My Dear Landy,

You grumble so much at my short letters that I must try this afternoon to give you a long one, as if it were to be so long as to be true one you have your self to blame. I begin this letter was not yet having determined what I shall write about but as I proceed the plan will develop itself as the old writers say. In the first place I will have to remark on the extraordinary health we are common with the rest of the army are enjoying. In the midst of hard work with spared engine staff, night marches & night labors hot weather & that quiet we are in actually in better condition now than when we were at Fredericksburg through the winter nor a man from the Company in the hospital or account of sickness, and we are a fair sample of the whole of Sherman’s Army. Everybody remarks on the muddy roads & clear complacencies of the men their hearty appetites, jovial humor & everyone seems to feel as if with such an Army such leaders & such a Cause we must be successful.

(yesterday) was interrupted yesterday by orders to move Sherman and hitches up & left the woods in which we had stayed for 2 days to proceed a half mile to the near & go into part to rest a while & all other Batteries that have not been engaged yet go to the front in their turn. So we are now enjoying ourselves in the cool shade of our tarps. Our horses tied to the picket rope as in the old Garrison times & everybody busy at washing & mending their shirts & making the Campaigns ends in our Huntsville dinner breeches & reading, writing & cooking of choice dishes by the Epicerie.
Our coming to the front though did not add much to our security, for the Johnny's have got a good thing on this part of the line with their big guns. They have been shelling the woods in this vicinity regularly since the battle of the 23rd from thunder to town & one as a group of us were standing talking in the field last evening a hundred 54 Parrott percussion shell came along shrieking like mad stuck close to the 1st Carissone, ricocheted broke one of the wheels of the Carissone & exploded between the Ammunition Chests blowing up one of them & killing another so that the tow on top of the powder inside took fire, but which was quickly extinguished with a bucket of water from a cowl fire luckily near. There were 40 men within as many feet at the time of the explosion & several of us were within half that distance. 2 men being so close that the powder burnt their whiskers & yet no one was seriously hurt; one man being knocked down by splinters & some by the concussion. But the same thing might have happened 20 times without so many narrow escapes. The splinters of the Ammunition Chest & of the Macehet, which was also stove & filled with flinders flew all over around as one of the men with I was talking getting a nap with a small fragment that knocked him flat & some of the harness on rail near by was blown 30 yards. One of our Mule drivers close by the Carissone at the time of the explosion &Shwan was struck on the head by a splinter & the concussion so enraged him that he got up & ran over two miles, so fast that three of our fellows who started after him thinking he was "clean mention'd" had the greatest difficulty in catching him. He says this morning that all he want's now is to fight a duel with the man on the Rebel guns who pulled the lanyard that fired it. Our Mule Drivers are inclining - the only man we had wounded on the 22nd was the driver on the Battery wagon, do you see them as we much safety at the Sun as three days of long.
neady Artillery as anywhere on the rear, He may laugh about that accident yesterday but it is a mercy that the whole Camp was not filled with killed & wounded men, Genl Leggett en saying the place this morning said that we were a lucky set of Men & that I was better to be born lucky than rich.

So our fellows begin to think for we have had most wonderful escapes as you know.

I had a splendid view day before yesterday of the famous City of Atlanta with all its forts & defenses from the trip of a true rebel who I climbed with a field glass standing on the parapets of the big fort a mile & a half distant looking out towards where the clock of our steamships proclaims the approaching Yankees. Atlanta is a beautiful city, being spread out a large extent of rolling ground, the smaller houses being completely hidden by the shade trees that grow all through the streets.

The city is directly East of where I am now writing & is very nearly surrounded by our troops, the wings of the army being only about 2 miles apart, I think it is Sherman's plan to completely surround it & begin a regular siege. When I had the view of all the guns of improved range were busy throwing up a rude rifle fort to connect the forts so that it seems the last flank movement of the army of the Tennessee was a surprise to old Genl Brown & the rest of them.

I see in the account of our fight on the 22d published in the Louisville papers the most glaring mistakes in regard to the different Corps, any of you for fear you do not understand how Sherman's Army is organized I will tell you.

Sherman's Grand Army is composed of three corps of three departments of the Military Division of the Mississippi, commanded by the Departmental Commanders & all independent of each other acting under the supreme command of Genl Sherman. These armies are: The Army of the Cumberland, Genl Thomas, The Army of the Ohio Genl Schofield, then our own Army of the Tennessee before the 22d under Mr. Parsons then for awhile under Genl Logan is now commanded by Maj. Genl Howard. One of the best men in
Uncle Jim's Army. Now each of these armies is composed of Army corps -
the Army of the Cumberland of Stone - the 4th Corps of Kentucky (I do not
know who commands it now), the 14th Corps (Palmer) & the 21st Corps (Seeking).
The Army of the Ohio has only one Corps here - the 23rd & Johnfield
Commander is in person. The Army of the Tennmean has three Corps -
the 15th (Genl. Logan), 16th (Genl. Dodge) & the 17th (Genl. Blair).
Each of the Army Corps is composed of 2 or 4 Divisions & the Divisions
are subdivided into Brigades composed of their own Regiments.
The two Divisions of our Corps that are present (3rd & 4th) are command-
ed now by Genl. Legget & Genl. W. Smith respectively since our
Genl. Croghan was wounded on the 26th. Now you understand
how Sherman's Army is composed better than two thirds of the
army Correspondent here.

P.M. Your letter of the
24th is come to hand & I am greatly delighted with it. I you need
stirring up once in a while to move you from your usual
monotony of style you see I speak plainly as becomes a friend.
I think you must, if you must, appreciate this present. I have
sent you something already, about 6 dollars. I will explain
how I went out into the shade in the woods to write, took out my
pocket book & got a steel pen & laid it on the ground beside
me till I could want to return the pen, went to writing, got
interested, & almost do was called off presently to by the Capt
to inspect the Ammunition chest, put away the writing materials
& came off, leaving the pocket book containing 4 of the dollars
Father sent me I had paid a draft with the other one in the morning.
My Gold pen & a pencil. Of course when I missed it soon after
and went to look for it, it was gone! some of the men hurried nearest
up. I am not at all surprised I having it returned but if in God
will be a good lesson to me! You must not trouble sending any more
for it is said we are to be paid soon. Now as to yourself, I suppose
of your intention to enlist for but 2 years as that will let you out
When we come home but as to your preference for the Infantry, I
must tell you it is wrong, as I have known experience and as every
soldier does as this Army will tell you, there is no branch of the
service that will compare with the cavalry for desirability
or for opportunity to render during unsettled seasons. It will be a
life-long regret to you if you join any other. I think room would give
away the reason you should have patience till peace will home. Depend on yourself,
if we had not 165 men are only enrolled 5156 when the Snowballs
1st Jan.