

For Dr

13.

[Redacted location] March. 14th 1863.

My dear Parents,

Upon my arrival here I sat down and penned you very hastily a few lines merely to let you know that I had safely evacuated the Valley and returned to my Regiment. Yesterday evening, your late letter of March 5th reached me, and upon perusing it, I found that in my haste I had forgotten to write on several matters that you desire to know. I recognized "K+++++t." Until the receipt of this letter, the first I had heard of you since Feb. 15th, my anxiety was very great as I did not know what course the Yankees would pursue towards you on my account. I am rejoiced to hear that you have received no maltreatment which I expected & feared. The only things lacking in the carpet bag were the Bible and Confederate cravat. I purchased a very nice pocket Bible the day before yesterday for five dols. [dollars], a great price, but my money was well spent & would have been otherwise thrown away on some trifle. On my arrival I was handed a new pair of socks and a Confederate cravat the presents of Mrs. Ann. Alexander of Greenbrier, accompanied by a kind note from Mr. Cyrus Larew. I will write them a note today thanking them. It is fortunate that you have not ordered the coat &c. [et cetera], as we will soon receive a large lot of Grey cloth from the Govt. [government] @ \$5 pr [per] yard. I purchased the trimmings braid, lining, binding &c. [et cetera] for it in Richmond. We have a very good tailor here in the Regiment who will make it for me. As to G's [George's] horse, I mean to pay him for it. It was unavoidable under the circumstances, as you know from the fact that you were so ~~much~~ [sic, crossed out] completely surprised. I think it unsafe for G. [George] to remain in L. now. If he is reported or informed on and arrested it may go very hard with him as he will tell you from what I learned in the Camp. The knife is the admiration of everyone, and I have been offered almost any amount for it a number of times. We expect the enemy here almost at any time now. Very strict orders have been issued, in regard to the pickets and guards, and we look for an alarm every night. It is reported that five regts. [regiments] of the enemy are mounting for the purpose of making a raid upon us and tearing up, and destroying the bridges on the ____ R.R. [railroad]. A scouting party of ten men and a Lt. [Lieutenant] were sent out this morning to scour the country for 15 miles below and this will be repeated everyday. My time will come in a day or two. We expect to be ordered on to a point about 36 miles farther and some other force to take our place. A flag of truce was sent up day before yesterday, it is supposed to find out the position of our Pickets, the condition of the roads and country and other information. They had suffered very much for want of forage, the horses not receiving anything to eat for three days. A bag of corn was sent out to them. My boot was very badly run down from the ____ wearing it. It is almost ruined. Lt. [Lieutenant] Larew & Peyton have gone over to Greenbrier. Upon my return I found that Peyton had left, scattering my blankets in every direction, and leaving a most desolate tent. I succeeded by bribing in getting a load of wood hauled & packed up in my tent. My next care is to get some straw for a bed. There is none in all the country around, and I am afraid that hard boards will be my fate. I bought up a lot of cooking utensils in R. skillets, a baker, fry pan, set of knives and forks, tin cups &c. [et cetera]. On my return I found a letter from Bro. [brother] James and my friend Moncure, also yrs. [yours] of Jany. by Mr. [sic, redacted] A++++ The first was dated Columbus - Jan. 4th. He was then on the point of moving to Montevallo, Ala, 60 miles N.E. [northeast] of Selma. He was elected Lt. Col. [Lieutenant Colonel] of a Battalion of men employed in his arsenal. Tina & the children are all well. Our 1st Lieut. [Lieutenant] has returned to duty. I am boarding for the present at Mr. Hall's. Goodbye – Kiss the children. Remember me to all my friends, particularly Cousins B+++++. I wrote yesterday to St. Bernard to Cousin Lou.

Your devoted Son, E. +. +++++.

[written at the top of the second page, with drawing of a finger pointing] Direct to Brudge at Montevallo, Ala.