have to say is that I hope you will all have a pleasant time. I think that if I live to see next winger I will be at home and spend some of the long winter evenings with you and the young folds.

You say that John Keller's wife has a little one. Well it is no more than I had expected to hear after so many soldiers being home, of an increase in the population of Ohio.

I shall expect to get a long letter from you. You must excuse this poor writing as I have only about two inches of the candle to do it with.

No more at present.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ON THE NORT SDIE OF DUCK RIVER
TWO MILES FROM COLUMBIA.

Nov, 28- 1864.

Respected Sister:-

I received a letter from you sometime ago about the time we evacuated Palaska. for the past Teek we have been pretty busy. Hood's army now commanded by General Beauregard blank the 4th and 23rd A.C. at Pealaska, with as much larger force we than we have, which compelled us to evacuate. We got away with everything of any value and fell back to Columbia, a distance of twenty file miles. At the latter place we have buil good works and fought them three days. They did not choose to charge our works but sent their cavalu twelve miles up the river to cross and it es rumored that the infantry are crossing twenty miles below. But from some cause or toher we received orders to vacuate last night, and so we did so. Our rear guard left town this morning at day break. We got away with every thing belong to the government but two sixty four pounders which we spiked and burned the carriages so they are of no account to any one now. The enemy seemed to know that we were evacuating and commenced a furious attack before day break. Our forces took up a strong position on the north side of the river and have been fighting them all day, mostly with artillery at long range. Our men burned the railroad bridge. The cars are running through from Nashville last night say there we e thriteen boat loads of soldiers arrived there last evening from Missouri. A.J.Smiths of the 16 A. C. are arriving here now. I do not think we are going to back any more. I do not understand why we evacuated the town. We could have held it in spite of the Johnies. We are on full rations and communications are open. The rebel cavalry was on the xxxxx pike in ou rear this morning in the vicinity of Franklin. I saw Battery D of the 104 th. today. They lost one man since they came here. There is considerable firing and one would think to hear the noise that there was a general engagement going on.

But not, so. There has been a very few wounded. You may look for stirring news from this department soon. There will be a general engagement soon. Old Beauregard will have to fly back. I am mistaken; the letter that I got form Thomas a few days ago instead of from you. We are forty miles from Nashville. I have best of healty but am laboring under some difficulties tonight owing to some of our detachment capturing two bushel and a half of white beans. We

2.

can devour them without the need of Garrie Lorgue's mashing machines to prepare them for ladies' use. I shall expect to hear from some of you soon. We get our mail every day. No more at present.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT NASHVILLE- TENNESSEE

Dec, 3rd, 1864

Respected Brother:-

When I wrote home last wee were in camp on the north side of Duck river. the next morning our division the 2nd started with the artillery and baggage wagons for Frankli8n, distance 24 miles, but hen we got to Spring Hill, just half way we were attacked by a large force of cavalry and mounted infantry. General Stanley says we fought fifteen thousand. We fought them from eleven A.M. until 7 P.M. and they came nearly surrounding us. They drove us from every position we took. they charged our liens, mounted, and if I must tell the truth they got our infantry some what demoralized, expecially the new recruits, but we had plenty of artillery and a good chance to use it, and this was all that saved the wagon train of the 4th A.C. The rebels took some prisoners and most of our wounded but got no wagons or artillery.. All of this time the 23rd A.C. were fighting and holding them from crossing at Columbia. By might their advance was up at Spring Hill, and before day light the whole thing had left Spring Hill The 23rd A. C. got away with every thing but about sixty head of cattle. The rebels encamped within a few hundred yards of the pike inline of battle tow miles long and so close to the road that our men could see the men around their camp fires. At several times their was brisk firing between the rebel pickets and our column which was marching on the road. I near saw the rebels so bold in my life as they were here. We had one man killed. He was No.2 on the gun I am on. He was shot through the brain and died instantly. His name was Hazen Carlos. We had some timbers pile up in front of our gun or I do not double that all of us would have been killed or wounded. We got a good coffin in town and buried him. That night we fell back to Franklin. Our advance got there at day break when they commenced to fortify

While on the road that night the rebel cavalry made an attack on our train when about half way between Springfield and Franklin, capturing ten or fifteen wagons, killing the mules and burning the wagons, but getting away with nothing of any account. The way we retreated w s as follows: We were on a good pike wide enough for one column of baggage wagons and one artillery to march at the same time. the column of infantry was on one side of the road, the cavalry on the other,with the beef cattle. The rebels pressed us hard all day. Our rear got into Franklin about 3 P.M. and before they got in we could se the rebel cavalry driving our cavalry on the flanks. They immediately crossed a small river at this place. Our hospital train and plunder

2.

train immediately crossed and pushed on for Nashville. The ammunition trail followed across the river and it was not one hour before the enemy made their appearance in our front and they began to mose on our works in heavy lines of battle and their cavalry formed in their rear to charge on our lines should we get stampeded. then commenced one of the bloodiest fights than any of the army of the Cumberland every witnessed. They never threw out a skirmish line but advanced in a line of battle. They came up to our line of works,planted their colors on our center. The enemy got the works in the centr and held them for a few minutes, I think not to exceed two. They also held some of the batteies. The first Kentucky battery fired two shots after the enemy had passed their guns. The rebels carried off some of our amunition and robbed the men of their money. Some of the battery killed the rebels with their picks and axes. Some threw stones at them. But at this time our men got our broken lines rallied and charged back and took our line of works again and stuck to them. I saw more bravery and cowardice shown in this battle then I ever saw before. The right section of our battery was ordered to take a position in the center just s the chage commenced. Before we got to tour position the lines were broken,so we did not get into the place intended for us, but unlimbered a few rods to the rear of the main line. No battery could take a position here then. I had better tell you what Battery A did at this time and save you asking questions. Eery cannoeer left the guns and went back with the infantry, but the worst of it was they all forgot to rally and go back to the guns, or rather nearly all. I was the only one on our gun who went back. There were several No.1 men came back. My Lieut. went back to the sectionand I thought I could stand it fi he could. We fired two shots.Madison and I carried up an old stump and got behind it for safety. Our Capt was owounded butnt seriously. Fed Fairchild was wounded in the leg. We had several horses shot. Our artillery brigade, which has seven batteries, lost sixty-one men and nine killed. Our men took between two and three thousand prisoners, and a large number of officers. We got away with the greater portion of our wounded. I think the rebels made two charges on our left, four n the center and seven on the right. Some say they were drunk.

I think they must have been for I never saw such reckless charging in my life. The battle raged until 8 P.M. The night fighting was magnificent and beyond description. The most of our artillery belonging to our corps and the 23rd A. C. was on the lin lines and used up nearly all of their amunition.

3.

I saw volleys of artillery go into their columns and they never waved a stop, their officers riding in front with their sabers drawn as good commanders should. some even tried to leap over our works. After the enemy fell back from our lines some of our men went out in front of our works. They reported the ground almost covered with dead. The prisoners say they saw three of their Generals fall and several are wounded.

Our lines of battle was two miles long, in a half circle around the town, which is larger than Salem, OHh. Each flank rested on the river. You will hear of the noble work of the 104th. Ohio. I think they captured seven battle flags. I understand we captured seventeen flags in all. Tthe enemy had by far the largest force. I do not know of our army losing any thing of any account but one ambulance and one casion. Our rear guard fell back across the stream about three o'clock in the morning. They followed our rear guard close for nine miles to a small place called Brentonwood. It is nineteen miles from Franklin in to shville which the most of the troops made by 12 A.M. We lost a few taken prisoners, and some of our wounded fell into their hands I am certain our loss will not reach more than a few hundred in the dilled, wounded and prisoners. The papers estimate the rebel's loss between ten and fifteen thousand. I was the bloodiest affair that has happened since the war commenced General Stanley was wounded early in the the fight but did not leave the field. Savillua Stalls' brother was killed. Johnathan Yarian was in the fight but got out with a bullet hole in hi s knapsack. Benjamin and David are hearty. Ely got back yesterday. I saw Milt Whetstone. He is well. Hi is unwell. John was at work with a team on College Hill. The rebels came up within a fet miles of the City but from what I can learn are trying to go around in order to join the rebel forces in eastern Kentucky.

We have received reinforcements. The citizens are out at work on the fortifications. some are even armed. Considerable of excitement among the cits. but the City is perfectly safe. Hear firing yesterday in the direction of Murfreesboro. I got out without a scratch. perfectly quiet today. Our tro9ops have moved out about hour miles. I have good health but have a lame leg. Do not know what is the matter. No more at present.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Dec, 12- 1864.

Respected Sister:-

I received your welcome letter yesterday and also received one from Celestine over a week ago. It has been just twelve days I believe since we came here. The rebels have annoyed us but very little. They have built their works a good distance from ours so our artillery will not hurt them.

They have only fired a few shots. I presume they wrought they could siege us out of Nashville with muskets but they cannot come it. We have had some very cold weahter but not as cold as last New Years was. It did not thaw a bit yesterday. I heard today that General Millroy had whipped the rebels at Murfreesboro only a day or so ago. The report in camp is that the rebels are moving some where now. The prospects are that we are going to march tomorrow. I have just seen Robert Filson and the rest of the boys in the 65th. Ohio. They start home in a day or so. What little news we get from General Sherman is of encouraging character.

Van Nomer got back a few days ago all safe and sound. We have about two inches of snow here now.

Gertrude you must excuse me for not writing more at this time. It is so very cold we cannot do a very good job writing in our pup tents without any fire.

No more at present,

Your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

Dec, 16th, 1864.

Respected Father:-

I seat myself this evening to inform you of my where-a-bouts, as this day and yesterday will b days of long remembrance to every soldier of the army of the Cumberland. Our battery was relieved from the 4th. A.C. on the 14th. of this month, and took no part in the two days battle that has just gone on. We now belong to the reserve artillery and are very comfortably situation in the good barracks. This is the first good luck for Battery A. There has been something however of far greater importance going on for the last few days. We could see from various signs that Hood had better get away from Nashville or there would be trouble. So on the morning of the 15th, long before day break, troops were being moved from our left to our right. The ones moved were the 23rd. A. C. Our lines were in a half circle, both flanks resting on the river. Our outer line of works were nine miles long. The 16th.A.C. commanded by A.J.Smith, were on the extreme right; the 4th.A.C. next; the 23rd.A.C. on the left. But when the battle commenced the 23rd A.C. were moved to the right of the 4th.A.C. and the 16th. shoved farther to the right. Early yesterday morning several regiments of colored troops and some artillery attacked on the extreme left. this drew the rebels attention while our forces were masked on the right. About 8 A.M. the attack was made. We succeeded in taking their first line of works,the first charge. At the same time the 16th.A.C. with the aid of Gun Boats turned the rebel's extreme left and cut them loose from the river. As the rebels say "we went into them end ways" and soon got them out of their works. All day our men drove them to the left, or rather turned their left flank and by dark they had been driven from two to four miles taking two lines of works, capturing eighteen pieces of artillery with casioins and lumber, six hundred prisoners, and I think about twenty wagons, some loaded with amunition. All of their dead and some of their wounded fell into our hands. Our men used a great amount of artillery. I have never seen artillery used so freely as today and yesterday. The most of the battery fired by volleys. We had four pieces or more to the rebels one, and when they opened fire with the battery, we would turn three or four batteries on them and make them shut up. Some of their pieces had very horse killed. Our loss on the 15th. was light because artillery was used to such a great extent. I had the pleasure of looking on during this battle from our works.

2.

I could look four miles to our front. It all being lower ground than that of the City. I could very plainly see the line of battle and see the shells burst around the rebel batteries. It was tolerable quiet all night only the sharp skirmish kept up between the pickets. Our men got all of our wounded off the field, and at day light this morning our men attacked. During the night our troops were asked on our left and were not long in turning the rebel's right, so that at twelve noon today our line of battle ran nearly straight north and south, so we have them cut off from the Franklin Pike and they will have to retreat toward Johnsonville. The rumor is that Gen. Ruseau is moving from Murfreesboro with a force of cavalry and infantry in the direction of Franklin which he could reach as soon as Hood could.

There has been one constant roar of artillery all day. It is far ahead of any thing I have ever heard. Some of our boys have come from the front about the middle of the afternoon and they say our men were driving them and had taken three lines of works which they had put up last night. At dark this evening we could hardly hear the artillery so we have driven tm from four to six miles today. The news has just come in from the front that the Johnnies and our men made a charge oat the same time but before they came together the Johnnies broke and our men took from four to six thousand prisoners. Now the end of the tale is pretty big but one thing I do know our men have been driving them all day and I have seen several hundred prisoners brought in. I have not seen any of the fighting today but from reports our men are driving them from every position they took, and it was principally done with artillery so our loss cannot be heavy. The rebel lay dead all along the field yet.

Gen. Thomas had all of the Government employees armed and some of the citizens. About fifteen thousand in all there. Some of them were engaged in the fight. During the battle thousands of men, women and children crowded on hills and housetops to view the field. It commenced to rain today about three H.M. and it w will make it very difficult for either army to maneuver. The prisoners we took say they were nearly starved. Only had parched corn and fresh meat. Tthey are miserably clad. Almost naked to compare with the way our army is clothed. The privates have no kind of a tent and the officers are very poor specimens of officer's quarters. Wee took all of their camp equipage which was behind their first line of works, which amounted to nothing to our men. The prisoners all say their officers had all confidence that Hood was going to take the City in a few days. They say yesterday morning the news came that Gen. Shermans army had been whipped at Savannah, his army almost annihilated.

3.

and all that they had to do in the west was to take Nashville and the war would be over, in the west. We here different news from General Sherman, and Hood's army must be badly demoralized for we got over one half of their artillery yesterday. I have not heard of any of our men being taken, and without doubt our cavalry has been at work some where. I think tomorrow will end the fight. This is as near as I can come to the particulars of the fight up to this evening. There has always been some doubt as to the ability of Gen. Thomas to command the army of the Cumberland, but I think this will clear up all doubt. The last report is that there has already been over four thousand prisoners brought in.

Father, I can tell you this army feels different from what they did when they were falling back here. The question is where is Hood going to cross the Tennessee river, and how can he cross it if he could not cross the Cumberland, which I know he has tried several times and failed, so if General Thomas continues to drive them, how can they escape? I think this is going to be the greatest victory of the present year, but the joke with us is that Battery A has got into the reserve artillery for the first time, and there is no doubt but that we will stay here several months possibly a year. Captain Scovel was wounded at Franklin and has applied for a furlough. Capt. Goodspeed has been promoted to Major and has charge of all of the artillery in the 4th.A.C.

Now, Father you and the rest of our folks have often spoken about sending me a box of eatables, but I have always discouraged you in it. I would be very glad to get it now if you wish to send any thing. I should like some apple butter. It can be put up in cans, old oyster cans would be good. I guess a little butter would be the next article, and some cheese if you made any this summer. Dried fruit is light and in no danger of spoiling. I would not put in any green apples. I shall write soon and will tell you what I can learn of the great fight.

With my well wishes I remain,

Your affectionate Son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

Dec, 18th, 1864.

Dear Sister:-

I received your welcome letter yesterday. This is Sunday evening and all is quiet in our shanty. We are quartered in shanties 14 X 16, thirteen men in one shanty. We have been building a fire place today, and you can see from my writing that I have been at work. I must say that I have blistered my hands today for the first time for months. We are still getting good news from the front. The report is that our cavalry captured five hundred prisoners yesterday and that our men are in camp six miles south of Franklin. No doubt but that tonight they will occupy Columbia. Some of the boys said that Hy and Milt were here to say but I did not see them. If you send the box send it by Adams Express.

I have been in the habit of writing every week and oftener when there was something exciting going on. You must excuse the shortness of this letter for I have no news to write.

I will just say in the way of giving you a little understanding how we are putting on style. We have two tables. One a round center table and another kind. Writing is the principle business of the evening.

Your affectionate brother.

A. S. Bloomfield.