Helena, Ark., July 30th, 1863.

My dear Sitty:

Your kind letter of July 11th and 12th was received today. I am glad to hear that you are as well as might be expected under the circumstances. You seem bound to lecture me for smoking. It is very little smoking that I do, so you will have to lecture without a subject. I care nothing about cigars, only once in a while when I'm lonely just to pass away the time.

It is cheering to me to learn that you begin to have some hope for the Union cause. For my part I am not more sanguine of success today than I was in the darkest hour since the commencement of this conspiracy against it.

I have always felt confident that the South would have to succeed sooner or later to the overwhelming forces of the North, or of the North rather.

Besides Providence will never suffer a rebellion to succeed, which has for its motive the propagation of so wicked a thing as slavery. I feel as sure...
of that as I do that I am a living being. I cannot say positively that
Eastern Thad did write that which you refer to but I know that somebody wrote it.
I have received at last the orders in
relation to my Court Martial at Columbus.
I enclose them to you. You will no-
tice that I am "honorably acquitted" which
leaves me in better standing than before.
Charges were preferred at all for an "honour-
able acquittal" upon a charge against one's
character, is the best kind of a recomme-
dation, and is so regarded among military
men.
Two hundred and forty of
the 3rd Regt. went out on a scout ye-
today. We went out eleven miles, fright-
ened a squad of guerrillas, gobbled about
100 nergues and as many miles, and re-
turned to Camp all safe and sound.
We are encamped on the bank of the
river, and about 11/2 miles below the town.
It is quite a pleasant spot, covered with
scattering timber. Yesterday about sundown
the steamer Samuel Hise passed up and land-
ed at the levee with an unarmed Regt.
which I at once suspected to be my
brothers kept returning home. Some-
tbody from town came into Camp and
said it was the 22nd Maine, so I posted off at once, and when I got there I found that it was the 21st Maine, and learned that the 22nd had passed up a day or two before. I remembered having seen his regiment when it went up, but did not mistrust that it was his regiment. You may as well believe that I was disappointed to learn that my brother had passed within twenty miles of me and I not see him at all. Well, such is life. Take good care of yourself. Give my love to all the folks. Ever your loving husband,

Madison