

## Lucy Virginia French Diary

8 Sunday 16th Feb. Two weeks have passed since I have written upon these pages. During the first week the weather was either rainy or cold! I staid at home sewing & we had but few visitors. The war news was not inspiriting to us,\_\_\_ Fort Henry being taken, and the Federal gun-boats making a reconaissance as they call it, up Tennessee river. \_\_\_ The second week I spent mostly in company. On Sunday went to Church;\_\_\_ Monday evening took tea at Mrs Reads\_\_\_ Tuesday spent the day with Mrs Campbell, & took tea with a family party at Lou Spurlocks;\_\_\_ Wednesday had company to tea myself; (Mr Cap Spurlocks being home on a brief furlough seems to be the cause of all this supper-ing) \_\_\_ Thursday spent the day at Mrs Armstrongs, & went to see Grandma Lyon. This was a lovely day. News came in the evening that they were fighting hard at Fort Donelson, and that our troops were evacuating Bowling Green & falling back to the Tennessee line. Tennessee is now invaded, and every man will be called out to defend her soil. \_\_\_ Friday we spent at home. Saturday we intended to make calls but were prevented by weather being so cold. Quite a fall of snow occurred on Friday (Valentines) night\_\_\_ the second we have had this winter. It was about 2 inches deep\_\_\_ and is melting some to-day. The last nights news is that we have whipped the Federals badly at Fort Donelson notwithstanding their invulnerable gun-boats & overwhelming numbers.

9 I did some sewing during the week, and knit me a pretty Mariposa\_\_ white and pink.\_\_ Jessie has learned to crochet\_\_ she is knitting her a pair of gloves. She gets on very well with her music. Bouse is looking very finely\_\_ he is a handsome boy, with a manly spirit. He asked me last night to explain to him about the gun-boats of the Yankees. This morning they have said a long Bible lesson. We were all amused at Ting yesterday\_\_ she was reading us the muse as she calls it in the papers. Seeing the Eagle on the Banners heading she pointed to it saying with such roguishness one would have thought she quite intended the remark, See here cousin Mollie this is the thing the Yankees are bringing to peck us! Her reading about our men\_\_ and the Yankees, kept us in a roar of laughter. Once she read that the Yankees fell out of a wagon & busted their heads off\_\_ Jessie said That was a pity\_\_ Ting looked up in great surprise exclaiming\_\_ Why dere Yankees gal!\_\_ Yes, replied Jessie, and I think it was a pity. Ting turned to here cousin Mollie & with great contempt said\_\_ She thinks it a pity for the old Yankees! She evidently thought Jessie a Lincolnite and as such regard her with astonishment, & disgust. Dear little children! They are as full of fun & frolic as ever\_\_ they know nothing of the dread realities of this horrid Yankee war! And god be praised they do not \_\_ they are all sunshine

10 Feb 22nd Saturday. I cannot remember that I have ever experienced a more gloomy week than that which is just past. On Sunday evening last, when we were confident of victory at Fort Donelson, the news came that we were at last completely overpowered\_\_ that hundreds were killed & thousands made prisoner\_\_ that Nashville had surrendered unconditionally\_\_ the Federals having taken possession, & that our Bowling Green army had fallen back to Murfreesboro! A deeper shock I never felt,\_\_ I gave up the Confederacy as lost. All this week we have been in a state of the utmost anxiety & suspense\_\_ not a mail has reached us from any point and we are dependent altogether upon rumors,\_\_ of which there are a thousand & all conflicting. Today it seems settled that we met with a disastrous defeat in the end at Donelson by the enemys overpowering numbers surrounding our men, who fought bravely & well. Gens. Floyd & Pillow escaped with some of the troops\_\_ but Buckner is a prisoner. It is now contradicted that Nashville surrendered, & sent a boat with a flag of truce down the Cumberland to meet the enemy & give up the city (!) as was at first reported\_\_ but it is certain that our troops from Bowling Green have fallen back to Murfreesboro and they have burnt the bridges, steamboats etc. at Nashville and not a Yankee near them! Oh! it is disgraceful! Gov. Harris who rode round town alarming the citizens\_\_ who said to Ewing\_\_ Every

man must now take care of himself; I am going to take care of myself\_\_ fled \_\_ but seeing his mistake has now it is said returned,\_\_ saying he is going to fight to the death & that he only ran off to carry away the archives of the State! Well, any excuse I suppose is better than none, but the fact is that he & Gen. A. S. Johnson have disgraced themselves & Tennessee by their inefficiency & cowardice. A rumor has been heard that our army would fall back to Chattanooga! I think they had better if Johnson is to command them, fall down into the Gulf of Mexico at once, and be done with it.\_\_ To add to our gloomy feelings the weather has been raw, and rains pouring continually. I never have seen our little river so high & turbid. Today has been a continuous pour of sheets of rain, with high, boisterous winds\_\_ not a gleam of sunshine except as the sun sank\_\_ for a few minutes he left a parting light upon the hills. This is the anniversary of the birth of our Great Washington & set apart for the inauguration of Jefferson Davis whom some style the second Washington. Will he prove himself such? That remains yet to be seen. If this day is to be ominous of our political future, it will be gloomy indeed. I have been sick all day with one of my dreadful headaches which added to other dark clouds around me to make me desponding. Still, I confess I have much to be thankful for,\_\_ my children are well\_\_ my husband is still with us\_\_ may God preserve us thus in peace at

12 Sunday March 2nd. Another week of suspense, gloom & oppression has passed over us. The weather has been mostly spring-like, and the birds are beginning to be singing everywhere. I should have gone to church to-day notwithstanding the high wind, but Mrs Spurlock has our buggy\_\_ (she went down to Murfreesboro to see her husband who is in the army & sick,)\_ and I did not feel well enough to walk. During the past week the Federals have taken possession of Nashville. Gen. Buell it is said made a speech to the citizens, in which he told them to go on with all their accustomed business\_\_ that he was there, not to molest, but to protect them! etc. etc. \_\_ we shall [see] how this will be. Our forces are falling back from Murfreesboro. Harris has called out the militia, & every man is obliged to go. While I was instructing the children in their Sundays lesson this morning\_\_ a messenger came for cousin John to come to town to attend to some meeting of the men. In this meeting it was resolved that no organization could go on here, now, as we are all under Lincoln rule, and his army is so near us. It is quite uncertain what will be done.\_\_ We were all very much surprised this evening at cousin Jimmies arrival. He is not well & does not look well, \_\_ but has raised a cavalry company for the war. I dont think he will be able to remain long in the army. \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ Wednesday. Mollie and Jimmie left this morning on the train for Mississippi. I was sorry to see Mollie go and yet I was glad or rather I was satisfied, for it is better for her. She will not feel the privations & hardships of these trying times half so much there as here. ?

13 I received a letter from Lide night before last\_\_ all was in status quo with them. Mollie & Jimmie will stay a day with her as they go down. Sunday 9th March. The past week has been one of very cold & disagreeable weather\_\_ on Wednesday & Thursday especially\_\_ we had snow, etc. Yesterday it was clear & the weather moderated\_\_ today is a very pretty day. We went to the Baptist Church to hear Bro. Powell\_\_ after church was over I called in at Grandma Lyons\_\_ met there Grandma Cain, Josie Warder, & several other friends\_\_ they all appeared very glad to see me.\_\_ We have had no war news of interest during the past week. We are now in Yankee Land\_\_ as Grandma Lyon mentioned today. Why dear she said, I havent shaken hands with you since we all got into Lincolndom!\_\_ Things seem to be quiet here\_\_ how long they will continue so, we cannot tell. Report says that goods, salt, coffee etc. which are so scarce & dear here, are plenty in Nashville\_\_ as they have opened the blockade and have connection with Louisville and Cincinnati. How true it is we do not know. I have been confined closely at home since Molly left\_\_ sewing most of the time. I have read Mount Vernon & its Associations\_\_ in our ^ present revolution it seems to cheer me to read the history of our former one. Both were dark days\_\_ may we be enabled now as then to trust in God & hold out to the end!

< Spirit of the Nashville Ladies. So long as the ladies of Nashville exhibit the spirit indicated by the two following incidents, which were procured from an entirely reliable source, we can never despair: When Gen. McCook, of the Lincoln army, arrived in Nashville, he sent up his card with the request that he might renew his former acquaintance with Miss S. McNairy. The following was the patriotic reply of the noble and accomplished lady, written upon the back of the card: Sir: I do not desire to renew any acquaintance with the invaders of my State! Two other Hessian officers obtruded their presence into the parlor of Dr. Martin, and sent up their cards to his daughter, Miss Bettie Martin, an elegant and accomplished young lady, requesting also the renewal of an old acquaintanceship. Repairing to the parlor, with a look of ineffable scorn and contempt, she dashed the cards into the faces and said: Your absence, Sirs, will be much better company to me than your presence. Tennesseans, are you not proud of your women? Will not these noble responses nerve your arms in the hour of battle?--- Knoxville Register.> of Tableaux for the benefit of the sick soldiers. \_\_ In one called The Confederate Tableaux \_\_ she represented Liberty. A good story is told of a Tenn. girl & Gov. Harris when the Gov. got up his Hegria he had a special train to carry his high mightiness \_\_ a young lady the daughter of a clergyman residing some 25 miles from Nashville was going home & came on the Govs. train not knowing that it was sacred and special. The gallant Gov. ordered her to be put off instantly. Sir said she to the occupant of the special \_\_ the illustrious example of telegraphic getting \_\_ Sir, six men such as you are could not put me off this train. \_\_ Im going home. and go she did. Oh! Isham! Gallant, chivalrous, courageous and swift on the run Isham \_\_ we are yours in haste. Some one at John Spurlocks asked last night, Where is Harris now anyhow? Brown said we hadnt yet been able to get a train swift enough to catch up with him and find out where he was. Sunday march 30th This is one of the very loveliest of spring days. \_\_ the birds are holding a Carnival, and everything is budding into bloom. The peach trees are in full blossom \_\_ and a faint green begins to tinge the poplars. I set out my verbenas a day or two since, and we have commenced gardening. Home scenes are all we can attend to now, as we are perfectly isolated \_\_ cut off from all communications with either North or South. On Sunday last our mail stopped \_\_ The train being taken off to prevent its falling into the hands of the Yankees. On Wednesday evening last, 28th a large cavalry force of Federals came up to McMinnville from Shelbyville to take the train \_\_ but found nothing \_\_ they then passed on in the direction of Manchester. I was sitting in the parlor with Mrs Armstrong, when I saw an armed force coming up the road \_\_ we knew they were the Yankees, but

17 all went out on the portico to look at them. Miss Bettie Reid, Sophy Searcy, & Mr Purvis were here last evening. Today Darlin and myself went to church. It was very warm\_\_ Thertr. being 78\_\_ at home, in the dining-room. No fires\_\_ windows & doors all open.\_\_ During the past week Puss & I have been sewing and cleaning up.\_\_ Martha has been at work in the yard. I feel as though I had no outside business to trouble my brain\_\_ I think only of my domestic affairs,\_\_ my children\_\_ flowers\_\_ & chickens. Wednesday 2nd April.\_\_ This is Jessies birthday\_\_ she is 7. Im sure a smarter little Cutty never passed her seventh anniversary. She reads, spells, says speeches, crotchets, and plays & sings several songs on the piano. Today I set out a beautiful tree, a weeping cypress, rare and lovely, and called it by name.\_\_ Yesterday as I sat sewing by the front window I looked up & saw the road thronged with soldiers\_\_ Yankees. They looked down at the house so much that I feared some of them would call upon us, but it not being feeding-time they went on. There were 138 of them\_\_ cavalry. They did not tarry long in town\_\_ going on in the same direction the others went. We are blockaded now most effectually\_\_ we can get out no way but by going over the mountains to Chattanooga\_\_ No mails ever reach us, & we dont know anything of what the outside world is doing. Sunday April 6th \_\_ Beautiful day\_\_ we went to Bro. McMurrays church. Had an opportunity of writing to Lide & Mollie\_\_ sending the letters by Lieut. Smartt who is rejoining his regiment in S. Carolina, to Chattanooga\_\_ when they will be mailed\_\_ Learned today that there are 500 Confederates encamped by Mr Martins\_\_ midway between this and Bersheba. They say a Federal spy left town this morning\_\_ to warn the Yankees, I presume.\_\_ In the afternoon I went with the children to the river\_\_ they found white yellow & blue violets & were greatly delighted. I was too

19 Sunday 20th April This is a rainy day & I cannot go to church. I stay at home reading Carlyle. This week has passed quietly enough. On Monday night a nephew of Mr Hy. Smiths staid with us he brought papers containing an account of the battle at Corinth, or rather Pittsburg Landing but they are all Federal papers Andy Johnson will allow nothing favorable to the South to be published in Nashville. The Patriot office has been confiscated because its editors would not give in to Andys despotism. On Tuesday the Col. took Mr Smith to Altamont, he staid all night with Mr Armfield & came home on Wednesday. On the way he met Mrs Armfield, returning from Nashville she said that reports came in favorable to our side in regards to the Pittsburgh fight, but all such news was suppressed. The Federals claim a great victory the Confederates do also so we dont know how it is. On Friday I had a letter from Lide written on the 7th the day of the battle. She had not heard of it but said all Memphis was holding its breath with expectations. I sent on Friday a letter to the dear old folks sent it open to Nashville so that the Federal pickets might read it if they felt so disposed, and Eddy Campbell is to mail it at Nashville. I also wrote to Lide by Brown Spurlock who is going to Chattanooga. The Federals are in possession of Huntsville & the R. R. as far as Stevenson. Savages Regiment has gone to Corinth.

20 Sunday 27th April. This has been a most lovely day\_\_ we went to Church\_\_ taking little Jessie with us. The past week has been very quiet\_\_ we have had a few visitors. I have finished all the childrens summer sewing\_\_ and my yard is nearly all arranged for the season. I attend diligently to the childrens lessons, speeches, music, etc. and have time also to play with them, read them stories\_\_ take walks after flowers\_\_ go fishing, etc. with them. They are all in fine health, for which I am truly grateful. This week has been so quiet that its record must necessarily be short. The woods and mountains look charming\_\_ they are quite green\_\_ and everything seems fresh & full of life and beauty. \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

Sunday May 4th The past week has been almost as quiet as the one preceding it. No news of any reliability has reached us except that the Federal gun-boats were before N. Orleans\_\_ but their bombardment of the city was protested against by the English & French ministers. I never could have imagined it possible for one to live in the midst of a revolution & know so little of the real manner in which it is conducted; we feel the effects of war\_\_ yet we see but little of its modus operandi. Last week I had my house cleaned from top to bottom, the yard also is all cleaned & arranged for the summer, & everything looks delightfully fresh and smiling. On Thursday (May Day) evening we took a second boatripe on the river with some young friends\_\_ it was exceedingly pleasant.\_\_ Today we went to Church\_\_ I took Ting\_\_ the little thing grew very weary before meeting was over, and says she had rather go to Grandma Cains than to church any more.\_\_ On Tuesday Grandma Cain, Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Reed, & Mrs Campbell spent the day with me. They took me quite by surprise, but we had a pleasant day nevertheless.\_\_ \_\_

21 Sunday May 11th \_\_There is news this week of a great & bloody battle being fought at Corinth\_\_ which side gained the victory we have not heard. There is also a rumor that the Confederates have evacuated Yorktown, & fallen back within 12 miles of Richmond. Morgan & his men were surprised at Lebanon a few days ago by a Federal force from Nashville\_\_ and dispersed\_\_ Morgan himself & most of the men escaped, & we learn are rallying again.\_\_ On Tuesday evening last I took my first horseback ride this spring\_\_ we went to Mrs Cains. On Wednesday evening we had a party of young ladies & gentlemen to tea & then we all went boating on the river, by moonlight. It was very delightful. Thursday evening I rode out again\_\_ Friday I was unwell & in bed all day\_\_ Mary Armstrong was here & spent the day and Mrs. Spurlock, Julia & Florena, came down in the evening and went boating with the Col. Saturday I was in bed most of the day, & today I am not at Church. Walter went with his Pa.\_\_ it being his day to go. When he was ready to go, I thought him the finest looking boy I ever saw.\_\_ \_\_ Sunday May 18th Monday of this past week the 12th was little Walters birthday\_\_ he was 8 years old. When he was six months old I laid aside a book as the commencement of a little library for him to be given him on the day he completed the 8th year. That day has come and passed\_\_ but I did not present him the books.\_\_ the times are such I could make no party, or little fete for him, and I shall postpone giving him the library until he is 10\_\_ perhaps 12. How little, when I made the resolution to collect the books for him did I imagine the state of our whole country would be

22 in when he came to be eight years of age. But so it is\_\_ and I may perhaps never see the day he is 12\_\_ or he may never see it.\_\_ During the past week I have had the children with me all the time\_\_ deciding that they must not on any account make associates of the negros. I put Martha to working out\_\_ I teach them constantly\_\_ something \_\_ devoting myself to them exclusively. It is hard work\_\_ very confining\_\_ sometimes making me exceedingly nervous\_\_ but it is my duty and that is sufficient\_\_ it must be done, if I wear out with the constant friction.\_\_ A few days since I was gladdened by a good letter from dear Auntie in reply to mine. They were all well, and going on as usual. How I love them\_\_ and then not to have heard a word from them for nearly a year!\_\_ I wrote last night to Lide endorsing Aunties letter, and I wrote to Mollie also\_\_ having an opportunity to send the letters to Chattanooga for mailing.\_\_ On Monday evening of last week I went to see Mrs. Richardson who has just returned from Texas,\_\_ taking the children with me. That was the only visit I paid\_\_ the only time I went out during the week. I have been sewing, reading, and teaching all the time.\_\_ The Federal army continues to encroach upon the Confederate limits. Norfolk is taken, the famous Merrimac or Virginia blown up by the Confederates\_\_ Lincoln I am told has opened the blockade by proclamation\_\_ but I have not seen the document. He considers the rebellion crushed. Beauregard has ordered the destruction of cotton, sugar, & molasses, etc. it is being done. A convention met at Nashville on the 12th resolving on the restoration of Tenn. to the U.S.\_\_ John Morgan with 200 men made a raid into Ky. on the 11th destroying cars, trains, etc. & securing some 8 or 10 thousand dollars in money. \_\_ \_\_

26 Sunday 15th June. I venture to write a little in this brief journal though I may have to burn it ere long as a perfect reign of terror is upon us. On Thursday last the 12th a force of between 4 & 5 thousand Federals, passed us, going into McMinnville hunting Starns they said. There were 8 regiments a large body of cavalry & 10 or 12 pieces of artillery. The train occupied about 4 hours in passing. The first I knew of their approach Martha came running up stairs where I was hearing the childrens lessons exclaiming The Yankees are coming up the road! I looked out & saw four or five horsemen at the gate in a moment they were up to the house. I ran down stairs, and saw that they were taking our favorite horse, Black Cloud, Darlin was in town what could I do? I did nothing I said not a word they were the roughest kind of men, and I did not know how to address them. I was angry and excited & feared I should not say the right thing So I forced myself to silence. I was the more enraged too because of the lamenting & crying of the children & servants over the loss of the horse. I knew however that Darlin was in town that everybody knew his fine horses, and that he could not fail to see the animal, & would get him back if he could. Throughout the day the troops came from the road to get something to eat they were very respectful to me when they saw me, but a squad of them who sent a stolen negro down after dinner for

27 them sent word to send their dinner, or they would come & take it whether or not. I sent a quantity of bread, meat & vegetables\_\_ which they took & sent the boy back a second time saying that was not half enough. I forwarded \_\_ or at least told the servants to send them a second supply. Two of those who came to the house offered to pay\_\_ but I would not receive it\_\_ I would not allow the negros who brought them the victuals to receive it either. While they were eating however I generally gave them a piece of my mind. Mrs. Poyser like. They did not seem to get angry\_\_ acknowledged that I was telling them the truth\_\_ and thanked me for their dinners!! Oh! how angry and embittered I felt that day (as I often have before,) to see what trouble this vile thing, Secession, had brought upon us! One of the men told me that the South had brought this army with its consequent troubles upon herself. I said If you know anything at all\_\_ you know very well that Tennessee never brought this upon us. \_\_ She stood firm for the Union that she loved until Lincolns war proclamaation, drove her into exile & rebellion\_\_ and now here you are with your armies to drive her back again I suppose. He sighed\_\_ for he seemed very weary\_\_ and said he wished to heaven it could be ended\_\_ he wanted to go home. He looked worn, as there was home sickness in his voice as he said it, & I did pity him. I knew that he was the enemy of the South\_\_ that he stood before me an enemy

28 but I felt sorry for him, & it did me good to see him drink the cool milk (which Martha brought him)\_\_\_ with an evident relish.\_\_\_ In the evening more cavalry came, rode round the stables etc. hunting horses, they found none, & went away without molesting anything but the chickens. Late in the evening, (as soon as he could get out of town.) Darlin came home\_\_\_ he was as calm as a summer morning\_\_\_ I really wondered at him. He brought Messrs. Barton & Thompson from below Woodbury to stay the night. Next day those gentlemen got the negros they came to reclaim, and Darlin got his horse\_\_\_ it was taken by Pennsylvanians\_\_\_ 7th Reg. The children had a perfect jubilee when their Pa returned with the horse, & Cooper showed his ivory to admiration. Next morning (Saturday,) the troops all left town\_\_\_ going on in the direction of Pikeville\_\_\_ a squad of 8 or 10 returning to Murfreesboro came here for horses to carry them or their sick they said. Darlin told those who came to the house that they could not have Black\_\_\_ he had just been returned\_\_\_ but he gave them a broken down horse that had been left by the Pennsylvanians when they took Black. Mr Duke prevented two of this same crowd that morning from breaking down the stable door & taking the horse again.\_\_\_ This evening I drove into town with Darlin to see Mrs Read, who is

29 sick\_\_ and we also called a little while on Mrs. Armstrong. I feel for her\_\_ she and I are such good friends, and have been so, for so long. Gen. Dumont made her house his head-quarters\_\_ and her husband goes with the army. (Federal.) Sunday June 22nd The reconnaissance in force which we had thought were moving on to Chattanooga\_\_ went only 38 miles across in the direction of Pikeville, & then returned. I presume they were in reality hunting Starns\_\_ it is said they heard he was up here in the mountains somewhere fortifying\_\_ and they came to dislodge him. They pressed everybodys horses, mules, wagons etc. to carry them on,\_\_ some of which were returned to the owners\_\_ others were not. They tore up everything at Mr. Bettys\_\_ broke all the furniture\_\_ ruined the garden & even tore to pieces Mrs. Bs clothing. They searched our neighbor Spurlocks house 3 times\_\_ took all their meat, and Mrs. Ss jewelry. They broke into the groceries & literally rifled them\_\_ (a very good thing by the way.) On Tuesday evening the long train passed again\_\_ going back to Murfreesboro, & Shelbyville. Some of them came for corn on Monday night, & while Darlin was giving them the corn, they stole a bridle & Cooper curry-comb & horse brush. On Wednesday morning Willie French came down to tell us they took Bob Halton about midnight the night previous. Darlin was advised by his friends to go on after the horse & he left for Woodbury about 11 oclock. On Thursday I had a note from him, by Mr. B. Spurlock saying that he would go on to Murfreesboro, & from

30 thence to Wartrace or Shelbyville. On yesterday Friday Mary Armstrong was here and gave me a full account of the raising of the old flag in our town on Tuesday before the troops left. She\_\_ her mother, & sisters & aunt, and the Misses Clift & their mother were all the ladies present. The officers made speeches & the ladies sent them bouquets & compliments in the usual orthodox manner.\_\_ This week with its excitements has broken in considerably on the childrens lessons. I do not intend that it shall be so again\_\_ if I can possibly avoid it. Everything goes on as usual now\_\_ the negros work on in their common way\_\_ and I think this inroad of the Yankees has done good in one respect at least\_\_ it has shown the negros very plainly that the war has not been made on purpose to free them. They have found too from those who have tried Yankee masters & life in the army, that such a life is not exactly the state of perfect beatitude which it has been represented to be.\_\_ Darlin arrived at home about 10 oclock last night\_\_ very tired. He had been to Woodbury\_\_ Murfreesboro & Wartrace. Dr. Armstrong accompanied him\_\_ he got Bob Hatton and brought him up to Mr. Bartons. He says he was very courteously treated by the Federal officers. I was so glad to have him at home again\_\_ not that I felt afraid during his absence\_\_ but anxious I certainly was.\_\_ This is a lovely day but warm. Everything is very dry, for we have had no rain for 3 weeks past, and my

31 flowers and the garden begin to show the effects of it. This morning I went up on the hill with the children after blackberries\_\_ the first of the season. The road was dusty\_\_ & as Jessie walked through it she asked Ma did God make us all out of this kind of dust? On Friday I happened to ask Puss what day of the week it was? Why mamma said Jessie, as if in great surprise aint you a big enough girl to know what day it is? She evidently thought that knowledge a question of age & inches only.\_\_ I have not been to church for several Sabbaths\_\_ thinking it best for us to remain at home in these unsettled times. Next week I must try to have some sewing done\_\_ as well as the childrens lessons attended to punctually & thoroughly.\_\_ Sunday 29th June. The past week has been one of complete quiet. Our isolated position is assailed by rumors of battles near Richmond\_\_ reports that that city has succumbed\_\_ or the reverse\_\_ and tales are rife of the invasion of E. Tenn.\_\_ the attack upon Chattanooga etc. yet nothing is certain. We see by a Louisville paper that the Miss. & Tenn. R. Road has been torn up\_\_ Niles road & only finished last winter. How will Lide like this move of the Confederacy?\_\_ I have been sewing & reading this week\_\_ and have attended rigorously to the childrens lessons. I have been out but once & that was on yesterday evening when I rode in to see Mrs Armstrong for a little while. The times are so very feverish, & community so split to pieces\_\_ that home seems to me the best place for a quiet woman.

32 Sunday 6th July. X\_\_ Today I am in bed\_\_ quiet unwell. During the past week I have as usual been reading, sewing & teaching the children, who improve every day. Darlin and myself have been taking very pleasant moonlight rides also. We rode last evening. On Friday we had a letter from Mollie\_\_ the second received since her absence. She is well\_\_ & extremely Southern. Jimmy is at Vicksburg with his regiment\_\_ they seem determined to hold that point. This week we have had good news from Ark. Carolina, and Va. The Federal army under McClelland has met with defeat before Richmond\_\_ the fight commenced on Thursday week when the Yankees were driven from their intrenchments & thousands were made prisoners. Our latest news reports that they were still fighting\_\_ The Yankees endeavoring to reach their transports & our men pursuing them through the swamp. This is all very well so far\_\_ but Ill bet they gain in the end. They will be reinforced\_\_ and then fresh troops will do the work. So it was at Donelson\_\_ so it was at Shiloh. They are legion and I greatly fear the result will not be a complete victory on our part at last. God help us if it is not: We understand that there is a large cavalry force at Altamont (Forests) coming across to march on Nashville. Gen. Hardee is said to be marching on that cit with 40,000 men. We know not how true is the rumor\_\_ one hears anything & everything in these times.\_\_ Darlin brings the news this

33 evening that McClellans army is totally defeated cut off from reinforcements & from their gunboats, and fifty thousand of them killed and prisoners, also that France and England have recognized our independence. I trust this is so\_\_ yet I cannot but doubt it. Time will show. I greatly fear that this pleasing prospect will prove a delusion fading away, as others have so often done before. It seems to me quite too good to be true.\_\_ I received this evening also a letter from our dear Auntie Martha\_\_ kind and cordial as ever. She tells us she heard from Lide\_\_ that Lide has a baby nearly two months old\_\_ it does seem so strange that we should hear this from Auntie first. The dear old folks are well thanks be to the Good Giver of good for their welfare and peace. Sunday 13th July.\_\_ At breakfast this morning the servants reported cannonading in the direction of Murfreesboro\_\_ and sure enough it was so\_\_ we all heard it very distinctly\_\_ it continued I should think from an hour to an hour & a half. A large cavalry force passed here yesterday about 4 oclock in the evening\_\_ destined I suppose for Murfreesboro. They would I presume reach there this morning & we surmise that an engagement took place as soon as they reached that place. If the men who passed here were the only troops sent to take Murfreesboro\_\_ our men are whipped\_\_ sure \_\_ but if other forces rendezvoused there, (as the servants report the soldiers to have said they were going to do.) then it may be well for our cause. The Texas Rangers were in front\_\_ one of them stopped with us a while\_\_ D. Hardeman, whom we

34 became acquainted with under very pleasant circumstances at Bowling Green last October. Gov. Harris was with this force a day or two ago here, but is said to have gone on by way of Manchester. I am all anxiety to hear some news from below\_\_ yet I tremble for the result. I look for Mrs Armstrong up this evening or tomorrow\_\_ she went down to notify her husband to remain away lest he should be killed. She was in very great distress\_\_ she could find no one willing to remain at night with her family\_\_ when Darlin said he would stay, & he has staid with them for four nights past. The weather is beautiful\_\_ but warm: we have had fine rains during the past week however\_\_ and vegetation looks very lovely.\_\_ Thursday 17th July\_\_ it is all over\_\_ & a glorious victory remains with the South! All day Sunday we were fearfully anxious as to the result\_\_ in the afternoon I became very uneasy indeed. I expected every moment to see flying fugitives come panting in on jaded horses\_\_ and I watched the road narrowly, (as well as I could for the intervening trees.) About dark I saw two men ride past\_\_ then two more\_\_ then a squad of some 15 or 20\_\_ looking very tired as I thought\_\_ Ah! I said to myself\_\_ here they come. I feared it would be so! Presently I heard a great fuss up on the road and told Cooper to run up to the white gate & ask the news. He bolted off, but soon returned\_\_ saying the men said we had had a victory\_\_ taken lots of prisoners\_\_ & these mules. I was incredulous

35 it seemed to me I could not believe our good fortune. But Cooper said they had the mules sure enough, so I began to give way to hope\_\_ a little. Directly here comes Andrew from Mrs Spurlocks to borrow meal to make supper for some soldiers. His information was that a victory had been gained sure enough\_\_ that a company of men had just gone on to town with Gen. Crittenden & his staff as prisoners\_\_ that more were coming\_\_ etc. And in a short time 13 wagons filled with the blue bellies, (as the boys call them.) came along. Squads were coming in all night with horses, prisoners etc. When Darlin came home from town, at a late hour, he confirmed the joyful intelligence\_\_ a complete victory had been gained! On Monday the excitement ran high among us. Men came in during the day confirming former reports & the news grew better & better. In the evening the whole train was expected in & Darlin & I rode into town on horseback to see them make the grand entre. But we saw only a small detachment, bringing in some officers as prisoners. The great body of the train did not commence to come in until about dark, we were then up at Col. Spurlocks. Scores of the men stopped there for water\_\_ the poor fellows were wearied down as well as their horses. They had gone since Saturday without food or sleep. Many of them if they had to stop & wait awhile for anything\_\_ threw themselves off their horses on the ground, & in a moment were asleep. It was 12 oclock when we got home after the train had passed. By the moonlight we saw it all pretty well, except the first column of prisoners who passed before the moon rose out of her

36 eastern clouds. They had about 1400 prisoners\_\_ 4 cannon & caissons\_\_ large lots of mules & horses\_\_ & a great many fine wagons filled with arms, prisoners & so forth. One of the Rangers showed us a flag he had taken. We took it into the parlor where a wounded soldier was sleeping & examined it. It was a beautiful banner, elegantly make of the finest silk, & embroidered\_\_ belonged to the 9th Michigan Infantry\_\_ presented to the commander Col. Wm. Duffield, by the ladies of Detroit. I shall never forget the scene which passed before us upon this evening. Did I ever think to see the old stars & stripes, a captive banner & not weep over it? I felt badly to see it thus I confess\_\_ it was the old flag I had loved so long. But was I sorry to see the men who had treated us all so badly a few weeks before, brought up again as prisoners\_\_ no \_\_ you may be sure I didnt weep over that! Well here they were \_\_ and here were their conquerors. From them we learned the story of the fight tho most of it had been told me by one of the Rangers in the afternoon, who came down to get some water for a wounded comrade. His name was Phelps, \_\_ I asked him about all the Rangers I knew, he said Hardeman was unhurt. While we were up at Mrs Spurlocks many of the soldiers came to our house for supper\_\_ among them a Mr. Bates, whom we had met at B. Green. Puss entertained them all\_\_ some staid all night & to breakfast next morning. We did not get home until midnight\_\_ and I went to bed very tired indeed.

37 Next morning D. Hardeman & one of his comrades came out to see us, & get some breakfast. They told me all about the fight. It was a complete surprise\_\_ they took the pickets, dashed into town & charged the camp before the Yankees knew they were there. The ladies were perfectly wild with excitement\_\_ cheering on the men, and showering God bless you\_\_ and they could not be kept out of the streets tho the bullets were flying in every direction. The boys said that it had a bad effect on them\_\_ the ladies excited them so much that they didnt know half the time what they were doing, & fired at random. They charged the Yankee camp however & took it\_\_ burning all the tents etc. The cannonading which we heard was the Yankees shelling their own camp, to drive our men out of it. Soon they took this battery\_\_ then charged the Court House which was full of Yankees & took it\_\_ but it was here they lost most of the men\_\_ the enemy having so great an advantage behind their stout brick walls. They burnt an immense amount of commissary stores\_\_ clothing etc. tore up the R. R. killed & wounded some 150 of the enemy, made the remainder prisoners & came off again as soon as they could. The Provost-Marshal whom they made prisoner had rendered himself so odious to the citizens that the ladies wanted the soldiers to shoot him then & there\_\_ & show him no mercy whatever. The soldiers however were very kind to the prisoners, they would not even eat provisions which our citizens had provided for them, until the prisoners were served. On

38 Tuesday night about bed-time 1320 of the prisoners being paroled, passed here on their return to Murfreesboro. They seemed very jolly\_\_ chattering & singing as they passed. There was a fine band among them belonging to a Minnesota Regiment. Their instruments & all arms which they claimed as private property our men returned to them. Indeed our gallant fellows behaved all through this like true knights\_\_ they were so gentlemanly & quiet too among the citizens\_\_ showing such a marked difference between themselves and the Yankees who visited us only a short time previous. They brought Dr. Armstrong up with them, a prisoner. The excitement ran high against him here, and some of the soldiers were a great deal exasperated\_\_ the citizens however, (among the first of whom was The Col.) got up a petition in his favor signed by all our best men which was presented to Gen. Forest, who generously released Armstrong & allowed him to return to his family upon his promising to keep quiet & behave himself in future. Forest said he would hold any Southern soldier responsible if they molested him. There are indications it is said that A. is turning over fast, and will go into the Southern army as a surgeon. I cannot but smile at times when I see how peoples opinions vacillate in times like these. I use to think Vox populi vox Die was a truth \_\_ I smile now to remember I ever thought so. The popular voice is the winds voice;\_\_ but enough.\_\_

39 Two days since I had a letter from Lide\_\_ it came through by way of Nashville. They are all well & doing well she says, tho the Feds have the city. It is three months since I heard from her\_\_ she calls her babe Lucy Virginia. I had hoped the little toad would be of a sex unnamable by my patronymie \_\_ but so it is\_\_ not. \_\_ The rains of today have been abundant & everything looks fresh & flourishing. Sunday 20th July. I have nothing of particular interest to write today. A small Confederate force is still encamped about 6 miles from town on the Sparta road. The pickets are stationed on the road above us, just on the edge of the road, between the two outside gates. We feed a great many of the soldiers\_\_ had ten to breakfast this morning. Mrs. Richardson with her children visited us yesterday. While they were here a rain came up & they hurried home before supper. Mrs. R. speaks of going soon to Cincinnati to her mother. Sunday 27th July\_\_ On Tuesday of the past week I wrote to the dear old folks\_\_ and sent the letter by Mrs. Richardson, who will mail it at Cincinnati. She left on Wednesday morning with her family. About Thursday Forrests force returned to this vicinity. They had been down between Nashville & Murfreesboro, and destroyed three bridges on the R.R. cutting off communication by rail between the two cities. On Saturday they made a reconnaissance in force in the vicinity of Manchester, where there is a Federal force of some 4 to 5000 it is said. Today they brought

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40 about 15 prisoners whom, with the exception of one officer, they paroled. Gen. Forrest took them to the Hotel & had them given supper, before they left\_\_ as they had no money to pay the bill, he paid it for them. He then gave them money to bear their expenses to Nashville\_\_ and they went off singing\_\_ & so much delighted that they sometimes stopped in the street to dance. There is no day passes that we do not feed some of the soldiers\_\_ there was a sick one here to-day. \_\_ The children went with Mammy & Martha this evening to see Grandma Lyon\_\_ & took her a half bushel bouquet. They returned, highly pleased with their visit, but very tired\_\_ the walk was too long for little Ting.\_\_ Puss has been sick in bed all this week, and I have a great deal to do in consequence. She seems better to-day.\_\_ Had a letter from Lide this evening, but it was written in May\_\_ & sent to Margaret Rankin. Read too this evening a long letter from M. Rankin, written to Mrs Read, giving an account of the disgraceful doings of the Federal troops in Sequatchie valley. It is perfectly savage\_\_ their conduct is a disgrace to the name of America. The English press is down upon Brute Butler, for his arrests of women, \_\_ his infamous proclamation, in regards to the ladies of N.O. etc. He is characterized as a barbarian, a beast, a tyrant, and a scoundrel. He acts certainly stamp him all of these.\_\_

43 a tea-cup-full \_\_\_ it was ground coffee. Not choosing to drink coffee that had been doctored & carried in a haversack\_\_\_ I left it on the steps\_\_\_ I believe Martha gathered it up, & took it to Mammy.\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Sunday Aug 10th \_\_\_ This is my dear Darlins birthday\_\_\_ and I have just given him a kiss thereupon,\_\_\_ congratulating myself that he has now reached the age when men are past being compelled to military duty.\_\_\_ \_\_\_ During the past week the Yankees have indeed played the wild in our quiet town. On Monday morning I was quite unwell\_\_\_ but I rose as usual & went about my duties. Before breakfast Darlin came in & said that Cooper was missing\_\_\_ gone off with the Yankees. Nancy was crying in the kitchen\_\_\_ so was Puss.\_\_\_ he had they said slipped off the night before soon after supper, but they had looked for him in every minute\_\_\_ & at last thought he had been trying to pass the pickets, & been taken up & detained\_\_\_ Nancy would not be persuaded that he had gone off of his own accord. Very soon however John Ramsay sent for the Col. to come into town, saying that Coop had gone with an Ohio regiment. The Col. avoided the pickets & got in town\_\_\_ here he found that both Mr. Henderson & Mr. Ramsay had endeavored to stop the boy, but could not. He went with the troops\_\_\_ they marched in the direction of Sparta. On Monday night we had a hard storm of wind & rain, and I trusted the fellow got a good ducking to cool off after the days march.

44 I afterwards learned that they all got the ducking, having to lay out in the woods in the rain. They went nearly to Sparta\_\_ and returned on Wednesday morning to town. A regiment or two had been left here meanwhile, & large foraging parties sent out in all directions. They ravaged the town & vicinity from one end to the other\_\_ broke into every store except Mr Hendersons (which he had guarded.) took out everything they wanted;\_\_ went into everybodys garden, poultry house, dairy etc. & helped themselves. Mrs. Rowan went out to expostulate with them about her garden, when they turned in to cursing her so that she left them and went into the house. They shot old Mrs. Harrisons cow, for pastime\_\_ the animal afterwards died\_\_ killed a beef she had & carried it off\_\_ & when she set Aunt Milly to digging potatoes they came & took them from her as fast as she dug them. They dug up everybodys potatoes\_\_ took their green corn, tomatoes, etc.\_\_ they have got all ours\_\_ drank the milk in the spring-house, stole nearly all our chickens\_\_ and you cant look out any time scarcely that you dont see some of them prowling round after something. They way they go into our apples & peaches, though not yet ripe, is positively\_\_ piggish. I abominate the very sight of the miserable wretches\_\_ they are so brutal looking\_\_ so impertinent\_\_ & so insufferable in every way. Two nights ago they robbed three negro boys who work in Ramsays blacksmith shop\_\_ Lee

45 was one of them. Three days ago 8 or 10 came here wanted dinner. The Col. had gone to town, & just such going on I never saw. They pulled off their shoes on the porch & ran thro the house in their bare feet\_\_ went down into the orchard while their dinner was preparing & brought up hat-fulls of green fruit which they crunched, meanwhile spitting tobacco about the porch, whistling & singing, making out to catch the chickens, etc. I was sitting in my room reading\_\_ one came to the door & stood staring at me & taking an inventory of everything in the room for about 15 minutes:\_\_ I never let on that I saw him at all, but seemed intent upon my reading all the while. They went in every place they cared\_\_ took down Lees watch in the lower house, & if Puss had not been looking at them would have carried it off. I let them eat in the kitchen for their elegant manners\_\_ some of them seemed quite dissatisfied with the arrangement & asked in astonishment if they were to eat in the nigger-house? I laughed quietly to myself thinking the pig-pen would have been more in consonance with their breeding.\_\_ One of their two who eat supper here on Saturday evening\_\_ who gives his name as Sulser, his residence as Cincinnati\_\_ his business a lithographer,\_\_ has paid us two visits since. He seem far more gentlemanly than any others I have seen, & is the only one who has ever knocked at the door before entering, or touched his hat when speaking

46 to you. Great Cesar! What a difference between their manners & those of the Confederates who were here only 10 days ago\_\_ and whom may God prosper where ever they are, for they behave like men. We have heard of two or three little skirmishes out in the directions of Sparta & Bersheba\_\_ but they amount to little. One report reaches that Gen. Bragg was crossing Waldens Ridge with 100,000 men, but I do not credit it. To think that these insufferable Yankees will be driven from here, is too good news for us. Here they will remain, harassing the citizens, stealing and gasconading until they eat the whole country up, & God knows how much longer. We heard to-day (from them, however,) that the Confederates are fortifying at Chattanooga\_\_ if so, God help us! For we are powerless here! Where our head is to come from I do not know\_\_ as good luck would have it we got in two barrels of flour & two of meal, before they came in. In fact the last barrel, with one of salt, (for which the Col. paid 35 dollars.) was rolled in after they came. They may come and take them yet\_\_ God knows.\_\_ We have heard nothing of Coop since he left. The Col. rode through the regiment he is said to be in\_\_ (51st Ohio.\_\_) in company with its Col. but saw nothing of him. Lee has been kept at work in the shop and had no time to go\_\_ he says he is broke down,\_\_ but he got some other of his companions to go, who could get no satisfaction. Mammy who is mad as a hor-

47 -net, and very much distressed too\_\_ tried to get into town yesterday but the pickets would not let her pass. Lee came out last night\_\_ said he could hear nothing of Coop\_\_ he thinks they are secreting him. The Col. offered Malone 25 dollars, & Joe Clift the same to find him, but they are both Union men. He spoke to Dr. Armstrong also\_\_ who promised he would find him, & who could do so any minute if he wishes. But I am confident that he will not move a peg, to oblige the Col. altho the latter has almost risked his life for him, and has really saved him from that summary vengeance which long ere this would have been meted out to him by the Confederates. The Col. saved him from hanging\_\_ but now he will not turn on his heel to do him a favor\_\_ far less. Very well! I shall remember that! The Col. takes Coopers disappearance very easy,\_\_ if it were not that Nancy & Puss seem so much cast down\_\_ he says the nigger might go to grass for him,\_\_ he wouldnt take the oath for half a dozen such.\_\_ The officers of this troop are as far as I can learn anything but gentlemen. One of them went to Mrs. Malone\_\_ a poor neighbor of ours, for grain to feed his horse. She gave him some, & he was about to pour it down just at the door. Her little child was crawling about the door-step, & fearing the child might get hurt she requested him politely to feed the horse farther off. Keep your child in the house then! was the courteous reply of the Union hero.

God knows how long they will stay here\_\_ long enough to ruin us all I presume. I question if we shall have one bit of stock, or anything to eat when they leave. They have had supplies brought from Nashville\_\_ and talk of opening the railroad but I do not know if they really intend it or not. I presume there are at least 10,000 men here now\_\_ they have 5 or 6 camps\_\_ Nelson has the Fem. College for head-quarters.\_\_ Suppose they should get hold of this journal\_\_ and they may\_\_ who knows?\_\_ \_\_ The accounts we have heard of their doings in & about Memphis, are scandalous. I read of their having ruined John Laniers grounds\_\_ having Mrs Williams (Dawsons,) beautiful place for a brothel for the Federal officers:\_\_ driving off Maj. Lundys stock & negros, & stripping jewelry & clothing from the persons of his wife and daughters, etc. etc. Then the arrest of the Misses Coe for warning their brother of the approach of the enemy. But Lide I presume thinks this all\_\_ comme il faut. \_\_ The dear gallant Federals do nothing wrong in her opinion, I presume. May she get enough of them!\_\_ \_\_ Last evening the Col. said he thought every Yankee was gone from about the place\_\_ he went out by the garden & found several of them chasing chickens\_\_ and they got some. They ruin the corn by pulling off the husk & leaving it so, if the ear is not full enough to eat. The country everywhere around is being literally devoured by this worse than Egyptian [written sideways in margin] plague!

Monday morning 25th\_\_ I have drawn a long breath for the first time in 3 weeks\_\_ a long deep sigh of satisfaction and relief,\_\_ the Yankees are gone! A few stragglers may remain but the army is non est as far as we are concerned. Thank God! Thank God! And may He in His goodness & mercy grant that they may never visit us again! The depredations they have committed are almost incredible. The town I am told looks desolated; completely torn to pieces. They never had any wood hauled, but burned fencing palings, gates etc.\_\_ the Fair Ground is ruined. In going about our place here they never crossed over a fence, but threw it down, passed, & left it so. On the day Gen. Ammon came in, he & his staff took shelter under the sheds at the new stable, from a shower of rain\_\_ they did not come to the house. I see citizens riding into town ^ in groups this morning\_\_ a welcome sight & one not seen for the past three weeks. The Col. went in last evening\_\_ and again this morning. He did not learn much news yesterday, no one knew where the Confederates were. The Yankees burned a good deal of hay, & provisions before they left\_\_ at first when we saw the smoke we thought they had fired the R. R. bridge. They say they have lost a regiment of men since they have been here\_\_ been picked off in little skirmishes\_\_ 40 were killed somewhere, on Saturday night. Although I think the new line of operations which they formed through this section was not a very

brilliant or successful move\_\_ they abandoned it short order\_\_ changing their base ala McClellan, and I trust that base may be as baseless as this has proved. However, they are base enough in themselves to do without any such thing in their operations. I keep repeating to myself Theyre gone! The wretches are gone! and I cannot but amuse myself by imagining the countenances of those very honorable Union men who were getting up that pretty little scheme for having the Col. compelled to take the oath! It tickles me no little the craven-hearted cowards!\_\_ Oh! full, how full of thankfulness and grateful joy were my prayers last night! And this morning I keep saying in my heart\_\_ Thank god! Thank God!\_\_ \_\_  
\_\_ Everything is very, very dry\_\_ we need rain badly, not having had any since the Monday night after the Yankees came in. We should make some corn yet, notwithstanding the vandals have destroyed so much, if we could now have favorable weather. Our people will have to bestir themselves now to get enough together to keep us through the winter\_\_ if we are harassed no more by these villains we may be able to get along. The Col. has found some of his hogs in town\_\_ they had wandered off after the foraging wagons. I wonder they were not all killed. Perhaps we can yet get up sufficient for our winters meat\_\_ I hope so. Bacon is 37 cents per pound\_\_ south of us it is 50 cts.

Sunday Morning 31st Aug X Sadder than ever, and not well beside, I take up my old pen: again to record the doings and sufferings of the past few days. The threat of last Sunday was I am sure, made in good faith by the Yankees, and intended to be permanent. This I am convinced of from the fact of the men saying they had learned that 70 thousand of the Seceesh were advancing upon them. Also their burning up some stores, wagons, etc. which they could not get away. And also because I have learned that they say since their return that they were leaving, but meeting with Thomas division some 15 or 20 miles out, [when] expectedly, they returned. The doubtless heard too that there were no 70,000 anywhere about to molest them, so back they came. They had sent all their tents, baggage etc. down towards Murfreesboro on Sunday. (and by the by all that train, with its escort they the Yankees say, was captured somewhere about Woodbury, by Morgan & Forrest, how true it is we cannot tell:) \_\_\_\_\_ Consequently these men are without tents and almost without provisions. What they lack however, they make up off the citizens\_\_\_ whatever they want, we are the sufferers. Never shall I forget the scenes that occurred here on Wednesday morning. They seemed to be anticipating an attack in the direction of Murfreesboro, and the hills above us, and even down by our freestone spring & at the river. The pickets were out

in very heavy force. They were Indianians, and the meanest looking set of wretches I ever saw. Soon after day light the whole place was crowded with them, racing to & fro, everywhere in search of food. Some were digging potatoes, some pulling corn, some chasing the chickens and sucking pigs. Some had the cows up in the corner milking them. \_\_\_ endless crowds beset the kitchen and smoke-house, begging, cussing and threatening, so that Nancy had to just give over cooking breakfast, \_\_\_ other endless crowds were racing about the orchards, shaking down and crunching the half-ripe fruit with the fierceness of famine and the voracity of wild animals, \_\_\_ while others in bodies of 15 to 30 were running down our fat hogs and killing them with rocks. I saw them hem in and stone one poor fellow to death myself out in the grove. \_\_\_ Two others they killed in the same way at the limestone spring. How far it would have gone I know not. Had not the Col. went up to Mr. Spurlocks house where there was a Major quartered & entered protest. This officer ordered a guard out immediately and the wholesale destruction was cooled down for the time. Never shall I forget my feelings that morning \_\_\_ I felt as I suppose a person may who is in a shelter, not altogether secure, and looking through a loop-hole finds himself suddenly surrounded by hordes of ravening wolves! These could not have been less than a thousand of the miscreants on the place, every corner was black with them.

The negroes were alarmed, and perfectly outdone with them. Mammy said a day or two after, If I had my will, and the strength I had been kickin them dogs till now! It was, to use her phrase, perfectly terrifying! I kept the children in the house, and all the doors and windows closed until the pickets were changed in the afternoon. \_\_\_ A Ky. Regiment was put on guard then. & we began to breathe a little easier. Wednesday evening a whole brigade left, in the direction of Murfreesboro, \_\_\_ We heard that day of the train that retreated Sunday being taken near Woodbury, \_\_\_ it was said that Morgan, Forrest & Stearns were all there. On Thursday morning we heard cannonading in that direction, and a Mr Todd who came up from there on Friday said there was fighting there the day previous, but that was all he knew, nor have we yet heard. On Thursday, late we had a rain which did a great deal of good. On Wednesday evening when that brigade left, the dust was so thick you could not distinguish the men & horses, and it rolled in clouds down through the grove, filling the yard full, and extending in great waves to the river. \_\_\_ On Friday evening some men came to the kitchen who acted worse than any had yet done. \_\_\_ cussing, & spitting everywhere \_\_\_ going into everything in the cup-board & stove, \_\_\_ inciting the negroes to run away, \_\_\_ and upon finding out that they were better satisfied at home cursing them for fools, and trying to insult and

aggravate them in every possible manner. When the Col. heard of it he went after an officer, but by the time that officer arrived the wretches had de-camped. This time Mammy was perfectly furious. She came in to tell me about it, and she was so enraged she could scarcely speak. Puss left the kitchen, she said she could not stand it. ^ Some of them broke into the kitchen that night, & stole a number of things, pans, milk, coffee pot= top, etc.. \_\_\_ Last night they expected to be attacked from the direction of Woodbury\_\_ and the men were drawn up in line of battle all along the road above us, from John Spurlocks to the branch; they had cavalry and infantry but no artillery. Some of the officers who were down at the house, said they did not expect a fight much. \_\_\_ but the men who came for water were evidently excited, and somewhat alarmed. On the low flat just across from the house, I saw them stand in a solid body across the road, with their guns ready, and so I suppose they stood all night. There was a young moon, a week old, and before I went to bed I looked out my window. The moonlight slept sweetly all over the grove and all was so still and hushed, you could not have conjectured there was an armed man in a thousand miles of the place\_\_ yet the shadows were full of them, and the road bristling with bayonets. The katy-dids cry and a very light murmur of the wind among the leaves was the only sound that broke the deep stillness. When I awoke this morning, no fight had occurred, nor do I

imagine there will be one here. I do not look for the Yankees to be driven from here by Southern powder and Southern steel. Our forces are, as it seems to me, very fond of the policy of masterly inactivity. We have been hearing for 6 weeks past that there was a Confederate army of 160,000 men, with a train of wagons 10 miles in length at Chattanooga\_\_ but if so, we have had no evidence of it as yet. If our army intends to strike at all, I do not see why it should not endeavor to do so before the new levy of 300,000 men shall be furnished the north. If they get in here, or a portion of them, it will be a much more difficult task to redeem Tenn.\_\_ if indeed they desire her redemption at all. \_\_ The Yankees here will only be driven away by necessity. The necessity of getting something to eat. Their communication with Murfreesboro has been cut off ever since their return\_\_ & the cars have only come in once from Tulahoma with provisions. They are looked for again this evening. In the mean time they have scoured the country in every direction, taking corn, hay, fodder, cattle, peoples meat out of their smoke houses, poultry, pigs, calves, sheep, in fact everything that can be eaten. How we are to live this winter God only knows. \_\_ They have torn down Lawson Hills distillery, took all his brandy etc. cut down much of his fruit trees, driven off his cattle, etc. They took one man prisoner about 14 miles from here, for selling cattle to the Confederates. His wife was nearly distracted, & his only child, a little boy of some 7 or

8 years followed the party who were taking off the prisoners for a mile and a half, screaming and crying for his father. The father wept. They tried every way to get the child to return, but he would not. At last one of the men took him upon his horse and rode back with him as hard as he could go. \_\_\_ There is a regularly organized band of negro-stealers among them. They run the negros off to Ky. and sell them. One day they came to Masons after our boy Henderson, \_\_\_ Mason engaged them in talk giving a side wink to Hen, who cleared out & took to the woods until they left. The wretches took Masons oxen, all his hay, corn etc. and a fine heifer belonging to us which Willie was keeping for his Uncle John. I do not expect to have a bit of stock of any kind on this place when they leave. Our corn, fruit, garden etc. are now all destroyed. They have been digging up poor Dukes sweet potatoes, a despicably impudent^ Indiana nigger digging them, with a white man standing by with gun & bayonet to guard him! \_\_\_ I have seen nothing of Armstrong this week, consequently heard nothing more of the Union conspiracy which was to make the Col, take the oath, \_\_\_ and of which he, (Armstrong) was one member, or I lose my guess. He has never got the pass for the Col. and it is well he dont want it. As to Bob Hatton, if he has ever tried to get him we dont know it. I never for my part supposed

he would. \_\_ How long this is to last God only knows. I have despaired of the Southern army doing anything for us here. Our prospects for this year are beyond repair, if we can keep from starving it will be as much. I am told that Mr. Morford, Mr Biles, Mrs Murray, Dr. Reid, James Spurlock, & all the farmers in that direction are ruined, for this year at least, and that a body of cavalry went one night to Mrs Spurlocks (the white family being all in town.) and drove the negros all off the place into the woods. This was done just for pure meanness. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ I was amused at little Lee the other day. A Yankee had him off in the lower part of the yard, trying to pump something out of the little negro 5 years old. When he came up Martha said Lee what was that Yankee sayin to you? He ax me what my master was. Says Lee. An what you tell him Coota? I tell him Mas John Union man. What you do that for Coota? What I do dat for? You think I want dem things come an tear Mas John up, gal? replied the boy turning up his black eyes as keen as a briar. I havent laughed so much I dont know when. Martha related to me this instance of Lees sharpness. \_\_\_ Levi came out yesterday evening. I asked him the news, Lord, Miss Ginnie said he there aint no news. Theres nothin but Yankees! \_\_\_ We are just in the cordon of picket ports; \_\_\_sometimes we cant get to either white gate. The one next town they have taken off the hinges I carried off.

Wednesday morning Sept. 3rd. This morning one week ago was the one upon which we were so overrun with Yankees that I felt as one feels in some horrible dream when fancy pictures hundreds of wild beasts all around you, and you almost at their mercy. On yesterday we were dreadfully annoyed with them about killing the hogs. \_\_\_ and in the morning Nancy could not cook breakfast for them. The nasty, lousy things filled the kitchen, boiling their coffee & cooking their meat, \_\_\_ our own pigs which they had killed, and then brought to the house to have cooked! The Col. told them he would certainly report them. They did not say much to him, but when he left the kitchen they talked all manner of impudence and threatening to the negros. Nancy said she was so outdone she did not know what she was doing. They said \_\_\_ This man makes a mighty now about a hog or two, \_\_\_ we aint going to leave him anything at all when we leave here. Hes a secesh \_\_\_ These women over at the branch told us so. Just let him go & tell the officer, and will not leave a stick standing on his place. Etc. etc. \_\_\_ And in the afternoon they were running the hogs again. They ran them down, or cornered them and killed them with their bayonets. These men were of the 21st Kentucky. The Col. went down to the stable and spoke to them again. They cursed him and told him he was a secesh that the secsh has

all cooked grand suppers when they left that Thursday and they (the said secesh,) thought they Confederates were coming in and he was one who had done it! This is a specimen of the lies they make up to justify (!) their excesses. They have pumped every negro on the place dry a hundred times, to get something out of them so that they could break into the house. But the negros have all acted with great prudence and discretion, except Coop in going off with them at first \_\_ which however turned out to be the very best thing in the world for him. Since it taught him by experience exactly what they were, and since his return he has been as quiet and discreet as the rest. \_\_\_ Night before last a large body of men & an immense train came in from the direction of Murfreesboro. One of the Cols. & a squad of cavalry rode down to the steps. Darlin was sitting there. It was nearly twilight. The horsemen dismounted, & the officer said he was going to encamp two regiments in the grove. Darlin told him there was not water sufficient, pointed him to the Spring below the new stable, and directed him to the next hill. (below Richardsons) where camps have frequently been made. He rode off not saying whether he would go on or not. But after a short while we saw the column move on \_\_ to my inexpressible relief. Had they camped there our trees, and everything else would have been ruined, and poor Duke corn would not have a leaf left.

Duke was over yesterday morning\_\_ said he had been talking with some of their cavalry, who said they could not remain here long \_\_ that a long provision train coming from Murfreesboro on Friday evening had nearly reached him when it was ordered back, & something or other had happened, between this and Tulahoma for the cars could not come in.^ Forrests men had burnt the bridge at Morrison depot. They had a skirmish there. I presume that some damage had been done to the road by Forrest, as we heard that some of his men were down there a few days ago. I did not even dare to hope they would leave soon, but this morning they did so sure enough. \_\_\_\_and I most sincerely trust never, never to return. Mammy said she heard the bugle and a great commotion of drums almost 2 hours before day \_\_ and long before light here came the army on the move. I was awakened first at day-break by the noise of the wagons rumbling and cavalry on the road, but I paid but little attention to it because I supposed it was most likely a provision train going out, or in. When I rose for my bath however, I found that they were carrying off their hay, driving cattle, etc. so we came to the conclusion it was a move of some sort. While Darlin was eating his breakfast some cavalry came dashing up to the stables hunting horses. Darlin ran out and carried Black to the lime-stone spring. The cavalry men not finding anything at the stables, went off, and Darlin came back &

finished his breakfast. All this time and until 9 or 10 o'clock the mass of men, horses, wagons, ambulances, cattle, sheep, etc. surged along the road in front of us, & now, as I write, at nearly noon, the road & grove and everywhere, seems as quiet as if an army had never existed. But alas our place shows what it is to be near the track of an army. Fences, gates, etc. are no more, cornfields, bare or trodden under foot \_\_ live stock all, or nearly all disappeared \_\_ gardens & flowers \_\_ withered & gone. The Col. says they killed about 10 of the goats, \_\_ and 7 hogs they killed right here about the house. I don't know how many more. After breakfast this morning, while we were all at the steps watching the army pass, and wishing them bon voyage, that is, that Morgan might get them before they reached Murfreesboro, \_\_ a solitary cavalry man on a very sorry-looking horse of the usual abominable light bay color rode down to the new stable hoping doubtless to replace his Rosinante by a better steed. The Col. went down there, & found him appropriating in lieu of the steed which was not there, all the straps, sacks, etc. which were there. These he took from him. The man said that this retreat was necessary \_\_ that they must get into KY. Soon, or all be captured. That they would try to make a stand at Murfreesboro. He said also that two or three Union families in town had packed up this morning & left with the army. I do not know

who they were. I have heard of no family going off with them yet except that of Old Red, which is certainly a good riddance for this community. I judge that about 30,000 men have left this place and Hickory Creek this morning\_\_ Thomas division\_\_ Woods to, and Nelsons.\_\_ and this is a better riddance for which I know the heart of this community\_\_ (a few Tories excepted\_\_) is overflowing with thankfulness and joy. \_\_\_\_ Sept. 5th. \_\_ Yesterday was quite a busy day with me. Early in the morning Darlin wanted me to go in town to see Mrs Rowan. I went out and gathered a beautiful bouquet for her, & put up in a box three nice pair of baby-socks for Mrs Marburys babe. \_\_ Then the Col. got on Black & I on the Gray Filly, & we set off. Just as we got up to the outer gate\_\_ or rather where it used to be, \_\_ we met some of Forrests men\_\_ and I exclaimed, God bless these old gray coats & brown jeans, how glad I am to see them once more! We stopped and talked with them a little and then rode on. Below Richardsons where the Yankees had encamped, the place was a sight. In the house opposite the gate, there is not a pane of glass left, & some of the windows are gone sash and all: the guttering torn down, door broken, etc. Everywhere gleamed the gaunt eyes of desolation. Just as we rode into Mrs Rowans yard we met Mr & Mrs Marbury on horseback\_\_ They had heard that some of the Yankees were returning

and were getting out of town as soon as possible. We had not seen any Yankees so we stopped on our horses and talked a little while. I gave Mrs Marbury the box. She said the Yankees had behaved scandalously at their place. \_\_\_ Three of them had located their bounty land there and had quarrelled over it out at Dr. Warders until they almost came to blows! We staid a short while at Mrs Rowans \_\_\_ She looks dreadfully worn down and harassed\_\_\_ The Major being off hiding in the bush all the while the Yankees were here, & she having all to bear alone. She lost two negro men\_\_\_ in all she says they damaged her about three thousand dollars worth. Thinking that we would ride down to the Fair Ground to see the desolation there we started on, stopping at old Uncle George Purvis however, for all the family were at the door and Sam Pennebaker, of Brewsters company also. Sam related something of his adventures. Told us they had driven Buells army from Battle Creek & Price had driven the Yankees from Huntsville & Stevenson, so that all were in full retreat towards Nashville & KY. Pennebaker grew excited as he spoke of the way in which things had been carried on at his house during his absence, (it was there they found the arms, & I learned that the place was literally ruined & the house so guarded that they would not allow even Armstrong to pass in to see Buttons sick child,) P. said he would have blood for their treatment of his family & nothing else would satisfy him. After this recontie we rode on past Colvilles down towards

the Fair Ground. Just above the bridge which spans that R.R. cut we came upon the picket guard of gray-coats, (Forrests men) and were told we could not pass. We talked with them a little while, several men coming up meanwhile. They let people in town but would not let them out. Why said I, we are good, Southern people \_\_\_ the very best kind. All the men laughed heartily \_\_\_ I expect they thought I was a simpleton. Darlin told them we only wanted to go to the river to water our horses\_\_\_ and after some laughing altercation, for everybody seemed in high good humor, I said No, dont ask them to break over orders \_\_\_ we ought not to want them to do it. One of the men then said he would ride with us to the river & jumped on his horse, and away we all went. \_\_\_ When we returned we rode to Mr McMurrys \_\_\_ Florence Spurlock & Mrs S. were there & everybody was listening to Bro. Pinedexter, who had been with Braggs army while the Yankees were here and had just come in from Savages regiment 5 miles above Sparta. From him we learned much. He confirmed the news of the great Virginia fight (of which we had heard rumors the evening before) where Stonewall Jackson whipped them out so severly at Manassa, (again) and took possession of Alexandria, threatening Washington. He confirms the news to of Prices having driven the Yankees from Huntsville. He said that when our boys heard of the way the Yankees were carrying on here \_\_\_ their indignation could

find no expression. They could not talk about it at all\_\_ but clenched their guns, and set their teeth hard. He was with Savages regiment when the order was given to cross the river (Tennessee) and he says, such a yell as went up then he never heard before\_\_ it might have been heard for miles!\_\_ After we had heard the news & many congratulations, & experiences (when under Yankee domination,) has passed\_\_ we mounted our horses, and rode homeward, calling for a few moments at Mrs Reads to tell her, I would bring the children, & come to see her in the evening. We found her some better, and learned that the Dr. got in the night before. \_\_ Came home to dinner & about 4 in the evening, took the children & Martha and went over. Spent a very pleasant time, took tea & returned home by moonlight. While there & in conversing with Dr. Read, I got the first clear idea I had had of Braggs forward movement. They drove Buells army from the Sequatchie valley.\_\_(Battle Creek.) while Price drove them from Huntsville and Stevenson. Braggs army is crossing in three columns the right wing under Kirby Smith\_\_ (Humphrey Marshall is in that\_\_ Ben Hills regiment is there.) goes north & sweeps round into Ky. \_\_ will soon be at Muldrows Hill, south of Louisville \_\_ This cuts off the retreat of the Federals across the Ohio, \_\_ The center column ^Poth commanding of which Savages regiment 16th Tenn. is at the head\_\_ passes through Sparta, Smithville, Lebanon, and aims to strike the lines of communication

of his wife and daughters tongues. It is strange that our women cannot restrain themselves in such terrible times. \_\_\_ Last night after we came home & had been gone to bed some time. I was startled by hearing some one hollering as if in distress. I thought it was up on the road at first\_\_\_ but when Darlin opened the window the sounds came from the steps. Whats the matter? cried the Col, what do you want? I want you to go for a doctor. Who is it thats sick? My daughter Anne is dying, and I want you to bring the doctor, quick. \_\_\_ Darlin hurried on his clothes. I put on my shoes, & his dressing gown, & ran after him down to the steps. Here we found poor old Mrs Clift\_\_\_ with a negro girl\_\_\_ she said Anne was very sick indeed, she did not know if she would be living until she got back. A man named Randolph had sent for Black that afternoon, (before I started to Mrs Reads,) to bring home his wife and child who had been thrown out of a buggy & seriously injured\_\_\_ The filly was away over in the orchard, so Darlin set off on foot after Armstrong. Mrs Clift begged me to go home with her, but I could not leave my children, I told her I would send Mr French when he returned. It was very late before he got back. I could not sleep, but kept looking out for him. \_\_\_ it was bright moonlight. When he came home, he said he had gone for Dr. Armstrong, but that, he (A.) was afraid to

go by himself, and furnished him a horse to go with him, which he did, & left him there. \_\_\_ Jo Clift having constituted himself a Captain, went to making up a company here for Lincoln, \_\_\_ got two recruits \_\_\_ he is off to Nashville of course. The old man left also, consequently Mrs Clift had no one to go for a doctor for Anne, and came here. Darlin rode over there this morning and found Anne easy. \_\_\_ Among the men who have left town after the Yankees, are old Mr White & Tom, \_\_\_ Mr. Comer, Bob Cain, and George Stubblefield. When Forrests men came in they took old man Whites cotton \_\_\_ 75 bales \_\_\_ and 600 yards of osnaburg from Stubblefield. White is said to have had all his money in the North for a long time \_\_\_ though he has always been looked upon as a good Southern man. Why Comer should have left nobody seems to know. If any, or all of them had remained at home their property would not have been touched. \_\_\_ I see pickets up on the regular post today. \_\_\_ Report says that Buckner will be through here today with his division \_\_\_ but I do not believe it. I do not think any troops will come this way. \_\_\_ and I do not think the abominable Yankees will ever return here either. I see now perfectly why that sorry looking customer who came after a horse to the stable \_\_\_ should say that they must make haste & get into Ky. or they would all be taken prisoners. May they all be so yet!

to see Nelson about it. Bettie gives some very amusing items of the conversation between them. Nelson boasted of being a Virginian. Bettie told him he was a Southerner then as Va was a Southern state\_\_ He told her that he has heard there were some schools scattered about here, but she had not profited by them if she didnt know any better than to call Va. a Southern state! I wonder when & where he studied his Geography. Afterwards he remarked that the North had a contempt for the South. Well Bettie said, she did not know as to that\_\_ but she did know that any of their young ladies or gentlemen who had a chance to marry in the South never failed to embrace the opportunity! Nelson said he knew that\_\_ for himself he was not a Northerner\_\_ he was a Kentuckian! I think old Nelson must have imbibed all his forty duimal drinks at once that day\_\_ from the style of his conversation. He did not retain Dr. Reid\_ nor even mention his taking the oath. Sophy said the Yankees were very complimentary to their peaches. It reminded me of the way they expressed themselves here. What fine peaches! they would remark\_\_ if they could only be let alone till they get ripe! at the same time pulling & hauling & shaking at the trees\_\_ crunching the fruit & stuffing their haversacks, as if they never again expected to see another mouthful while they lived. It was a general remark among the officers Fine romantic place this! or What a beautiful place you have sir!

and the men say youre mighty well fixed up here\_\_ Mighty pretty place\_\_ the old gentleman has good suppers Ill be bound, (their one idea was eating,) and both seemed delighted to destroy all they could.\_\_ Sophy & Bettie were spectators of the scene where Forrests men crossed the road a Mr. Biles while the Yankees were firing at them with their artillery & infantry both.\_\_ I went on Wednesday evening to see Grandma Cain who has been sick. Mary Stubblefields place looks like a desert. We saw Maj. Mercer there. Speaking of our losses, & comparing notes thereon, I said Why Maj. we have nothing in the world to eat but bread & butter & milk! Madam he replied with much emphasis\_ I congratulate you on having so much more than the rest of us! Grandma Cain told me they had bread\_\_ a little side meat & a few vegetables. \_\_\_ Mrs. Armstrong being very sick had sent for me, & I went there also. I was sorry to find her quite ill, and very weak. I staid until nearly dark.\_\_ I learned from Grandma Cain that Mr. Rankin was very ill and Mrs Stubblefield & Mrs Read had been sent for Mrs R. was too ill to go\_\_ the Dr. and Mrs Stubblefield went. A report reached here a day or two since that George Stubblefields wagon broke down about Murfreesboro and Forrests men got all his osnaburgs. He carried off a load and went in

the Yankee train when they left. \_\_\_ Miss Sophy told me that Nelson as they came on to McMinnville stopped at Mr Morfords & ordered dinner. When it was ready he offered his arm to Jane to conduct her to table. She thanked him, but declined \_\_\_ saying that she never had been waited on by a Federal officer & she did not wish to be so now. This was pretty good for a bashful young creature like Jane Morford. \_\_\_ This week we have had splendid rains & everything looks refreshed \_\_\_ the debris of the Yankees are I trust washed away. We have some few peaches left, and the place looks better since the rains. \_\_\_ I learned yesterday that Gen. Ammon said to Dr. Armstrong The Southern Confederacy has too much brain for us \_\_\_ they out manage us. This was an admission for a Federal Gen. to make! \_\_\_ Captain Spurlock is at home \_\_\_ what a flutter there will be among the young ladies! His visit is for the double purpose of recruiting his eyes, and his company, \_\_\_ at least so I am told \_\_\_ most probably it has another object \_\_\_ viz. to see some sweetheart. \_\_\_ The children have attended to their lessons regularly this week \_\_\_ though Bouse was a little unwell yesterday. Puss seems to be improving somewhat \_\_\_ but very slowly. I wish the Col. would take her to Bersheba this week, and leaver her there for a month. I have talked of going all summer, but first one thing and then another has postponed it, & I have not gone yet.

I went to see Mrs Read this evening and took her a basket of peaches. We found her up & somewhat better. Then we drove to see Mrs Armstrong who is still very sick. The Dr. was there, & talked a great deal about Mrs Bibb and her imprudences when the Yankees were coming home we stopped to see Mrs Rowan. The family had just returned from a weeks visit to the mountain, & Mrs. R. had had rest, which she so greatly needed, & looked much better than when I saw her last. She told me about the way the Yankees acted at Mr. Hords on their retreat from Murfreesboro to Nashville. They took 12 negros\_\_ all his horses etc. cut up his buggy all to pieces\_\_ went into the house & took all his flour, meat groceries, etc. leaving nothing but ruin behind them.\_\_ Mrs. Rowan was speaking of the extremely illiterate condition of these Yankee soldiers. We have always been taught to believe that all classes at the North were educated. She said she saw dozens of letters which the Ranger brought from Murfreesboro\_\_ & just such spelling & composition she never beheld! Sallie told me she saw pass written by Gen. Nelson himself in which through the lines, was spelled threw the etc. The best blood of Ky. seems to have ignored the spelling book, as well as the Geography! We heard this evening that Nelson is certainly dead. Gen Anderson of the C. A. arrived & stopped at Mr. Bells\_\_ he says it is officially reported. Tis a pity he was so little fitted for death.\_\_ The tricks of the Yankees when here are recounted now, & they are as numerous as

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they are dishonorable. One of them rode up to Mr. Lockes & while waiting for something seized the old gentlemans watch, & galloped off with it. Another rode up to Mr. Bollings and asked him to change some money for him. He wanted specie. Mr. B. said he had none. Green-back then?\_\_ but Mr. B. had none of that either. Confederate? Yes\_\_ Mr. B. had some of that, & took out his pocket book. Extracting some bills therefrom\_\_ the fellow asked to look at them. Mr. B. unsuspectingly handed them to him to examine, but on the instant he crammed them into his pocket & rode off at full speed!\_\_ An officer! Rode up to the house of a poor woman on Hickory Creek, \_\_ her husband was in the C. Army, & she & her children were there alone. He saw some chickens & wanted to buy some. The woman said she did not want to sell them that these few chickens were all that had been left her, and they were all the meat she had for her children. but said this benevolent U. S. Officer, I will offer you great inducements\_\_ Ill give you a dollar for two of them. The poor woman doubtless thought it a good bargain, for she consented to part with two of her chickens. Well, catch them for me, said the U.S. The fowls were caught & tied ready for delivery. The officer drew out a 5 dollar bill\_\_ Now, said he, can you change 5 dollars? The woman looked over her little hoard, & scraped together 4 dollars which she handed him. He took it, thrust it into his pocket, together with his own 5 dollar bill, and very coolly rode away\_\_ leaving the poor woman minus her money, but with her two chickens!

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Gen. Anderson reports that there are 13 skeleton regiments at Nashville, averaging some 300 men each\_\_ The remainder\_\_ 15 regiments are in Ky. probably will make a stand at Bowling Green. All their force left Nashville, but the army was cut in two by Forrest, & 13 skeletons returned to Nashville. The place was wholly evacuated as we had heard. Andy Johnson & Buell & staff had a desperate flare-up. Andy got drunk and made a speech at the Capitol & an ass of himself, at one & the same time. He told Buell that his bones should bleach on those rocks\_\_ to which Buell replied that he did not intend to stand at Nashville, but that if he (Andy) patriotically desired his bones to bleach there, nothing should be easier to him (Andy) or more agreeable to himself\_\_ (Buell) They had as the saying is, a very pretty quarrel.\_\_ Sunday 21st Sept. \_\_ This week has been a quiet, yet a busy one to me. The weather has been fine, & I have been engaged all the week in putting up peaches\_\_ what the Yankees left. We have quite a quantity of very late fruit which, as it was green as grass & hard as the nether millstone, when they were here, they condescended to leave.\_\_ On yesterday we actually did have a mail from Chattanooga\_\_ it contained for us 3 letters from dear Mollie,\_\_ all written previously to the one which was sent us by Cap Spurlock, however,\_\_ The war news of this week has only been a confirmation of many of the rumors of last week. For instance w

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hear that the Southern army is really in Maryland\_\_ the Yankees all fallen back to the defence of Washington\_\_ they have the Potomac lined with gun-boats from W. to Alexandria. McClellan occupies his old head-quarters at W. \_\_ I wonder if he dont feel a little dubious of his Napoleonesque genius when he considers that with all his vast army which was to overrun the South to the Gulf\_\_ he has been twice, if not thrice heavily defeated\_\_ & now occupies exactly the same position which he did a year ago, when he took command of the vaunted army of the Potomac. He & Pope have wasted millions of money, & at least 50,000 lives, & are now just where they started from.\_\_ Cincinnati too, it is confirmed, is in the hands of the Confederates. We hear also that a battle has been fought near Green River KY. in which our troops were very victorious\_\_ also one in western Va. with like result.\_\_ Last Thursday was appointed by President Davis, as a day of thanksgiving & prayer for the victories in Ky. at Richmond, and on the old battle-field of Manassas. I was so sorry I did not learn anything of the proclamation until after the day had passed\_\_ however I suppose it made no very essential difference\_\_ for Im sure I thanked God with my whole soul\_\_ all over \_\_ not only one day, but every day since we heard the glorious news. \_\_I heard yesterday of one of the tricks of the miserable Yankees here which rather out-did all others. They went to an old free negro woman & insisted on her giving them some bacon. She told them

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she had but very little, and when that was done she could get no more. They said they must & would have some and she must & should cook them up some directly\_\_ if she wished they would exchange with her, giving her some fresh meat for the bacon. The old woman thinking they would have the meat any how, & that the fresh kind would be some equivalent cooked for them & they ate. Rising up from the meal they went out into a lot near by\_\_ killed the old womans only calf\_\_ and sent her a piece of the meat\_\_ carrying the remainder off with them!\_\_ Mrs Pennebaker told me that four of the great gorillas came into her dining room one day\_\_ (just as she was sitting down to dinner with her children,) with their guns etc. & seating themselves swore they were going to stay there until they got their dinner. She said she ate her dinner\_\_ & when she & the children were thro she supposed they made their dinner of what remained. But said she, if I had had a pistol I would have showed them out in very short order. \_\_ I have heard of the death of Mr. Rankin, Mrs. Reads father\_\_ how hard it will go with poor little Maggie! Mr. R. was so harassed & tormented by the Yankees when Buells army was over in the valley, that his disease (fever,) was consequent upon these persecutions. His family may lay his death to the charge of these miscreants, as truly as if they had killed him with their bayonets.\_\_

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Sunday 28th Sept. \_\_\_ X I have been in bed all day today\_\_\_ about the middle of the night awaking very unwell. I can write but little, and indeed have but very little to write. Things go on quietly with us at present & I am busy arranging the childrens clothing for winter, as well as I can. The weather is fine & genial\_\_\_ quite warm for the season. \_\_\_ I received a letter from Mollie this week; dated the 15th in which she says she will be home the last of this month or the first of next. I shall soon begin to look for her & Jimmie. Jimmie has resigned his position as a cavalry officer, and gone into the ordnance department with the same rank & pay as formerly\_\_\_ I mean as in his previous position. His health was so delicate & uncertain that he found it impossible to remain in the cavalry\_\_\_ Robert French & Willie were here on Friday\_\_\_ staid all night,\_\_\_ R. went on, on Saturday to join his regiment. He is tremendously large, & a good deal improved by 16 months soldiering. Will is a gaily & graceful boy\_\_\_ & will be quite handsome, I think. \_\_\_ The boys told us that Henry French has been arrested by the Southerners, for selling cotton to the Yankees. He will be imprisoned & his property confiscated. The report is that they took 12,000 dollars from him at the time of his arrest. \_\_\_ how true it is we cannot tell. Elvira will rave over that money!\_\_\_

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Tuesday 1st Oct. \_\_ I did not post up my journal on Sunday \_\_ being engaged in reading, etc. all day. \_\_ This morning the servants heard heavy firing very early, in the direction of Nashville. I am all impatience to hear where & what it portends \_\_ what if it were Price & Breckenridge attacking Nashville? The townfolk say the firing was heard there two hours before daylight. I trust we shall hear ere long, what it means. \_\_ On Saturday (4th.) I went to see Mary Stubblefield & carried her a fuschia in bloom \_\_ called then on Mrs. Crutcher, then on Mrs. Murry & Ann, \_\_ then as I came home stopped at Mrs Reads (Richardsons,) and got some rose-slips, which I planted in boxes the same evening. \_\_ Mrs Crutcher, & indeed everybody had a good deal to say concerning the Yankees. One of them said to Mrs. C \_\_ They tell me you are the strongest kind of a Southern woman. of course she replies did you not expect to find Southern women in the South? An officer asked her if there were many Union people in McMinnville She told him there used to be quite a number, but the Federal army had converted them \_\_ they were mostly good secesh now. The Yankees said they intended to burn up this end of town because it was illuminated when Forrest brought the prisoners up from Murfreesboro. The illumination was that Gen. Forrest sent on a courier requesting the citizens to have water set out all along at their doors for the prisoners & the citizens had done so \_\_ setting out pails & tubs of water with lights near them \_\_ so that they might see to get it! \_\_ Mrs. McMurry had just received a letter from Col. Donnell, in which he said they (Briggs army.) were at

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Bardstown Ky. they understand that Buell, with nearly all his effective force was at Louisville that that city was exceedingly nervous as was Cincinnati also. The letter was brought by a courier who came to inform Cap Spurlock that the way was now open, & he could get on with his recruits, & join Braggs army. The boys all went yesterday. Mrs. Murry told me she had been to Lebanon lately and while at Alexandria she saw Mrs. Dr. McConnell, who went on (in June I think) to Springfield Ill. with some other ladies to visit their friends among the Confederate prisoners there. Those ladies brought 90 ounces of quinine on their persons on their return. Mrs. McConnell said her landlady inquired of her if it could be that there were gentlemen in the Southern army? Mrs. Mc told her certainly thousands of our best citizens. Well, she replied she had never taken any interest in the Confederate prisoners because it was only the scuff of the North who had gone into the army, & she thought it was the same with the South. Mrs. Mc wished to go & see Abe Lincolns residence. Why, exclaimed her hostess what in the world do you want to go there for there is nothing earthly to see? Mrs Mc told her she wanted to go for curiosity. So they got a hack & drove off. By & by the driver stopped Mrs Mc looked out & told him to drive on, what are you stopping here for? Why said he this is the place. She looked out & exclaimed And this is Lincolns house! Yes said the hackman. & the man is just like it! They descended & went up to the dwelling a one story & a half dull brown cottage two rooms in front & no hall (doors opening into each room off the ground) with a

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small all at the back. The yard contained 3 common rose-bushes\_\_ by way of ornamentation\_\_ and viola tout! The building was rather new\_\_ and this I suppose was the new residence lately built by Mr. Lincoln about which I saw a great parade made in the Northern papers\_\_ on the occasion of the delegation waiting upon old Abe to inform him of his election to the Presidency!! In this connection I may add that Mollie in one of her letters said that Ella Chews father had once resided in Springfield & knew the Lincolns\_\_ Ella said they were to use classical phrases\_\_ as common as pig tracks & poor as Jobs turkey.\_\_ I saw Mrs. Marbury at Mrs McMurrys\_\_ she said she was just bringing a young Texas Ranger to see me, when she heard I was in town. The soldier was a Mr Ashe, a distant relative of Mr. Marburys who had been sick at her house for a week or two. He was badly wounded at Murfreesboro & had not yet gotten over it. He said D. Hardeman couldnt talk about anybody but Mrs. French, and he must go to see her before he left. D. was very sick over at Chattanooga while the Yankees were here. The Marbury girls say that when D. & Ashe met out there they hugged each other nearly to death. D. thought Ashe had been killed at Murfreesboro & they had not met since the fight. They were neighbors & boy companions at home\_\_ Mrs. Marbury told me that the Yankees inquired when they came there if Mr French & his wife had not been out there just two weeks before. She told them we had. They came in a buggy? Yes. And left their black horse here? No. Oh! yes they did\_\_ and they would not be satisfied until they had searched all the stables for the horse.\_\_

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Mrs. M\_\_ said she drove them out of her kitchen any day. Whenever a new picket was put out they all rushed first thing to scour the place\_\_ (just as they did here.) At last she told one of the officers that when they sent out a new picket they had better allow the old ones to remain a couple of hours after the relief came. He inquired why so? Because said she, your posts are deserted for two hours after every fresh picket while they examine & inspect the place\_\_ so that if you wish your posts attended to\_\_ command the old guard to remain until the new one has finished its explorations. The officers went down to the post\_\_ cursed everybody all round, & his duty being fulfilled rode off.\_\_ We laughed a great deal when she related how she drilled a little negro to return a pocket handkerchief to one of them\_\_ it was so filthy she made her take it by one extreme corner, & hold it off at arms length as if for dread of contamination\_\_ the little cutty went out & presented it in just that style. The yard was full of Yankees & she said they seemed to enjoy the joke on their comrade heartily.\_\_ Near here a young lady stood at the door talking to a Yankee officer who had rode up & called for something. Just then she saw one of his men carrying off her brothers fine horse. Speak to that man she said to the officer see he is stealing my horse. Oh! I cant do anything with these men was the reply. Hand me your pistol & Ill stop him then\_\_ she cried. He did so \_\_ when she drew a bead on the fellow, calling out Loose that horse or Ill shoot your head off in an instant! The fellow jerked off the bridle & skedaddled. Some

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Yankees went up to a house and called for dinner. The mistress met them at the door, all smiles & courtesy What do these gentlemen want?\_\_Dinner. Excuse me gentlemen, I can give you no dinner, \_\_ I do not know how to cook\_\_ I never cooked a dinner in my life. Why maam we dont expect you to cook the dinner\_\_ wheres the niggers? All my girls are in the parlor awaiting to entertain you\_\_ please walk in gentlemen and see them! Them Yankees skedaddled too!\_\_ It seems that old Nelson whom we heard was dead was not killed very dead by his wound received at the battle of Richmond Ky. A report reached us last night that he was shot, & killed (this time,) by some man with whom he had a difficulty, at the Galt House, Louisville, a few days since. I trust he is killed very dead this time!\_\_ I am thinking today a great deal about a project Darlin opened up to me last night. He wants to exchange all his town property for Ben Lomond\_\_ build him a fine house there & go there to reside\_\_ renting out this place. I do wish he could make the trade with Major Rowan, but I fear he cannot\_\_ the Major does not seem disposed to give up Ben Lomond to any one who will improve it. He will not improve it, and I think he might let it go to some one who will. I should very much like to own the place\_\_ I had much rather have it than all that town property put together.\_\_\_\_\_

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One of the reminiscences I have heard of Gen. Bull Nelson\_\_ is that he was invited by Mr. Claiborne of Nashville to take tea with him. Claiborne himself was a strong Unionist\_\_ his wife as staunch a Southern. Nelson at the table advanced his ideas & Mrs. Claiborne as freely advanced her opinions. Among other things she stated her firm belief in the final success of the Confederacy. Nelsons argument in reply to this was to place his thumb to his nose & perform a gyratory motion with his fingers! Such an action from a gentleman & officer (!! ) towards a lady whose hospitality he was at that moment receiving! Comment is unnecessary.\_\_ Nelson at Murfreesboro compelled a lady to dismiss 9 boarders if they did not leave. Subsequently he said to her\_\_ Madam you promised to give me biscuit for breakfast\_\_ but you give me stones\_\_ if you do not give me biscuit Madam I shall have you arrested! I laughed till I was tired when I heard this\_\_ it is a good joke if it is a fib.\_\_ The weather now is very dry indeed\_\_ my roses would be blooming nicely notwithstanding the Yankees and the pigs\_\_ if it were not so dry. It is very warm too for the season\_\_ as warm as September or August. I have filled all my cans with peaches,\_\_ October peaches which were so green when the Yankees were here that they could not use them.\_\_ I instruct the children every day. Bouse is engaged on the first lessons in drawing & he writes quite well. To-day he first commenced using a pen to write, & joining his letters together. He is now in his third copy-book. Jessie is still writing with a pencil\_\_ she sings & plays 8 songs very

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sweetly, they are Nelly Gray, Busy Bee, Hark! My Mother, Lazy Sheep, Ellen Bayne, Blue Juniata, Prairie Flower, & Maggie by my Side. Both the children read & spell quite well. Ting spells on the cards\_\_ she is as comical about her lessons as about everything else. \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ Sunday Oct. 12th.\_\_ The cannonading which was heard here on Tuesday morning, we find was at Lavergne 15 miles this side of Nashville. The Feds threw shells one of which exploded our powder magazine, but it was a small affair. The Yankees however have concocted a great victory out of it. Price & Van Dorn it is said have had a four days fight at Corinth. The first 2 days they whipped the Yankees. The third day the enemy had the advantage greatly\_\_ & the 4th day, we whipped them out\_\_ So goes the report. It is said that Cheatham has captured 4000 in Ky. while Gen. Morgans force which was escaping from Cumberland Gap, is taken by Kirby Smith & our Morgan. So says the rumor. Heaven grant it may be correct! Oh! that we could conquer a peace before hard weather sets in! I fear so for our soldiery\_\_ I am afraid they are not well provided for, and I see no general & well organized efforts making to make them comfortable. I am ready & willing to cut up all my carpets to make covers or blankets for them if necessary. I have not now a spare blanket or comforter to send. They are all gone long ago to the camp, & the hospital. We can scarcely get clothes for our children & servants

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Sunday Nov. 2nd During the first part of the week I was quite unwell & have had much headache, & oppression in my chest became on yesterday very painful. Last night I went to bed with a bad headache & I have it some today also. I would give a great deal if I could get rid of this oppression in my chest & constriction of the throat. I am uneasy about it at times. This I do not say so. This week Darlin made out an elegant plan for a house\_\_ everything on the octagonal plan, it suits my taste precisely in every respect. It will be neat, unique, elegant, convenient, & economical. It seems like great folly to be thinking of building houses now, when our country is going to ruin as fast as it can\_\_ & when there is every reason suppose that before this war is over we will be left without a dollar in the world. It seems to me folly too when I feel so sick sometimes, and when I say to myself\_\_ at all events I shall never live to see that house built. I doubt very much if I ever shall, we have talked about it so much\_\_ yet I fear that I shall never see it finished. I do not regret now that we have not built before\_\_ because a fine house now is good for nothing but to attract plunderers. I am very thankful now for the home I have & my prayer is that I may be allowed to remain in it\_\_ yet that is by no means certain.\_\_ the Yankees may be back upon us at any time this winter\_\_ and it is my belief that they will. I am writing now, sitting by the front-room window, & as I look up I see a long train of artillery\_\_ baggage wagons & cavalry passing down towards Murfreesboro. Savages regiment is now at Tulahoma, \_\_ the whole army is pressing towards Nashville. Tomorrow is the day we understood they had set to take that city. I conversed yesterday with Mr. John Spurlock who had just returned

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from Murfreesboro. He says our forces can take Nashville any day they want to\_\_ but\_\_ when the waters rise they cant hold it. As soon as the waters rise, it is his opinion that the city will be retaken by gunboats\_\_ and the line of our defenses will be thrown back to the Tennessee river again. I asked him if they could not fortify N\_\_ & blockade the Cumberland & Tennessee. He thinks it too late in the season, that the waters will rise before it can be done. If the base of defense be where it was last winter we will again be over-run here, & without a doubt ruined root & branch. Indeed I look for nothing else. We expect to be obliged to leave & are preparing for it as well as we can. But where to go? theres the rub. The states south of us are already suffering for provisions, bacon is 50 cts lb. & flour scarcely to be had. Flour is selling here for \$15 per barrel. The Chattanooga Rebel of yesterday says that there is no provisions there for travelers, & no sleeping place\_\_ the last Hotel having been taken for a military hospital, and it warns travelers that they must bring their ateing and slaping apparatus with them! That is a pretty state of affairs truly. I think, if the Yankees come back as I am almost confident they will\_\_ that we will move to town, that will be some protection, and as we would be likely to starve by going Southward, I think we will not leave this unless we understand that our lives would be in peril by staying. As to property, we dont expect to save that \_\_ negros\_\_ stock\_\_ no, not even household furniture\_\_ nor the house itself. We are ruined\_\_ I see that plain enough, and it is no use to try to save anything any longer. We have to give up all, and we may as well give up first as last I suppose. We have almost given up hoping for anything, & are compelled to anticipate the worst.

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On Tuesday last our grove was a camping ground for the regiment of cavalry, the 1st Georgia. Instantly the house was beset by soldiers for something to eat. The kitchen was full until a late hour in the afternoon\_\_ the negroes baking bread for them all day. They borrowed Nancys stove, pan, skillet, & oven-lid, & carried all off with them, which made her very indignant, she told one of them they were just as bad as the Yankees. The soldiers generally seem to censure Bragg greatly for leaving Ky. Bragg has been ordered to report to Richmond & has gone there. Breckenridge commands the force now moving on Nashville. I heard that Bragg said he accomplished all he went into Ky. for\_\_ viz. plunder. He brought out it is said \$100,000 worth of jeans & everything else in proportion. Some of the soldiers looked ragged\_\_ they had nothing new except boots, very many of them had these which they said they bought at Sparta at 14 dollars per pr. The speculators are ruining the people. There is one man selling boots here at \$20 per pr.\_\_ domestic & calico at \$1.00 per yd\_\_ common de laine at 1.50 per yd. If Bragg went in to Ky. merely for stores, I dont see why he made such a flourish of trumpets in his address to the people of Ky. & particularly in his address to the Northwest. We cant tell how it was for as a general rule nobody dont know nothin no how. I was amused at a remark of Ailsy who was to see me to-day. She was speaking about Braggs retreat, & of course, like everybody else, felt moved to animadvert thereon. Looks like he ought to have begun at this side to clear out the Yankees. she said. When Im sweeping a room I drive the dirt all before me\_\_ I dont go round it\_\_ no, I take it as I go\_\_ bless God.\_\_ I thought the illustration very

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apt indeed. On Wednesday evening a young soldier of La. a Mr. Herd, belonging to Gen. Scotts Partisan Rangers, took supper with us. He is very much like Cabell Vaughan in manners, conversation & personable. He talked very well indeed; and was enthusiastic in his praise of the glorious women of Ky. He said the women of Ky. are with us and if it were not for them the State might go for me. Bur for these women I will fight as long as I can fight for anything. I asked him if the Lexington ladies did kiss their horses, as the Cincinnati papers declared they did? He said he did not see anything of that that when the ladies brought them out something to eat, as they did everywhere along the route they would often pat the horses necks as they stood, talking & run their fingers thro their manes in a caressing manner which was all very natural & proper. He told us that the last news he had from La. was distressing. The beautiful Coast is said to be a desolation fields laid waste houses burned negros & stock driven off. Sometimes five or six families would be found living in a sugar-house & living on corn-bread & water! Butler he said had 5000 negros drilling in N. Orleans. The following letter speaks for itself I clip it from the Chattanooga Rebel.

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< sons, a diamond ring he took from a young lady. He said, she told him that she had rather die than give it up, she prized it so much, but the gallant officer of the U.S. A. told her that he would cut her finger off, and she gave up the ring. This same officer told of a large quantity of ladies under-clothing that he had. If you could take a peep into the office of one of the first U.S.A. officers here to-night, you would see a magnificent castor taken that same day. If you can catch that officer, salt and pepper him well. Give him a round from a rebel castor in the shape of a six shooter. At one place a wretch demanded the ear-ring from a lady's ears. While she was taking one from her right ear, he tore the other from the left. At the house of a gentleman, a few miles from Nashville, they went in and found the lady ill, with an infant three weeks old. After taking everything from the house of any consequence, except the bed she lay upon, she asked them please to leave her one cow, as her little babe could not live without milk. One of them replied by seizing the nursing bottle and breaking it, and saying it should have neither milk nor bottle. I really think that this would be a good army to send where Pope has gone. They are so much like savages that they should be sent to fight them. You have heard of the murder of Dr. Bass. How soon many of our citizens may be murdered in the same shocking manner we do not know. I could recount things of this kind all night, but must close. You shall hear from me again. God bless you all in Dixie. A Rebel. \*Abdulla and Diamond, the two fine horses now in his possession, he stole from a farmer in Maury county. They cost the owner over \$3,000. > Nov. 30th \_\_ A month has elapsed since I have written a word in this journal, & during that time many incidents have occurred that merited a chronicle. During the first week Mollie & Jimmy arrived after a tedious journey. They came by way of Mobile, Atlanta, Chattanooga & Tullahoma. Bragg's army was crossing from Chattanooga to Tullahoma, as they came on & a precious trouble they had getting through. One night Mollie slept on the deck of a boat on the Tennessee river \_\_ wrapt in some soldiers blankets, & covered with her shawl & Jimmys overcoat. For the last three days of their journey they had only one meal a day \_\_ breakfast \_\_ so that when they arrived here they were almost famished, & nearly worn out. Jimmy remained with us a week \_\_ when rumors of the Yankees getting in Lebanon, & the fear of many that they would get in here also, induced Jimmy to leave much sooner than he intended. I was sorry to have him go for he is one of the pleasantest fellows in the world, & every time I see him I love him better than before. I think he & I are very much alike indeed. He spent two or three days with the boys our friends, in camps at Tullahoma, & also a day at Lookout Point, on his return. I gave him a letter to Mme LeVert, \_\_ but have not yet heard how he was pleased with her, or

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(119) December 7th. This is a clear bright day, but this morning was the coldest of the season. We had quite a snow on Friday last, & this morning the thermometer stood at 18 out of doors. I think from present appearances that we are to have a very hard winter & sorry enough I am for it\_\_ I do dread cold weather so much. One consolation however, is, that an open winter would of necessity be a rainy one, & in that case the Federal gun boats would have a good time on the Cumberland & Tenn. rivers. As it is we cannot tell how it will be. No change has taken place in the status quo of the armies during the past week. The Southern army is at Murfreesboro, Shelbyville & the Yankees at Nashville. Joseph E. Johnston has taken command of our forces\_\_ Forrest & Morgan are skirmishing but that seems to be all of a forward movement anywhere. Burnsidess forces advanced to Fredericksburg Va. when they on to Richmond seems to have terminated for the present. There is one regiment here\_\_ The 20th Ala.\_\_ they are being furnished with shoes, clothing, etc. Every shoemakers shop is pressed as also, saddlers, mills, etc. Poor little Bouse who has been barefoot all this fall, got his shoes last night.\_\_ & if Cooper had not been put to this trade a few weeks since, & made him some shoes out of work hours, he would not have had any yet. I am as good as barefoot & have been so for three weeks, yet I cannot get my shoes, which have been promised for a month or more. Every species of clothing is very dear, \_\_ I spoke to Cooper this morning to get me some Yankee clothes to make an overcoat etc. for Bouse. Mrs. Chasteen has promised him a shirt of jeans at 3 dollars per yd, but it is not woven yet.

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The negro boys have plenty of clothes\_\_ Yankee of course\_\_ Cooper had on this morning a fine blue cloth officers coat the he gave some fellow 8 dollars for. He says that many of the men in this Ala. regiment have plenty of Yankee clothing taken in Ky. which they do not like to wear but will sell. The negro dont care much (though Cooper has been teasing his mother to dye some of his blue clothes black.) and so they get along finely. But I would dress Bouse in it if I could get the cloth\_\_ of course I would prefer gray\_\_ but that is not to be had here. I would willingly give five dollars per yd. for such gray mixed cloth as used to sell for 75 cents, if I could get it. Mollie & myself are making Bee & Ting very nice pelissis out of an old brown de laine of Ms, & I dyed our old hats with sumach berries & we fixed them up for them. They look as good as new\_\_ really very nice indeed\_\_ Mollie is such an excellent conjurer about such things. Bee went with Mollie and the Col. to church to-day having on all her new riggin. The bareness to which we are reduced would have seemed to me two years ago as incredible. We live on wheat coffee, pork, or goat meat bread, (both corn & wheat,) & we have a few potatoes & turnips, & one cow. When that is said voila tout. Butter is 1.00 per lb. eggs 1.50 per dozen. No sugar, no molasses, a little dried fruit, & some in cans, but nothing to sweeten it with. I understood Mrs Julia Argo had gotten in some way two barrels of Sugar. I sent to her offering 5 or 10 dollars for as many lbs. but she could not let any body have a pound! Sent me word if she let any body have

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it, it would be me, but she would not sell a bit of it. Well, I thought, had I two barrels of Sugar, I could not deny a neighbor who wanted, a few pounds. During the past week I have been busy sewing, knitting, etc. it being my wish to get all such work of that kind off my hands by the New Year, when, if we have any luck. I would like to commence my study & book writing. Small advantages have I for this it is true & it will be as hard a task as Charlotte Bronte ever undertook yet I want to make the effort. I may fail, or the book may fail (which is more than probable.) yet I must try for two reasons. 1st Darlin will never be satisfied unless I do try, and as our circumstances may be poor indeed by the time this infernal war is over, I could not have any easy conscience unless I at least tried to do whatever was in my power to mend them. We have no pleasures to look forward to now but only duties henceforth we are not to enjoy, but to labor, & endure. We shall belong to that class of the worlds drudges, who work that they may eat & eat that they may be enabled to work. It is a cold & gloomy future how different from that my imagination pictured two years ago! yet it must be met, & met with stout hearts too, or we shall fail & fall by the wayside. May Heaven help us, & our children! The above I wrote in the day time on Sunday while all were gone to church. I passed a sleepless night I was inexpressibly wretched I had a distracting pain in my head my mind was as full of pain as my body my eyes burned & I ached with their fierce rushes of tears. In the morning I was limp & weak as a rag completely de-oxygenated.

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All day Monday I lay in bed\_\_ my head wrapt in a shawl the victim of the most demoniac neuralgia & morbid melancholy. The world was leaden to me. Late in the evening there was a rap at the front door.\_\_ The Col. went out\_\_ a young rebel officer desired to see Mrs. French. There were two of them\_\_ they were invited in\_\_ and one of them proved to be Brooks Trezevant\_\_ my good boy & especial favorite of former days. His companion was Lieut. Partee of Miss.\_\_ both are young officers on Gen. McGowans staff. Their division had gone on to Readyville but Brooks got a furlough of two days to come & see Miss Ginnie. I was so ill, I feared I could not see him, but next morning the Col. insisted on it, and I went for him to my darkened room. How surprised I was to see the little boy of 8 years grown into a gallant young gentleman of 19! Brooks is not handsome but he better\_\_ he is good looking\_\_ easy\_\_ intelligent\_\_ graceful & sensible. I dont know when I have enjoyed anything more than my talks with this fresh young nature, full of hope and kindly feeling\_\_ about old times, when Lide & myself were as the older sisters of Mrs. Lous children. We recalled a thousand incidents of home life at old Conquest Hall (now in the hands of strangers.) and Brooks enjoyed it just as much as I. He seems to have an exceedingly tender & sensitive nature. His fathers family are at Columbus, Miss. Brooks & Maree support their sisters\_\_ both are Lts. in the army. Ree is with Price. How well I remember him a little blackeyed scamp of some 5 or 6 summers! And Aunt Lou has a new boy \_\_ only about 3 months old. Ginnie

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(128) Sunday 28th \_\_\_ \_\_\_ On Monday last I was quite sick all day \_\_\_ on Tuesday evening Brooks Trezevant came to spend Christmas with us. He brought me as a Christmas gift 25 lbs. of nice sugar \_\_\_ than which nothing could be more acceptable. On Wednesday having made a rise of a few dozen eggs (butter I could not get.) some turkies etc. I set to work cooking Christmas goodies, and succeeded totally well, in fact considering the scarcity now prevailing \_\_\_ I succeeded beyond my most Sanquine expectations. We had to be Santa Claus ourselves this season, for cakes, apples, a little candy, & some picture books were all that could be procured for the children. We had to tell them Santa Claus couldnt get thro the pickets, \_\_\_ Jessie wanted to know why the old fellow couldnt go to his Quartermaster & get him a pass? They seemed to enjoy their Christmas quite as well as usual however, notwithstanding that Santa Claus was blackheaded, \_\_\_ indeed I often feel rebuked by the way the children take what is set before them never complaining or repining that it is not better, or that they must now do without this, that, and the other to which they have been accustomed. Mollie gave me a beautiful silver waiter for a Christmas gift. \_\_\_ I got her a handsome pair of pins \_\_\_ & cousin John a set of shirt button \_\_\_ gold & enamel. \_\_\_ Mollies pins were gold & turquoise. I got Bouse 2 sets linen collar & sleeves \_\_\_ Ting & Bee white dresses \_\_\_ the Col some new socks, & Brooks 6 pair of the same. To each one of the servants I gave something, & so did Mollie, with the exception of Martha who got no Christmas on account of bad conduct \_\_\_ taking 20 dollars out of Mollies portmanteau. This unpleasantness was the only

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one that happened during the holidays to mar our enjoyment. The Col. made the negro return the money immediately\_\_ but the occurrence annoyed us exceedingly\_\_ we lost all confidence in Marthas honesty.\_\_ On Christmas eve we were stormed by some of the young folks\_\_ the members of the dancing club,\_\_ and they danced until about 2 o'clock. The children were delighted with the exhibition\_\_ and sat in the dancing room, watching with all their eyes, until those sweet eyes closed of their own accord & they nearly dropped asleep in their little chairs. The Col. was showing the children to Capt. Butler and had Jessie to play & sing for him\_\_ I was in the back room at the time\_\_ soon the house became so still that I noticed it & went out to see what was the matter. I found all hands had quit dancing & adjourned to the other room to hear Jessie play. She acquitted herself very well indeed & was greatly complimented by her audience. I danced twice during the evening\_\_ once with the Col. & once with Capt. Butter Sallie Rowan & Bettie Reed seemed to be the belles of the evening\_\_ we all noticed that Capt. Butler paid great attention to Sallie, and I could not help thinking what a beautiful couple they would make. Capt. B. I think very handsome\_\_ graceful, easy, & gentlemanly\_\_ more so indeed than any man I have seen for years. He is really an elegant gentleman, & Sallie a very lovely girl. I thought as I looked upon them both that night that I never had seen two persons where I could more wish Walter & Jessie to resemble, when they are grown\_\_ & this is the highest compliment I could

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pay either\_\_ On yesterday Mollie had a visit from Mr. Cherry, her minister, & the Chaplain of the 29th N.C. a Mr. Maxell\_\_ but neither of them reproached her with dancing on Christmas night. That party I could not but contrast with the Union Party we had in the Christmas of 1860. The only lady who was present at both was Mollie, the only gentlemen were Dow Mercer, & John Lucas Thompson. Both these are paroled prisoners\_\_ taken at Perryville. Cap. Dr. Claywell, etc. are in the army\_\_ Cicero Spurlock, Dick Smartt, & Horatio Marbury all fell at Perryville. Poor fellows they are among the unreturning brave.\_\_\_ Last night the news came from Murfreesboro that there had been fighting all day Friday & Saturday on our front near Lavergne. All the troops here were ordered down immediately, & the news this morning is that a general engagement will take place to-day. Oh! how I wish it were over, & how I pray that the God of battles may give us the victory! Our all depends upon this issue\_\_ even the question are we to remain at home, or fly as refugees is to be decided by the result of this pending battle. I hope & pray for our cause, yet it is with fear & trembling. I fear that our Gens. have been deceived in regard to the Yankees sending the greater portion of their force into Miss.\_\_\_ & have sent off more of our troops to that State than can be well spared from Nashville. I fear greatly that our army will fall back to the Tenn. river after this fight, & if so, we are lost. We cannot remain here. Deserters say the Yankee force is 75,000 strong\_\_

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\_\_ yet they may have been sent to say this while it may be false as \_\_ as a Yankees word usually is. Gen. Buford left this morning for Murfreesboro with his cavalry, & the N. Carolinians leave tomorrow. Every one that I hear speak of it seems loth to leave McMinnville \_\_ they all say they have been treated so kindly here. \_\_ I would give anything almost to know certainly that Bragg & Breckenridge had whipped the Yankees as badly near Nashville as Lee, Jackson, Longstreet & Co. have beat them on their third on to Richmond. All the Northern journals admit that to be a complete defeat. They say their loss is over thirteen thousand. Gen. Lee officially states ours to be eighteen hundred. Burnside is in odium, & the rumor is that McClellan is to be reinstated. If he is a man of sense he will decline the honor \_\_ thereby making himself the idol of the Democracy; if he accepts, it shows he has a weak place somewhere, and the furor raised about him will go out in smoke. Poor old Abe! I wonder if he has found out that removing the young Napoleon was a second mistake, & he wants to take it all back, as he did his emancipation proclamation! There comes the train! I wonder what news it brings from the front! I am all anxiety to hear from this battle \_\_ and hundreds of hearts here are aching with suspense, and anxious for the result. I dread lest it should not be favorable! Yet in this as in all things may we be enabled to say \_\_ Thy will be done!

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Monday 29th On Monday morning Brooks left in company with Capt. Burke, (the telegraph operator here) for Readyville, where Gen. McCouns force is stationed. On that day we heard that the continued cannonading which had been heard was only heavy skirmishing in front, & that a general engagement was expected soon to take place\_\_ say in a day or two. We heard also that Gen. McCouns command had been ordered forward to Murfreesboro, \_\_ if this is so Brooks will have a sweet time carrying that lunch basket, I sent to Lt. Partee, clear to Murfreesboro, & in the rain too. I purchased 10 pairs of nice warm socks from Grandma Cain on Sunday last\_\_ 4 for Darlin and six for Brooks\_\_ Christmas gift,\_\_ and Mollie bought 4 pr of the same & sent them to Lt. Partee.\_\_ Wednesday 31st\_\_ This has been a most eventful day. At daylight this morning very heavy cannonading was heard in the direction of Murfreesboro. It was a clear cold morning, with a brisk breeze setting from the North. I suppose there was 50 men left town for the scene of conflict\_\_ and everything in the shape of a soldier went. Capt. Lawrence Butler & Andy Brown had an engagement to take tea with us this evening but as soon as the firing showed the ball to have opened in earnest, they sent an apology, and Capt. B. sprang on his horse and was off to Murfreesboro. All the morning there was a continuous roar of artillery\_\_ heaviest from 9 oclock until noon. About 1 P.M. it was less frequent and seemed fainter\_\_ could it be that our gallant fellows were driving

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the Vandals before them? I commenced writing my book in the morning, (because my story was to commence on this day 2 years ago.) and the sound of the firing came rolling into the quiet of my chamber every few seconds. Every now and then I would pause in my occupation to utter the fervent prayer, God protect those gallant men who stand between us & the foe! My nerves were tensioned all day to an extreme pitch\_\_ I was alone at home\_\_ Darlin was in town\_\_ & Mollie & Jessie had gone there also. I felt keenly how much depended on the issue of this battle. Not only the fate of our own noble State, but possibly that of the Confederacy\_\_ and assumedly our fate as a private family. This battle was to decide whether or not we were still to have a home, or be sent forth as refugees to find a sojourning place in a land of strangers. Just behind the lines we stood\_\_ with our households gathered about us\_\_ straining the eyes & heart for tidings from that army of gallant men that stood like a wall of steel between us & the foe. And it came! & God be praised the Tidings were glad tidings of great joy! Just before supper Darlin came home to tell me that the telegraphic operator here had been dispatched in the morning we had taken 6 guns & 300 prisoners. Gov. Harris telegraphed last night to Maj. Rowan, but the telegram was only received this morning\_\_ The enemy is in force all along our lines & there will be a great battle tomorrow. We are confident.\_\_ About 2 or half past one oclock the cannonading ceased to be heard here. Darlin went in to town at night & came home about 11 oclock with glorious news. Harris had telegraphed that our men fought all day, from 5 in the

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Darlin has promised to take me down in a few days if the Yankees retreat to Nashville. \_\_\_ Darlin has been on a trade with Brown Spurlock for the furniture of the Pickett establishment \_\_\_ he is to take it if the Yankees are whipped & driven back so that there will be no probability of their getting up here any more. The furniture is very fine, & cost some 1,800 or 2000 dollars \_\_\_ Darlin is to give 1400 cash down in notes & Confederate money. At any other time I should have been quite exercised about getting such things, but now every thing is so confused, & I have so many things of greater importance to think of that I do not care much whether the purchase is made or not. If we can only be allowed to remain at home I shall be quite content. I seem to have taken root in this spot, & I cannot bear the idea of leaving it. \_\_\_ Florence Spurlock was here this afternoon. She is in deep mourning for her brother who was killed at Perryville. She told me she had understood that the fight was commenced with small arms on Tuesday at 2 oclock, & that Cheathams division was one of those held as the reserve. Her two other brothers are in that Division \_\_\_ her two married brothers went down to Murfreesboro this morning each taking a surgeon with him. Mrs. Hill is inconsolable for the loss of her son, Bob Read, who died in the KY hospital some weeks after the Perryville fight. He was wounded in that battle \_\_\_ was taken to a private house where he had every attention, his wound was doing well, but he died of diarhea

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About this time there seems to be great confusion in old Abe kitchen cabinet. Seward, it is stated upon good authority has resigned\_\_ and other resignations are to take place. Congress is in a commotion\_\_ some are for reinstating McClellan in his Command\_\_ others are opposing it. All the political prisoners, (Northerners,) we have understood have been released lately. Old Abe is said to have revoked his Emancipation proclamation\_\_ his message is a funny document\_\_ the butt & laughing stock of all Europe;\_\_ in it he recommends gradual Emancipation. Horace Greely is said by some rumors to be out for peace:\_\_ others represent him as calling loudly for an armistice. So we go\_\_ poor devils, I trust they may soon get enough of this dust they have been so busy & enthusiastic in kicking up. \_\_ \_\_ Sunday 4th Jan. 1863. The above I wrote on the morning of New Years Day. How bright and hopeful I felt that bright morning\_\_ how I expected to sit down day after day to write in my book\_\_ and to succeed in it. The news of a great victory at Murfreesboro gladdened our hearts\_\_ & we counted over the spoils\_\_ as follows\_\_ 6000 prisoners, 3000 mules, 40 canon, quantities of ordnance & ammunition\_\_ a good deal of coffee etc. for our sick, burnt six hundred wagons\_\_ and killed Yankees in some places 10 to 1. Our loss in killed & wounded 5000.\_\_ Alas! how was this triumph sullied with blood. After supper we were all sitting in the back room when Cooper came to the door & said Mas

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John, Mr. Spurlock has just come from Murfreesboro and he wants you to come up there. Mr. Cap Spurlock is killed & they are bringing his body up now. Great God! I felt as if stunned by a thunder-bolt. Cap Spurlock killed! I could not realize it. I could not believe it. Alas! Alas! it was too true. We all three, Mollie, Darlin & myself went up immediately. The corpse had arrived. Oh! how wretched\_\_ how very wretched it made me feel and how I wept and sobbed. He was in the hottest part of the fight\_\_ his company was stationed on both sides of the R.R. just where it crossed the pike, near Cowans. He was acting as Maj.\_\_(Pat Coffee being here at home on sick furlough,) and had sprang on in advance of his men, cheering them on, when he was struck down. He fell & I suppose died instantly. The ball entered just below the left nostril & passed through his head\_\_ stopping just under the skin, This however, no one knew as the struggle was so fierce and the firing so furious that they fought over him from 2 oclock until night, and it was 11 oclock at night before his body was recovered. His father was there\_\_ he had gone down with a wagon to carry the boys Christmas things\_\_ & he brought back the body of his son! We went into the parlor of Johns to see poor Cap. as soon as he was laid out. His uniform was very bloody & had to be cut off him\_\_ they had dressed him in a fine suit of black cloth such as he used to wear before the war began. How noble and handsome

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he looked, & how natural! You could not notice the small place where the ball entered, it was concealed by his moustache, and his face was oh! so serene & calm & his mouth had a faint sweet smile upon it\_\_ he was paler than usual, but otherwise looked just like himself in a calm, sweet slumber. But oh! how wretched I felt to know that he was dead! About 10 o'clock they took him down to town to his mother. Darlin went with the corpse, and remained all night,\_\_ John Lucas Thompson came with us. It was moonlight and there was a large and brilliant halo round the moon. It was just such a night as we all met up at Johns last winter\_\_ when Cap was home for a short time, & he came home with Mollie. The next night I had a supper here, & some friends to meet him.\_\_ Oh! little did I think when on Wednesday night last I lay down in bed, and was thinking about the dead & wounded that then were lying out in the cold\_\_ that our dear Cap was among them! That night one year ago he was on the Carolina Coast, & that night two years ago, he was here, amid a merry throng at our Union party! God rest his soul\_\_ and I know it is in glory. On Friday afternoon we attended his funeral. I made a beautiful wreath of geranium leaves & Daphne\_\_ emblems of the loves & honors he had won & it was laid on his breast. It should have been laid at his feet where all earthly crowns must now lie. In his coffin\_\_ still & pale\_\_ he looked the Christian

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hero that he was. A garland of geranium & evergreen was laid all around his head & shoulders\_\_ my wreath\_\_ emblematic of the completeness of his life\_\_ lay upon his heart. Few looked on him without tears\_\_ his family and friends were overwhelmed with grief. The frantic exclamations of his mother\_\_ the half frightened & wild sobbing of poor Florence\_\_ & the still, silent agony of the aged father, were terrible to me. As Miss Sophia Searcy stood for hours beside his coffin, weeping, I wondered if she remembered the time when she had said,\_\_ Let the war come! I want it to come! I want these Tennesseans roused\_\_ let it come\_\_ we are ready. Were any of us ready to part with Cap?\_\_ the artillery firing at Murfreesboro was tremendous that evening heavier & faster than we ever heard it\_\_ and it was heard as Mr. McMurray prayed, and voices tremulous with tears raised the hymn around the soldiers coffin. All the way to the grave-yard\_\_ and while we laid him down to his last rest\_\_ and as we returned\_\_ it came rolling up from the northeast a fitting requiem for the gallant dead. \_\_ About dark we came home in Johns carriage\_\_ I had cried so much & been so excited I was sick all night and all next day. It rained all day Saturday, & rained & blew furiously last night.\_\_ About 8 oclock last night Henderson came to the door & said Mas. John the telegraph operator says, for you to come in there\_\_

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hes got a dispatch for you. Boisterous and stormy as it was Darlin jumped on his horse & rode in. I was confident Brooks Trezevant was killed\_\_ or wounded. Mollie & I sat here in the greatest suspense until Darlin returned What is it? we asked breathlessly. Go South immediately, he replied! Go South immediately\_\_ Trezevant\_\_ were the ominous words. Our army was then retreating! Brooks was safe\_\_ and I thanked God for that. He had told me he was fearful it would be another Shiloh or Perryville affair\_\_ we would whip them\_\_ but they would re-inforce, & we would be obliged to fall back. And so it has proved. Many citizens returned from Murfreesboro today\_\_ indeed the road has been full of horsemen & wagons all afternoon. Gov. Harris, Andrew Ewing, Judge Humphreys & many others have come in. They report our victory decided\_\_ the Yankees re-inforced, & our men having got off all prisoners & things captured\_\_ were retreating in good order to Wartrace & Shelbyville. They say this \_\_ but they will retreat to Chattanooga, as sure as you live\_\_ and we will be left here at the mercy of those savages, the Yankees. What is to become of us God only knows. I wish we could go to Georgia\_\_ yet how to get something to eat there\_\_ that is the question, And if the Yankees come in here\_\_ as they assumedly will\_\_ how are we to live here? I feel as though it was no use to try to save anything\_\_ for we are ruined let us go or stay. We may as well give it up.\_\_ I do \_\_ and if we save our lives it is all

I wrote today a tribute to the memory of Cap & Cicero Spurlock & will try to send it to Henry Watterson of the Chattanooga Rebel for publication. I wanted to go to Church today but it was so muddy & windy I could not. \_\_\_ Darlin seems to have some idea of leaving here and moving to town. I look for the Yankees here very soon \_\_\_ sooner than we are ready for them. I expect nothing else but that they will come in and find us right here. \_\_\_ I append an account of last Wednesdays fight from a Murfreesboro paper. \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ [MS. Newspaper Clipping Missing]

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accordance with the previous agreement between Gens. Bragg and Rosecrans The wounded prisoners; of whom there are a great number, are comfortably housed and being well cared for THE NUMBERS ENGAGED. Rosecrans grand army of invasion numbered according to the lowest estimated 75,000 men Gen. Braggs force we have never yet heard computed at over forty thousand, and not more than one half those were engaged in battle. The disparity in numbers, however was more than at once for by the difference in pluck and determination of the two combatants, as well as by the impulses that actuated the men. Still a walk through the hospitals discovers to the most careless looker on the saddest and most sickening spectiacal--spectical which we hope will never again mar the quiet and happiness of so many hearthstones in the Confederacy. THE WOUNDED AND THE HOSPITALS. The spirit of heroic indurance manifested by our troops during the perilous and fearful days and nights of the battle was worthy of themselves and their holy cause. But what shall we say of the patience, the fortitude, the bravery, even the gaety displayed by the wounded. We saw hundreds of them on the field and in the hospital and from not one of them did we hear a single word of complant or repining. Many of the wounds were ghastly, many requiring amputation and the severest surgical treatment, but all of them bear up with the determined spirit of heroes. It will be gratifying to the friends of these brave boys to know that the hospital arrangements are admerable and ample. Dr. D. W. Yandell was particularly conspicuous in providing for the reception of the wounded, and all of the surgeons are kind, attentive and skillful. The ladies formost always in every good work, are assidous in their attentions. Indeed from the good order, careful nursing and fine medical skill displayed, we have every reason to believe that the mortality will be small. MISCELLANEOUS The body of Maj. Gen. Sill, one of the division commanders of the Federal forces, was brought to town yesterday afternoon and laid out in the Courthouse. Gen. Sill was shot through the left eye with a Minnie ball. Col. Allen of the 3d. Alabama cavalry, was seriously wounded in the hand. Col. Marks, of the 17th Tennessee, was also wounded. Captain Jo. Desha, of the 9th Kentucky, was severely wounded in the head by the fragment of a shell. He came to town, had his wound dressed, and immediately repaired to the field. Adjutant Henry M. Curd, of the same regiment, was shot through and through by a six pound cannon ball. Lieut. Curd was a nephew of Col. Thos. H. Hunt and cousin of Gen. John. H. Morgan It was reported yesterday that Brig. Gen. W. E. Woodruff was among the Yankee slain. \_\_ BATTLE OF MURFREESBORO \_\_ ANDERSON \_\_ The enemy commenced the advance from Nashville on Friday, by several different routes of march, driving in our cavalry under Generals Wheeler and Wharton, who slowly fell back, gallantly contesting every foot of the way. On Sunday our line of battle was formed about two miles from Murfreesboro, and stretching transversely across Stones river, from the Lebanon pike, on the right, to the Franklin road, on the left. On Tuesday the enemy had deployed into line of battle upon the ridge whereon stands the residence of Mr. Cowan, at a distance of something more than fifteen hundred yards from our first line, and considerably overlapping our left flank. During Monday, they opened with artillery at long range, and on Tuesday heavy skirmishing ran up and down the line from the left to the centre, swelling almost into a battle at one period when the enemy attempted two charges upon Robinsons Battery. On the night of Tuesday it had become evident that the attack in force would be upon our left, and Claibornes Division was detached from the right for the purpose of strengthening that point, and extending our line, which gave to the left wing four Divisions--Cheathams Withers, McCowans and Claibornes. THE BATTLE The sun rose

clear, after several days of funeral gloom, rifting the mists which hung like silvery curtains over the field, dancing and glistening along the serried line of steel, which glittered in the morning light like the sparklings of countless diamonds, bathing the gay banners which floated in the front with a flood of refulgence, and rifting in golden showers through the emerald fringe of cedars which enclosed the field. Far as the eye could reach stood the two vast armies silent and motionless, and it almost seemed, instead of foes drawn up for battle, to be some brilliant holiday parade, but at length a volley of musketry from the extreme left told too plainly that the work of death had in reality begun, and in an instant afterwards the strife had leaped from point to point, until the whole line from left to centre was one unbroken blaze of fire. About eight o'clock A.M. the divisions of McCown, Claiborne and Cheatham were ordered to charge. The enemy was strongly landed in a dense thicket where the outcropping of the limestone rock formed a natural fortification. Swiftly but with a perfect line our troops emerged from the skirt of timber in which they had been sheltered and moved across the open plain which intervened. The battle now became terrific; crash upon crash of musketry stunned the ear; the ground trembled with the thunders of artillery; the cedars rocked and quivered in the fiery blast, and the air was rent with the explosion of shells. The enemy seemed determined to stake the fortunes of the day upon holding the position which they occupied, and offered a most gallant resistance, but nothing human could withstand the impetuosity of that charge. A spirit of fury seemed to possess our men from the commanders down to the common soldiers, and on they swept, shot and shell, canister, grape and bullets tearing through their ranks until the way could be traced by the dead and dying. Still on they went overturning infantry and artillery alike, driving the enemy like the hurricane scatters the leaves upon the course, capturing hundreds of prisoners, and literally blackening the ground with dead. Such a charge was never before witnessed. For two miles through fields and forests, over ditches, fences and ravines, they swept. Brigade after brigade, battery after battery were thrown forward to stay their onward march, but another [volley of] musketry, another gleaming of the bayonet, and like their predecessors they were crushed into one common ruin. Meantime the brave old With[MS. blotted] was not idle--His line of battle ran diagonally almost to the verge of madness by the destruction of his men, he threw his division forward upon the ridge occupied by the enemy. Here was perhaps the bloodiest struggle of the day. The enemy was stronger at this point than any where else upon the field, and long and fiercely contended the position. Directly in front was a wide area of cleared land, and across this it was necessary to advance, under the sweeping fire of six batteries, but with dauntless hearts, and step as proud as though upon parade, his men sprang forward at the word, and marched on into the face of death. Once they wavered, as the enemy poured a perfect hail of iron through their ranks but at this moment Bragg dashed by, the battle lines burning in his eyes, and the fate of nations in his hand--again they rushed upon the foe; shot down the gunners at their pieces, and drove the supporting divisions back to the rear. all indicating the fearfulness and desperation of the contest. THE LOSSES Our loss in killed, wounded and missing will sum up 5,000. That of the enemy is triple, if not five fold our own. We captured forty pieces of artillery, and up to last night had [have] paroled forty-seven hundred prisoners. Of small arms, ordnance, camp equipage, etc., we captured vast quantities. The prisoners are being rapidly sent South to Vicksburg for equipage, that being in

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Tuesday morning 13th I had written the preceding page in my journal on Sunday evening when I was interrupted by a knock. The visitor proved to be one of Morgans men\_\_ an aid or something of Gen. Clarke\_\_ William B. Lloyd by name\_\_ from the vicinity of Lexington Ky. He wished to establish the headquarters of Gen. Clarke at our house\_\_ Darlin would not consent to it at all. He asked permission then to remain all night\_\_ which we granted, & next morning the Col. went with him to Gilberts where headquarters were obtained. Just before dark a man rode up with the information that Mrs. Armfield & Mrs. Scott were on the road about a mile distant & would soon be with us to stop all night & they had had trouble with their horse & been belated. In a few minutes they arrived. Prisoners - just from Nashville, & out of the trammels of Yankee rule, we were rejoiced to see them of course. Miss Jane Franklin a niece of Mrs. Armfield accompanied them\_\_ when I saw 3 females coming up the yard through the dusk I supposed one was a maid of course, & spoke to Puss where to take her. If I had thought a moment I might have remembered that they could scarcely carry maids, carriage-drivers & other servants about as formerly. The ladies had a great deal to tell of their adventures & almost hairs breadth scapes. About 20 Union men among whom was Gov. Campbell, tried to get them to pass out of the Yankee lines, but they had no more influence than so many fleas. The ladies never got a pass until they went to Rosecrans & made a dead set at him

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themselves. They said he & all the officials treated them politely except that Rosecrans did abuse the secesh women dreadfully. They had hard work to hold their peace during this infliction\_\_ but remembering that their most earnest desire was then to get home they controlled themselves & said nothing. One of the officers near attempted to relieve them by saying, Well Gen. shall I write out a pass for those ladies? He seemed to be sensible that Rosecrans was doing an ungentlemanly thing & wished to end it.\_\_ While at her brothers in Sumner Mrs. Armfield said to a Yankee who was eating his dinner there Dont you think its very kind in us to feed you, since you have come here to kill us? Madam said he I never killed anybody in my life. & I dont want to. Fine, said She he looked as meek and humble as if he wouldnt kill anything if he could.\_\_ At the hotel a Federal officer who was seated with a little boy upon his knee, was boasting to a lady near, how many men they had in & around Nashville. Shortly afterwards he remarked that Jeff Davis was out at Murfreesboro & Goodletsville the other day. Oh Pa said the little boy was Jeff. Davis so near here? Why didnt you go out & take him? He had too many men with him, my son! was the reply.\_\_ A few of the Texan Rangers were made prisoners. Standing on the pavement one of them sprang upon the shoulders of another & standing upright gave 3 cheers for Jeff Davis. A Yankee standing by said if I had a gun Id shot you. Would you? replied Texas. Well now friend if you really want to shoot

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Get your gun & run out to Murfreesboro\_\_ there need for you out there.\_\_ As the ladies were coming through the pickets this side of Murfreesboro there seemed to them to be some indications of a skirmish ahead, which they of course did not desire to run into. They spoke to some of the men & asked if there was danger ahead\_\_ why said one what sort of men are you afraid of? You aint afraid of us blue coats is ye? Im afraid of all sorts of men when theyre shooting one ball is as like to hit as another. shrewdly replied Mrs. Scott. The men were rather checkmated in their endeavor to find out which the ladies preferred, blue, or gray. (buttermilk.)\_\_ Very many amusing things they told us ladies trying to get out things from the city thro the lines. One lady came out with two pairs of boots under her hoops which she unfortunately dropped right before the guard as she descended from her carriage! They ripped open the carriage cushions of one lady to see if they could not find something, but did not. One lady came through from Ky. with 5000 dollars worth of morphine in a false bottom in her trunk, A female detective found it, & took the ladys diamonds, saying I spose youre carrying these out for a bridal present for John Morgan. Well theyre contraband and she appropriated them to her own use!\_\_ The city is full of bad women, they are at hotels & in private houses living with the officers & passing for their wives. The place too is full of female spies & detectives\_\_ some of whom will go to the citizens

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and representing themselves as Southerners in exile & persecuted ask for money as charity. If the citizens grant this they are arrested. They resort to all low means to get men arrested. One draughtman they took in by desiring him secretly to prepare a draught of their fortifications\_\_ then they went to a shoemaker, and employed him to make a pair of boots with the toes double\_\_ between the leathers this draught was to be inserted and worn out of the lines. After taking in these men in this way, they arrested and imprisoned them.\_\_ Buell is in Nashville now standing his trial. It will not be finished for six months it is said. Buell is the only Yankee officer who will be even tolerated in Nashville after the war.\_\_ Mrs Armfield anxious to reach her brothers in Sumner, drove one night through a long Yankee encampment, alone, with the exception of a little boy. She sat alone in her buggy while the boy went to the Gens. quarters to get her pass examined\_\_ and still she said she did not feel at all afraid!\_\_ Yesterday was the 12th anniversary of our wedding day. Ten years married & the first time I have failed to have a fine dinner on the anniversary. But in the midst of such scarcity how could I get up a fine dinner? A pound cake was all I could make for the occasion. I regretted it more because it was the tenth anniversary when I wished to have something extra.\_\_ Miss Sophia, Sallie Rowan, & Mrs Waters were here in the afternoon of yesterday. I went up to see Lori Sprulock & Mollie sent for me when the ladies came

1863 Monday 19th Jan. \_\_\_ We have had rain the most[MS.torn] of last week which turned to snow and the weather was pircingly cold on Friday & Saturday \_\_\_ thermometer standing at 28 and 29 in the hall. Yesterday it moderated a little but to-day is cold & grey with a bleak thin wind. Morgan and a portion of his troops have been here all the past week, \_\_\_ one night young Mr Smith of Nashville (nephew of Mr. Hy.) staid with us. He had been in Wheelers cavalry, and was captured before the Murfreesboro fight & taken to Nashville. He made his escape \_\_\_ showed me his forged pass. \_\_\_ he was on his way to join the army, at Tulahoma. The same night he was here I had a sick soldier \_\_\_ one of Morgans men, & a comrade who attended him. The name of the sick one was Rice \_\_\_ he was 15 years of age. I did the best I could for him & next morning he was able to go on his way. Another staid all night Friday night, but we have been obliged to send off a great many because we really do not have provisions to feed them. We have bread & meat \_\_\_ wheat coffee & sassafras tea a little milk & a very little butter. Oh! it is so hard for me to send those fellows off when they are polite and gentlemanly. When they are not I dont care. I was amused at the Col. on night when one came who was rather rude. The Col. commenced telling him he would not stay and was going on to tell him why when he said rudely that he didnt want any explanations. Yes sir said the Col. but you shall listen to my explanation. & he made him do it & the fellow went off. \_\_\_ Our situation here is one of

[MS. Torn] [great] anxiety and uncertainty. The Yankees we hear [MS. Torn] [have] advanced as far as Readyville. I dont suppose their cavalry will come this way while Morgan is here\_\_ but there is no telling. Maj. Rowan has a dispatch from Harris yesterday which did not encourage us any. It was to the effect that we were not now safe\_\_ that the Yankees might come to McMinnville attempting to flank Bragg & if so Bragg unless re-inforced would be compelled to fall back to Chattanooga. I presume B. will ultimately fall back as according to Harris he has had no reinforcements as yet. Indeed I dont see where the reinforcements are to come from\_\_ our troops it is true are now resting on their laurels in Va\_\_ and yet if we were to have them moved from thence\_\_ the Yanks there might sound the on to Richmond again. However there is no denying that fewer men could whip those Yankees there than can whip those western abolitionists here\_\_ therefore Bragg needs the men most. A very sensible article appeared in a late ^ Savannah paper which said that Bragg was obliged to be re-inforced any how & hed better be so now while Rosecrans was weakened\_\_ for he is weaker now then he will ever be again. The late rains have had a bad effect on the Cumberland & Tenn. rivers\_\_ causing a rise over which the Feds are crowing lustily. There is a rumor that Wheeler has been down on the Cumberland below Nashville and done great damage to their transports & a wooden gunboat\_\_ but how true it is we cannot yet say.\_\_

3 A good story is told of old Mrs. Livingston\_\_ Morgan drove up to her house (coming from Smithville.) in a buggy and inquired the way to Dr. Armstrongs. She knew it was Morgan from the circumstances\_\_ as he was expected.\_\_ and was so flustered she couldnt point him the way. Seeing her excited & finding that he was not likely to get a direction the Gen. bowed and drove on. As soon as he departed the old lady broke over to Mrs. Poindexters and told her\_\_ they hurried on their bonnets and off to Armstrongs to see Morgan. On being introduced Morgan said to Mrs. Livingston Madame you are the lady I met a little while back on the road\_\_ Yes exclaimed the old lady throwing up her hands\_\_ Im the very one. But bless glory be to God! When I saw John Morgan I was so glad I couldnt say a word. I beg your pardon for not showing you the way to Dr. Armstrongs! They had quite a laugh over the old ladys excitement. Rumor says that Mrs Poindexter waited upon him at his quarters & asked him for a button off his coat\_\_ & that he replied he had given away all his buttons and had none but Yankee ones now, & he didnt suppose she wanted them. I dont believe the story to any alarming extent as I think & hope we have few women among us who would be that silly or make themselves quite so ridiculous.\_\_ Hen goes to Dr Paines today\_\_ he is lived there for the year & Cooper has come home.\_\_

4 Last week Mollie commenced with the children and I commenced thinking & reading & writing preparatory to going on with my book again. I arranged all my old letters\_\_ getting out those received at the commencement of the war, for really my feelings since then have undergone such a change that I have forgotten how I felt when I defended the old Union with all my heart and soul. I was sincere then & I am sincere still\_\_ but oh! how changed in sentiment! I am glad I was a Unionist then\_\_ tho glad I am not now,\_\_ though I am not a secessionist now\_\_ nor ever will be.\_\_ This evening Mary Armstrong was here. She & one of John Morgans staves rode out on horseback although there was a very high wind and threatening rain every minute. The stave we found out afterwards was a volunteer aid to Morgan\_\_ and his first sentences soon proclaimed him to be of very small forces. Mary introduced him as cousin John Morgans Chief of Staff\_\_ which was only a specimen however of her inflated manner of conversation. She came out here she said sent by her Ma to tell me that Mr Morgan was coming in on the train on that evening and would be at her house for several days. Mrs. M. she averred had stated that she was just crazy to see me, and Gen. Morgan had announced his intention of coming out to call on me himself.\_\_ Both of which expressions I credited to Miss Marys imagination, which in some respects is exceedingly vivid. She announced that evening her intention of learning if the Yankees came in!! at which all were all duly astonished!

11 Sunday 8th Feb. \_\_\_ This is quite a pleasant morning compared with the weather we have had of late. There is sunshine which however looks as tho it might be quenched in rain before the day is over. The beginning of the week we had dreadful weather. I have never seen a more murderous day than Monday and Tuesday was even worse. Now Mollie & I were preparing her dress for the concert\_\_\_ it white swiss trimmed with cerise tulle, coral jewelry a beautiful moric antique cerise sash, and velvet fuschias in her bosom. She looked very, very charmingly indeed. The house was not only crowded but packed & everything passed off quite pleasantly. I was very much annoyed however, by some officers, who sat on chairs in the aisle first jam up to me\_\_\_ who had been drinking & were very anxious for the concert to be over so they could again get some more of the same sort. They were determined that everybody near them should know that they were Cols. \_\_\_ talked loud & long of my regiment & my regiment & my regiment\_\_\_ until they thought everybody around was fully convinced of their officership & then they commenced passing coarse remarks upon the girls & wishing the bore would stop & the ball commence so that they could get brandy. I was sick with the fumes of their breath\_\_\_ disgusted with their conversation\_\_\_ & indignant at their ingratitude. They seemed entirely to forget that the ladies were working for their sick men\_\_\_ That these were the first girls of the place & that they would scarcely say to those girls brothers what they were saying about them.

12 And then I knew how they would go into the ball-room & flirt & compliment those very girls they had been commenting on so coarsely\_\_ until the poor innocents would think them the most elegant agreeable gentlemen they ever saw,\_\_ and this made me mad. It happened too just as I expected\_\_ they did do this very thing\_\_ & Col. Clock complimented Mollie on her song to which he had not listened\_\_ pronouncing the music too heavy to be listened to\_\_ & wondering where he could get some brandy! When I told Mollie about the way they did she was so hurt she cried. I was sorry enough to cry\_\_ for it always hurts me to find people worse than I imagine them to be. Mollie told Mrs. Nicholson & Maggie R. and Mrs.N. was hurt also about it.\_\_ Tuesday was a wicked looking day\_\_ piercing cold\_\_ with a black, bitter biting wind, which shrieked around the gables, & it snowed some\_\_ this fine sifting, cutting snow. At night it blew great guns\_\_ the wind roared on the mountains like a thunderous torrent\_\_ and as it grew a little warmer, slight falls of chill rain were dashed against the windows. I scarcely ever heard it blow so dreadfully\_\_ every little while I expected to hear the windows come crashing in. All the week I have been studying & getting together material for my book\_\_ On Wednesday Gen. Morgan sent me out a letter which had been brought by Maj. Llwellyn his Q. Master\_\_ it was from Bro. Seals of

13 Crusader memory\_\_ wishing to know my whereabouts and saying he had plenty of money for me now if I wanted anything of that sort We have more money than anything else\_\_ just now and I suppose it is well, for it takes cords of it to get anything\_\_ & most frequently cords wont bring it.\_\_ Mrs. Nicholson and Maggie R. were here on Friday evening\_\_ I like Mrs. N. very much\_\_ but is neither so young nor so pretty. Mollie went home with them & only returned this morning. She & they with Mrs. Waters\_\_ Rowan, & Sallie R. went out to Mrs. Marbury and spent the day yesterday. Mollie reports that Capt. Humphreys, (Mrs. Nicholsons brother,) who came up last night says that he understood the Yankees are evacuating Murfreesboro ,\_\_ Theycannot it is said, get a pilot to bring their boats up the river, and as the country about Murfreesboro is eaten out entirely, they will starve unless they retreat. I hope it may be so but do not credit the rumor yet. There was a rumor last night that Wheeler & Forrest had taken fort Donelson & Clarksville\_\_ it is however regarded as a mere rumor, as yet.\_\_ Morgans men are behaving badly here, & Morgan himself is losing character by the way they go on stealing\_\_ pressing\_\_ burning\_\_ etc. the old farmers round say they had quite as leave have the Yankees in here. They have torn up a great deal, but still I feel secure to what I would if there were Yankees about us. Heaven grant that they may never never get in here again!

14 Very many persons are beginning to talk more of peace by May or June! Oh! that I could dream so sweet a dream as that\_\_ but I cannot. I look for war\_\_ war\_\_ war\_\_ for a long time yet, & more privations and suffering than we have ever yet been called upon to endure.\_\_ Vicksburg is not taken yet\_\_ but the enemy constantly & confidently speak of its speedy reduction. It may fall\_\_ but is none the nearer its fall for their saying so.\_\_ They think that Rosecrans has Bragg\_\_ we do not. By the by on dit that Bragg has been relieved of this command & that Joseph E. Johnson resigns in his stead. Good if true\_\_ as I presume it is.\_\_ I have come to the conclusion this week not to take the Pickett furniture from Brown Spurlock. H asks 1400 dollars\_\_ the cost was 1800 at first\_\_ yet it has been so greatly abused it is not worth over half now. I had rather give 1800 for new and have just what I want than even 1200 for this and take so much damaged furniture\_\_ besides much has been broken & lost. I will endeavor to make out with what few things I have until I can get real new things to suit me. Brown is so notionate about the affair\_\_ one day he wants to sell and the next day he dont\_\_ so Ill say no more to the Col. about getting it. If the war ever closes furniture will be likely to be exceedingly high, and money exceedingly scarce\_\_ yet we must do as we can\_\_ Im sorry we cant always do as we would.

15 Sunday, Morning 15th Feb. \_\_\_ Rain\_ rain\_ rain! It poured all last night & this morning is gloomy indeed. Cold indigo blue hills, wrapt in mists, \_\_\_ raining at intervals, and everything dull, dripping & dreary to the last degree. The middle of the month is here today \_\_\_ or rather yesterday which was St. Valentines \_\_\_ & I do sincerely trust that ere long will have some promise of good weather. In 14 days the winter will be over\_ shall we have Spring then? I doubt it much. I have nere passed so uncomfortable a season. Hard fare, and a house in confusion seem to strip life of half its attractions \_\_\_ then the constant strain of suspense, apprehension of Yankee advances, etc. \_\_\_ Oh! it is all very, very wearisome. Well \_\_\_ well, we must ein nerve ourselves up to bear these things for there is no help for them. \_\_\_ On Monday evening Gen. Morgan & his wife called on us. Gen. M. is a tall, rather fine looking man, high forehead, slightly bald\_ dark brown hair, which seems thin \_\_\_ dark whiskers, good features, very fine teeth \_\_\_ a staid, & sober expression but very agreeable \_\_\_ and he is exceedingly courteous but not courtly \_\_\_ very polite tho not polished. Mrs. Morgan reminded me that evening of Ellen Harrison \_\_\_ her side face is like Ellens. Her manner is that of Narcis Sanders \_\_\_ a good deal of manner. \_\_\_ I like Mrs Morgan much \_\_\_ she is not very brilliant \_\_\_ not quick to take up a joke or she into a witticism, but when she does see it, appears to enjoy it. She had gone to the hospital a day or two previous & was speaking to Stenil who was ill there about the money they had made at the Concert. He inquired what was to be done with it \_\_\_ she said

16 she did not know certainly\_ it would be used for the benefit of the men. Well said he, I would suggest that it be applied to a general washing of the command. Mrs. M. it is said did not see the point until some time afterwards\_\_ she took him in earnest, & that a good wash would do most of them more good than anything else! It was what I recommend for a sick one I had & it acted like the waters of Jordan on Naaman the Syrian. Gen Morgan told me that evening that his confidential spy Steel had just returned from Ky.\_\_ & Stenil said to him as soon as he saw him Well\_\_ did you parole Nashville? Morgans costume on this evening was blue cloth pants & round about with plenty of brass buttons and immense, shiny cavalry boots & spurs \_\_ black felt hat trimmed up at the side with a star. They came on horseback. Mrs. M. had on a black riding habit, hat & veil\_\_ Capt. Morenis was here when they came\_\_ he came to get me to lead off a committee of lady managers of a ball to be given by some of the officers to Gen. & Mrs. John Hamilton on Friday 13th. I would not consent to lead off but express a willingness to assist any other ladies who might wish to form a Committee. Magenis said he came to me as it was known I did not belong to any of the cliques about the place. No I said, I did not & never intended to. Next morning May Rankin wrote for us to come to Mrs. Reads to a meeting of ladies & we went. Mrs.

17 Read, Mrs. Waters, and myself were all the committee present. I wrote out an invitation list of the ladies & some of the married folks\_\_ which was all we could do then. Mollie & I went down town\_\_ soon Mrs. Marbury & Mrs Read came after us and we went back to Maj. Rowans. Here we concluded not to place our names upon the invitation cards\_\_ which was a great relief to me.\_\_ On Thursday they sent the ambulance out for us to go to the Hall & see about the decorations. We went Mrs Read, Mrs Waters, & myself sent for some girls, and with the aid of the young men of whom a goodly number were present\_\_ soon had the wreaths etc. completed. This was a wet, cold, disagreeable day. Next morning they went for us again & we went to set the tables, etc. I took Puss with me & Mrs. W, had two servant girls of Mrs. Rowans. A host of men & boys were about, and we got thro before very late in the evening. Mrs. Poindexter prepared the supper, which was better & more bounteous than could have been expected at this time of scarcity. The meats & the coffee, were however the only really good things. The brown sugar cake without icing\_\_ beets & cabbage for pickles\_\_ chicken salad without celery\_\_ and molasses candy in lieu of French Confectionary\_\_ made a very marked difference in the appearance of such a supper table now, & two years ago. \_\_ Lieut. Cunningham\_\_ a very nice fellow, took Mollie to the ball.\_\_ The Col. & myself went in company. We went late\_\_ 11 oclock & retired early at 3. Everything was in full blast when we arrived and the young folks seemed to be enjoying themselves vastly.

18 Everything looked more brilliant than I had ever supposed possible from the meager resources at command. The music was good\_\_ they had a brass band from Tulaoma, & the dancing was very spirited. But few ladies were present compared with those who had been invited. I excused our ladies here to the gentlemen who remarked on this paucity of the feminine element ^ by saying it was on account of so many of them having lost friends. The truth is however that there was a great feeling of opposition to the ball among the citizens, partly arising from their professed piety which dont seem to hurt them ordinarily, but which is sure to break afresh when anything turns up which they cant enjoy\_\_ partly because they dont like Morgans men who have been pressing extensively around here\_\_ partly on account of these being troublous times when folks ought not to enjoy themselves\_\_ and partly because a great many people like to denounce everything which they themselves are not the head & front of. The only married folks of the citizens present were the Col. & myself. I did not desire to go into the affair at all and should not have done so had it not been that it was given to Mrs. Morgan\_\_ whom I like, and for when I was willing to do what I could. I did not wish to go to the ball\_\_ but went in compliance with the Cols. wish. There were 8 gentlemen to one lady present\_\_ and all the girls were belles. Mollie and myself were the only ladies who did not dance, and we did not, only because we have judged it our

19 duty to dance not at all until this dreadful war shall be over. I was pleased to see that the girls could appear so well as regards dressing, with our present slender resources. I suppose everything worn that night was old things fixed over. My own dress I suppose was the only new one\_\_ it was not a ball dress\_\_ but a simple white swiss which I got last summer, made up & never had on. It was tucked to the waist\_\_ trimmed with swiss inserting and Valenciennes lace, high neck & long sleeved ^ I wore Mollies pearls & she my corals. Mollie wore the same dress she wore to the Concert & looked extremely well. Misses Sophy Searcy & Bettie Rice wore white swiss\_\_ Miss Wade pink Tarleton\_\_ Jane Monford light silk\_\_ Sallie Rowan tulle with spangles\_\_ Mary Armstrong the shiny dress she wore at the Concert with two flounces of pink Tarleton at the bottom & a blue veil with stars on her head. This she called the Confederate dress, and military style. (!) Mrs. Morgan wore a crimson silk trimmed with black lace\_\_ & a full set of pearl ornaments\_\_ head dress, comb, & all. She looked very well and was a conspicuous figure in the dance. The Misses Putnam from near Manchester were present\_\_ pleasant girls\_\_ yet not very elegant looking, as I had supposed from reputation they would be. There was general assortment of brass buttons though but little tinsel among the gentlemen. Many of them were in citizens dress, as was Gen. Morgan himself.\_\_ We left early\_\_ Puss came home with us bringing a bundle of things for the children. Mollie came soon after. I have heard nothing since, having been

20 nearly dead with sleep all day yesterday, & seen no one. Capt. Castleman of Lexington Ky. who was one of our corps who engaged in making arrangements for the ball sent me yesterday a box of flowers he had received the day previous from a sweetheart in Huntsville. He is a nice fellow\_\_ handsome\_\_ reminds me something of Capt. Butler. He tells me that Mrs Rosa Johnson is not at all popular in Lexington. She lived very unhappily with her husband\_\_ and her friends laid the blame on her shoulders. (I suppose so of course.) Mr. Jeffreys, her second husband, Capt. C. represents as a man of no attractions whatever\_\_ either personal, pecuniary\_\_ or mental. He was he said, invited to be one of the groomsmen on the occasion of Rosas second marriage\_\_ but was obliged to escape secretly to the Southward that very night\_\_ and so declined. His brother was arrested next day. Mr Jeffreys is an old man, he says, with four grown daughters. Rosa has five or six children\_\_ all boys I believe.\_\_ This Capt. C. says he is a relative of the Castlemans in Missouri\_\_ of whom Miss Kate\_\_ one of the Cols old sweethearts, was one of which, as the Guide was want to say.\_\_ The war news is meager \_\_ the situation statis quo. Events are looked for from Vicksburg & Charleston\_\_ and when they come will be very important. Rosecrans neither advances nor retires. Braggs or rather Johnstons army is said to be such strangers now than before the battle of Murfreesboro. Maj. Hoskins told me the other evening that that battle ought never to have been fought at M. & if Bragg had fought where he is now he would have been invincible & utterly routed the Yankees.\_\_

29 Tuesday 11th March. One of the rainiest of rainy days\_\_ skies sullen & leaden\_\_ river muddy, foam-covered and rushing by like a torrent\_\_ hills black\_\_ ground sodden & covered with crater-pools\_\_ rain pouring\_\_ pouring down. All day long, all night long it poured. I sewed, & knit, & read, & learned Martha how to iron some\_\_ cut out some aprons for the children. Wednesday 12th\_\_ This morning was foggy\_\_ but cleared away about 9 o'clock. Mollie took Puss, Martha, & Cooper & went to clean up & arrange her school-house. I sent in some old magazines to Livingstones\_\_ he wanted something in the way of books to sell to the soldiers. Murphy Duke brought me a nice present of some partridges\_\_ just ready for the oven.\_\_ Sunday 16th\_\_ Attended Church this morning to hear Dr. Hopson. Gen. Morgans chaplain preach. His text was in these words The perfect law of liberty.\_\_ & I liked the sermon very well.\_\_ I expected from the text a political sermon\_\_ but it was not\_\_ he spoke only of liberty from sin. He is the first Campbellite I ever listened to preach, with the exception of old Alexander Campbell himself. The discourse was more argumentative & less eloquent than I had expected, from Dr. Hopkins reputation among us. Our Episcopal clergyman, Maj. Hodson, of Gen. Wheelers staff held service this evening at 4 o'clock, but as I came home with a violent headache, I could not attend, which I regretted very much indeed. We walked home from church with Miss Sophy Searcy & Bettie Reid\_\_ Maj. Hodson was our escort\_\_ the wind was blowing us every fashion\_\_ when he remarked to Bettie that he came to see a reed shaken by the wind!

which we all considered a smart thing in the little preacher, of course. \_\_\_ I came home \_\_\_ got some delicious hot coffee \_\_\_ Laid down & took a sleep & now feel a little better but not well. \_\_\_ On Wednesday evening Col. King and Maj. Buford of Gen. Wheelers staff visited us \_\_\_ the latter is a great friend of Mrs Le Verti; and we found him also a very entertaining person. Indeed there is a great difference between the stars of Morgan & Wheeler, \_\_\_ the latter seem to me unquestionably the gentlemen of the two. Maj. B. tells me that Octavia LeVert is shortly to be married to Gustave Bouligny, a young planter of the Lafourche region. \_\_\_ On Thursday tho it was a chilly day, it was bright & Darlin & I went to see Mrs. Scott & Mrs. Armfield. The roads were awful, & we had to go a round about way crossing the river on the old bridge. We found all well and much delighted to see us, if appearances go for anything. Just before I came away Mrs. A. took me up in her room & told me a strange tale concerning Mrs. W \_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_ Well, I expected as much \_\_\_ I despised Gov. Harris before \_\_\_ but I utterly despise him now. \_\_\_ Mrs. A. had made some nice little presents for the children which I brought home to them, together with some nice apples which she had reserved for them. I came home almost frozen \_\_\_ found Capt. Magenit here. \_\_\_ Mary Armstrong had been here to see me \_\_\_ sent by her Ma to find out if I was intending to give Mrs. Morgan a supper or not. I did intend it & will do so if nothing happens. I am not sure but I think with the Company I am obliged to have it will

be a very stiff if not stupid affair\_\_ I fear it will at least. It is going to rain too\_\_ & I know I shall not be able to get things arranged as I would wish them. \_\_ Friday I sewed all day at home\_\_ Mollie & Martha went & finished arranging the school-room. School is to commence tomorrow, D. V.\_\_ Yesterday I spent in house-cleaning\_ and endeavoring to get my rooms into something like decent order. In the midst of our sound & fury Miss Bettie Searcy came to call. She & all of Dr. Reids family are to leave for the South next Thursday. They go to LaFayette Ala. They are very fortunate\_\_ and I wish I was going too\_\_ we would be out of the reach of the Yankees, who are sure to be in upon us here\_\_ it is only a question of time. Bettie requested to use my name as a reference should she and Sophy enter upon teaching\_\_ she also wanted the words of a song I had written in memory of those who were left on the battle-field low.\_\_ Mollie had a letter from Jimmy last night\_\_ he says another attempt will shortly be made on Vicksburg\_\_ but that our Gibraltar is impregnable. He confirms the rumors of disaffection, desertion, & dying in the Yankee army opposite Vicksburg. No further news from the Northwest\_\_ I think they will ultimately submit to the Conscription Bill\_\_ there is no freedom now at the North. Lincoln is a dictator. Our independence depends now upon our steady front to the foe\_\_ if God would in His goodness grant us a triumph at Vicksburg, & at Tullahoma\_\_ we should have peace ere long. Oh! our Father remember us, and grant us this of thine especial favor!

I see the first open peach blooms to-day\_16th March.\_\_ Monday 17th. To-day saw the children off to school for the final time. It was a most lovely morning\_\_ I had them dressed\_\_ their noon lunch put up\_\_ and away they went in the highest glee. I felt lonely all day without them\_\_ everything was so still and quiet about the house. I made to-day some preparations for the supper I intend giving Mrs. Morgan & the Gen. on tomorrow evening.\_\_ When the children came home they were perfectly full \_\_ brimming over with the school and anything about it. They were delighted\_\_ in their heads\_\_ and only complained that they had not had enough of lunch. Having bid Mammy good-bye in the morning almost with tears, and as if it were a very serious parting indeed. They ran to tell her how dee as soon as they returned\_\_ and the old body was exceedingly gratified. I think they were more than usually weary when night came\_\_ the novel experiences of the day sent them to bed early.\_\_ Tuesday 17th\_\_ Today I was preparing for the entertainment of my company\_\_ icing cake\_\_ making custard, cole slaw & chicken salad & setting the Table (Mrs Sam Hopkins & a Miss Neblit called yesterday morning I forgot to mention, and in the afternoon I was a good deal bored by a long visit from a Morgan man who pretended to be literarious, and repeated to me stanza after stanza of his pieces. His name was Daniel. I heard the children come home from school and felt so worried that I was obliged to remain in the parlor, & could not go out and meet them. When at last the man took his leave, I came out & found Mollie and the children at dinner. M. said Lt. Cole had walked home with her from school and that he & Captain Castleman would call directly

Sunday 26th April. \_\_ Well \_\_ well \_\_ well \_\_ and yet it is anything but well! Such a time as we have had during the week that is past! We had just begun to get quieted down a little and to feel that perhaps the war-fiend, would spare us for awhile. On Monday I had Martha working my flowers in the front yard, and in the evening which was very warm & lovely & peaceful. Gen. & Mrs. Morgan came out to see us. One item of pleasant running on was an agreement that Gen. M. should send me some fine liquor \_\_ (alias brandy.) & I was to make he & Mrs. M. a bowl of elegant egg-nogg. Next morning the children went off to school as usual & Darlin went to town about 10 A.M. Just about noon he returned, & I said as he came in, Well, Bless, the Yankees are coming now \_\_ certain. I was combing my hair \_\_ and I remember my face turned pale as I looked in the glass. Where are they? In a few miles. I went & gathered up my fine books, silver etc. & put them in my trunks \_\_ Darlin sent off to the school-house to send the children home. Directly here they came, & I was glad to see them tho I did not think the Yanks were really coming \_\_ I thought it was merely another cry of wolf! wolf! when no wolf was near. It was too late for us to move anything if they did come, so I assisted Mollie in hustling a few things out of sight into our trunks, & all we could do was to sit deep & stay where we were. Presently Mr. Duke came over in haste to tell me that one of his boys had just ran in from Burks saying that the Yanks were there, firing on our pickets. I told him we could not help it now, it was too late for us to move anything & I would not go

off myself & leave the house. He hurried away home & just as he reached the outer gate, the firing commenced on the hills to the left of us, our pickets (about 20 men,) retreated slowly up the road till they reached our gate where they stood some 20 minutes, the enemy firing from the opposite hill upon them, but no one was hurt\_\_ our men fired but two shots\_\_ as the blue line appeared, coming down the hill they rode off in a gallop towards town. Our pickets were driven in. The Yankees threw out their skirmishers on both sides, those to the left dashed all around our house & down to the river, where they captured John Paine & another soldier who were down there fishing. The first sight of them made me mad\_\_ I did think before they came that I could treat them politely\_\_ but my goodness! (as Gen. Morgan says.) how hard it was for me to be commonly civil to the thieves & scoundrels! Soon they were all round the house\_\_ off their horses, & after the chickens, fussing and flying in every direction. Then little Ting came running in crying & screaming Oh! theyre going to kill Mammy! Theyre going to kill Mammy! I ran to the back door, 6 or 8 of them were at the smoke house taking out the meat. They rode up & presenting a pistol at her head, ordered her to show them the meat. Ting was standing right by her side, and thinking they would surely kill her Mammy she flew wildly into the house screaming to me to save her. Poor child! How frightened she was! All this while their column was moving on into town\_\_ some passing on the hill-side between our house & Col Spurlocks. Soon the porches were full of

them\_\_ we were surrounded on all sides\_\_ they took this battery certain. They crowded to the doors, some wanting one thing and some another all talking at once, until one imp of darkness started into the house swearing he had heard we had meat hid & he was going to search the house for it. Just as he was about to pass me I laid my hand on his shoulder & looked him right in the eyes\_\_ (the devil was just about as tall as myself and ^ one of the most repulsive countenances I ever recoiled from.) \_\_ I stopped him & asked Are you a man?\_\_ he hesitated a moment\_\_ sensed surprised that I should dare interfere, and said yes.\_\_ Are you a gentleman?\_\_ he did not reply\_\_ but Mr. French who was standing just by smiled & said, Of course child\_\_ Well, said if he is a gentleman he will show it by going out of my house, & turning to another of the men who had a rather pleasant face I asked Do your officers permit you to search houses without orders? He said not\_\_ it was strictly against orders\_\_ adding You are loyal people? Yes\_\_ I replied, all our sympathies are entirely with the South. His countenance fell in a moment\_\_ but by this time the wretch who had sworn to search the house had fallen back among the crowd. By this time I saw them breaking into Mammys house & sent Jessie flying to the kitchen to tell her. By the time she reached there the cabin was full\_\_ her drawers trunks & boxes upside down & inside out\_\_ half their contents on the floor. Lees Sunday hat & pants were gone & one of them had two coats making off with them. She gave them a regular blow out & made them give up the coats, hat

When she had time to clear them out & look about her she found they had taken her spoons, her flour & sugar, her silk apron\_\_ bucket\_\_ Lees shaving apparatus\_\_ Puss breastpin collar, handkerchiefs, stockings, & a pink tarleton party dress! The idea! I had all my jewelry etc. under my hoops, & so had Mollie. We had made enormous pockets & filled them with our choicest valuables, before they came. I really felt weighted down. The man who prevented that hateful wretch, McKenzie, from going up stairs, I found out was a Searight, & a relative of the Searights of Pa. of whom two, Tom & Jennie, were great friends of mine at school. He was the only one among the whole 2500 that I saw that had the slightest claim to be considered a gentleman. Darlin took him up stairs & showed him what meat & corn we had put away there, and afterwards he prevented several from going to search\_\_ they would take his word but not ours, of course. After he left however\_\_ the Col. had to take 4 different sets of them up & show them what we had, & among them that hateful McKenzie, who after he had robbed the negro houses. Swore he would search the house & he would have what was there, & he didnt care if our children did starve. I could have looked on & seen that wretch hanged. I am sure I could\_\_ just then. And now the cry was raised\_\_ the factory! the factory!\_\_ and sure enough there it was all in a blaze. Then a great smoke told us that the R. R. bridge & the old bridge by it were also burning. Soon the whole mass

was alight, and a grand tho sorrowful sight it would have been to me, had I had time to stand & look upon it\_\_ but this I had not. Towards evening the men said they were ordered to leave & some rode off. Searight, with whom I had had a good deal of conversation, seemed troubled, & ashamed of the excesses the men were committing\_\_ I tried to leave him some supper cooked, but fast as fast as the bread was baked, & meat cooked, or even before, it was taken off the stove, the kitchen being crowded all the time. Just before he rode off I handed him some cake, which I wrapped up carefully, & told him not to allow any one else to see. I was in great hopes then that they were all going off\_\_ it was getting late in the evening & the rain coming on. A portion of them did move off, but just at dark here they all came back again, and camped, right on top of us. The yard was full\_\_ the camp extended from the stables on the left clear round in front\_\_ thro the grove, on the hill between us & Col. Spurlocks, to the bluff & down the bluff almost to the river. The prisoners they had taken were confined in the old stable buildings\_\_ the new stable was occupied by their officers. A Col. Jordan, Maj. Jones, & another Maj. were here for supper, Jones being sick slept in the house. The other two & a guard occupied the front porch. I could scarcely keep my face straight at supper to see those officers try to put on the courtesy & easy dignity of Southern gentlemen\_\_ their manners fit upon them like a stiff shirt of new clothes to a 10 year old boy. It amused me to death.

My poor little children got no supper that night, except some cake I gave them at dark,\_\_\_ I tried to have something got for them but could not succeed. Then those officers sent to see about supper, I told them they could have it if they would come & place a guard at the kitchen, if not, I could do nothing for them. They did so, & I gave them some bread, biscuit, ham & wheat coffee. All of them had been drinking\_\_\_ I smelled the mean whisky as soon as they came inside the door and they had bad faces, every one of them. Some Col.s who staid over at Dukes told him they knew me\_\_\_ that I used to be Miss L. Virginia Smith, they were well acquainted with my writings etc. I asked Duke their names, but he had forgotten\_\_\_ and I am sure it was no matter. At night M. & I closed the curtains fast of my room & went to work our trunks had all been brought down stairs & into my room\_\_\_ the place was crammed and jammed\_\_\_ we thought that ere they left some desperadoes might search our trunks\_\_\_ so down between the mattresses of my bed went silver cups, & plate, silk dresses, fine books etc. (the bedstead, was a French & very deep.) then on went the bed clothes, & we lay that night on silk & silver if we didnt sleep. None of us more than doged all night\_\_\_ it was one oclock when I lay down. About dark I had had the negros move everything of any consequence from Mammys house and the kitchen up stairs, and they slept in the house. It rained, thundered, & lightened all night long, & was raining still in the

morning when I rose. I was up and dressed early, had the children dressed and sent up stairs\_\_ the girls & Mammy in the dining-room trying to cook us some breakfast. I would let none of them stir out of doors. Darlin was out & around,\_\_ but we kept in doors and all doors closed. Mollie had a headache. I would not allow her to get up at all except to come into my precious bed. I bound up her head & told her to be very sick indeed, should any emergency require it! It turned out admirably. Just after breakfast two men came to the door. I went to open it Darlin being out, when they inquired if any Confederate soldier had staid in the house last night? No, some of your officers did, but no Confederate. After some conversation it appeared that the notorious Dick McCann, whom they had made prisoner the day previous, & who was confined with the rest of the prisoners at the stable, had made his escape, and they were all furious about it. Soon after here they came to search the house for Dick McCann one man swearing that he saw him run from the negro house to the big house. I laughed at first at the idea of their being such fools as to think McCann would stop here right in the midst of them, but soon my attention was called to Mollie who had fallen back on the bed almost fainting when she heard the head of that armed ten men say in a bullying insolent tone. I have orders to search this house for that man, & if I dont find him I shall set fire here, sir. Very well said the Col. quietly, opening the dining room door & showing them in

proceed with your examination. Your prisoner is not her & I beg you will satisfy yourselves. Poor Mollie she was as pale as the pillow she lay on. I was working with her when two of them burst into the room\_\_ looked in the wardrobe tossed up the childrens bed\_\_ looked under mine, but as good luck would have it did not make Mollie rise\_\_ seeing her critical state I suppose. They went over the house like a thunderstorm, looked in the dirty clothes basket even, up stairs. Puss who was sitting by said with a sneer, Mighty small man to hide in that basket! Everywhere, & in everything, they went with a rush tossing & turning up everything before them.\_\_ & left\_\_ after tearing out the under-pinning of the house, & finding\_\_ a setting hen! They then fired the stable buildings where the prisoners had been kept & stood round it for awhile with their guns, looking for Dick McCann to jump out at them from a corn-shuck. Two came dashing up to kitchen and smokehouse & after cursing & snorting round there awhile came to the house\_\_ and went thro the search again. I left Mollie a moment & went to the back door\_\_ a fellow, stood sat there on his horse, & I think he was the maddest man I ever saw. He leveled his pistol at me as soon as I appeared\_\_ I suppose he thought I was about to shoot him with the Camphor-bottle I held in my hand still, & with the contents of which I had been bathing Mollies face. I said It is an impossibility Sir, for you to find your prisoner here\_\_ he is not & has not been here. He replied angrily When a man

sees a thing Miss, he knows it\_\_ and I saw that man run up to this house. I saw it myself. Well then said I if you saw him why did you not at that time pursue and take him? We are going to take him. One thing is certain you are not going to take him here\_\_ it is simply impossible for you to find him where he is not. I was so mad that if medicines had not been so scarce I think I would have shot him with campfire! Just then the seemed searchers rushed by me out of the house & they all put off together down towards the stable, I looked out the front door.\_\_ The porch floor was all torn up\_\_ about 200 men sitting on their horses were ranged all along the front fence facing the house, watching either for the escape of Dick McCann, or for the firing of the house. I am not certain that they expected even that McCann was here. I think sometimes their object was to search the house for plunder. They looked in wash-stands\_\_ safes, & twenty places where a man could not possibly be hid, & even climbed up the posts of my bed-stead to look on top of the canopy! After they were gone the sight that this house presented was awful\_\_ & Mammys house\_\_ no pen can describe. The stables burned all day\_\_ Darlin saved about half of one poultry house after they left, by ripping off roofing & planking & thus staying the progress of the fires. When I began to find out my losses, I ascertained that they had carried off an iron stove-pot\_\_ all 3 of my Coffee pots\_\_ many knives & forks,\_\_ 5 silver spoons, some newly ironed clothes, such as napkins, towels, etc. They took off two young horses, one of them my own riding-horse\_\_ but Darlin got her back again.

And Cooper went off with them again likewise\_\_ pressed old patsy Andersons horse, & away he went. Mammy was greatly distressed about him,\_\_ I have tried to console her all I could by telling her I think he will tire of it after awhile & return home\_\_ yet I confess I do not really believe he will. Lee was so vexed with Coop for acting the fool so as he said, that when he passed thro town he would not go to speak to him.\_\_ A perfect mountain seemed lifted from my head & heart when they left. I gave it up that they would burn the house, & all that was in it\_\_ (which I am sure they were on their heads to do) as soon as I saw the stables fired\_\_ but my great anxiety was lest they should arrest the Col. Every moment I expected some one to rush in and cry\_\_ theyve got Mas John! and when they left him, and did not burn us out, I was well content, \_\_ nay, most thankful, to to good Power which had protected us. They had boasted so over the taking of Dick McCann that when he escaped them, they were perfectly furious, and it is a thousand wonders they didnt arrest the Col., as he escaped just here, or burn the place.\_\_ Anybody would have laughed to have seen the supper I gave those officers: biscuit, butter-cakes, ham & wheat coffee\_\_ voila tout! One of the men said to Mollie Well, what are you going to do now?\_\_ Youre all pretty near starvin now and you aint goin to make no crop here, now what ye goin to do? She did not reply just at the moment, when he cried out again & with increased emphasis What ye goin to do? Trust in God & keep

our powder dry. O he replied quietly. The men standing round laughed and the querist finding the tables turned upon him sunk into silence. The same man told me that his father married Mar Bentley, an old schoolmate of mine\_\_ his name was Moore. All the wretches were from Indiana and Pennsylvania,\_\_ Great Cesar! How I did hate them! That imp of the devil, McKenzie, after he had been up stairs & searched for provisions\_\_ met Mollie in the hall and said to her in the hatefulest, taunting way,\_\_ is that all ye got\_\_ it that all ye got? if it is I pity ye. Oh how I did want to kill him\_\_ the reptile!\_\_ They did not behave as badly in town as they did here\_\_ some houses were searched, but they burned no property save the factory & bridges. The factory they fired without once warning the operatives, and the building was on fire before the inmates up stairs\_\_ some in the third story, & nearly all women, knew anything of it at all! They got Mr. Faulkners watch\_\_ inquired the time, & when he drew out his watch sized it & away they went. Good enough for him\_\_ he was one of their Union Friends. \_\_ Mrs. Morgan & Mrs McCann left for Sparta in an ambulance, about an hour & a half before the Yankees got into town. Morgan sat on his horse at Mrs. Myers door until the head of the enemys column appeared coming down by Mr. Spurlocks\_\_ he then fired off his revolver at them & skedaddled. in the direction of Sparta. Some of the Yanks said here theyd bet Morgan was right round here now somewhere, a citizen. Dick McCann

was drunk & whether he did it to save Morgan or not I dont know, but he was on the square when the Yanks filed into it. Seated on his horse he called out halt! and the whole column halted. Who the devil are you? cried the advance. Im the great Chief responded Dick. In an instant the cry rang back along the whole line Morgan! Morgan! Weve got im!\_\_ and they dashed forward. Surrender!\_\_ Ill be dammed if I do.\_\_ come on! and in an instant they were upon him\_\_ a sabre cut laid open his head, & he was thrown from his horse. He was taken to Gilberts to have his wound dressed. Here they found that Betty Gilbert had a pistol. They ordered her to give it up, & when she would not sent 7 armed men & took it from her! Brave hearts indeed! One of them told me he never was so insulted as he was by that Miss Betty\_\_ She called them rascally Yankees and when he told her they came very near getting Morgan she said That Yankees got to be made yet thats smart enough to take Morgan! Im sure I didnt think that was in Betty Gilbert. But to return to Dick McCann. They brought the prisoners out there & put them in the stables\_\_ about midnight Dick McCann escaped. He says he figured to be exceedingly weak from his wound\_\_ once he said Boys I wish youd be kind enough to raise me up. I want to change my position. They did so, & he fell, apparently exhausted. He had a canteen of the meanest whisky extant\_\_ with this he was so kind & generous to the guard that he made them all drunk\_\_ the night was pitch

dark\_\_ raining, thundering & lightning\_\_ Dick moved a rock and got out\_\_ got down to the river, swam it, & reached John Stiles where by daylight he had a horse & was off towards Sparta. As they were carrying him past Armstrongs ^ when they took him he called out to Mollie Tell my wife Im not dead yet & Ill fight em again.\_\_ \_\_ On Friday night about 8 oclock Mrs. Rowan sent a runner to tell us to come right in, that the Yankees were in 3 miles of town. The rumor ran that Wheeler was driving this force back. We hurried up a cart, got our trunks taken I to Mrs Rowans and about 10 oclock Mollie & Martha took the children in. What would I have thought two years ago to have seen my children driven from home at night to seek shelter where they could? Mrs Rowan gathered them up as soon as they got in, exclaiming, You poor little things, & did you have to be driven away from home at this hour of the night? They were nearly asleep\_\_ Martha undressed them, and almost ere their young heads touched the pillows they were gone to dreamland. We confidently expected the Yanks in the morning, and as we had got so little away, Darlin & myself remained at home\_\_ Puss & Mammy came to the house to sleep. Early next morning Darlin went in to get the news, & ere he returned the children came flying home to tell me that it was not the Yankees that were coming at all, but Gens. Wheeler & Wharton! O! didnt we rejoice\_\_ first that it was not our enemies & second that our friends for whom we had been so anx-

ious, were safe! We were so uneasy lest Gen. Wheeler should not be able to get out for we understood that the enemy were surrounding him, advancing on him in the usual three columns\_\_ one from here, one from Murfreesboro & one from Lebanon\_\_ but they did get out with all their men & 100 wagons, & safely too. \_\_ This afternoon Maj. Chaffie of Gen. Wheelers staff sent me a package from the Gen. containing a new Poem just issued by Goetzel & Co. of Mobile\_\_ entitled Tannhauser\_\_ (by two young Englishmen.) & a letter from Mrs. LeVert. I was delighted to see Madames familiar handwriting once more.\_\_ it seems that I have missed several of her letters, & no doubt has missed mine. Such is the present demoralization of the mails.\_\_ This evening Maj. Burford & Maj. Chaffie called\_\_ Oh! I was glad to see Maj. B. it seemed an age has passed over us since we had seen him\_\_ that one day I might under Yankee domination made itself into months. We learned some particulars of Wheelers campaign\_\_ They went within 8 miles of Nashville\_\_ were at Lavergne midway between Murfreesboro & Nashville, & captured the train at Antioch. They captured a large mail, & Maj. B. gave Mollie some trophies in greenback etc. He said the letters were rich specimens\_\_ he opened some hundreds & there was not 50 intelligent letters among them. The greater portion of them contained rings, crosses, jewelry etc. which the writers were sending to sisters & sweethearts & which they said were taken from the rebel women.

And this reminds me of an incident some one was telling here the other day\_\_ One of our soldiers killed a coarse looking Dutchman at Shiloh\_\_ noting that he had a heavy ring on his finger he drew it off, and found that it contained inside the name of the sister of a friend & fellow soldier. He sent it to the young lady, who resided in North Alabama, and she said that it was her ring and moreover that it had been wrenched from her finger by a rough & brutal Dutchman\_\_ when the Yankees were in N. Ala.\_\_ Maj. Chaffie told us of a Captain ^ Steele with 10 men who kept the whole regiment of Yanks from advancing on his wagons, the day they left McMinnville. They had the four wheels of a wagon\_\_ on this they placed a log, and ran it up & down across the road in sight of the enemy who from ^ a distance thought it was a cannon or so\_\_ and suspecting an ambuscade skeedaddled back to town!\_\_ We have all our best things away now, except my piano\_\_ I do not anticipate another visit from the devil soon, because they did all the mischief they came to do\_\_ viz. burnt the factory & destroyed the R.R. bridge. At Morrison they burn the Depot & tore up the track\_\_ capturing the train coming up they did not get as they expected\_\_ some woman ran two miles to warn them, and they put back in a hurry.\_\_ We are now in a desolate house\_\_ I laughed heartily when Maj. Burford & Chaffie came\_\_ the parlor was entirely bare almost & we had hardly chairs enough to seat the company!

Wednesday 10th June\_\_ A perfect storm this morning with lightning and thunder. It has stopped now-- (at 9 oclock.) but the east wind is blowing strongly \_\_ & clouds hang along the mountains. For the past two days we have had no news, and the mountain people report that they heard cannonading in the direction of Murfreesboro all day on Monday. We hoped Capt. Carter would return last evening and bring us the news, but he did not. The weather is cool\_\_ we have fires always in the morning.\_\_ For two nights past we have been expecting an attack from robbers. It is a band of lawless depredaitors who infest the mountain gulphs\_\_ deserters, renegades etc. They stop men on the high in day-time & rob them. A few nights since they went to the house of an old citizen near Altamont and telling him if he stired out of his tracks they would kill him\_\_ took everything they wanted\_\_ but did not get his money, which was concealed by his wife. They have been threatening Bersheba & especially Mr Armfield. For 2 nights 7 gentlemen have slept here\_\_ all armed with double-barreled shot-guns & revolvers. A sentinel stands guard each night in front of the house, which is the only approach to it almost. The tramp, tramp of the men at night on the galleries, and their warlike preparations of defence remind me of stories I have read of old Border feuds, or tales of Spanish romance.

Robberies have been committed here already on the unoccupied cottages\_\_ blankets, bedding, china, clothing etc. taken. Mr Philips cottage & Mr. Renners I am told, have been stripped. They are now threatening Mr. Dahlgreens where they expect to find fine wines\_\_ quantities of blankets, bed linen, etc. As yet they have not made their appearance, but we do not know how soon they may. The gentlemen seem to credit the report that they intend to make an attack here, and have prepared themselves accordingly\_\_ which is all right. The place is so well guarded that I sleep as soundly and sweetly as usual, \_\_ there is nothing like getting used to these things.\_\_ I have commenced my writing again\_\_ How long it will continue I cannot say. I am very greatly dissatisfied with myself for having accomplished so little\_\_ I have been sick and unable to do anything half my time. I have been here a month\_\_ made a linen suit for Bouse\_\_ a nice dress apron and linen duster apiece for Jessie & May\_\_ I finished yesterday a sett of ruffled collars & wristbands for Bouse\_\_ and have more on hand a chemise band & sleeves for Mollie. I have read the Marble Farm\_\_ Cricket on the Hearth\_\_ Dombey and Son, and am now reading Bleak House. I write only so many hours\_\_ say 4 or 5\_\_ the remainder is devoted to exercise\_\_ sewing, reading, sleeping, etc.\_\_

Harris came out in a flaming Proclamation to the citizens to organize for Home and State defence just as Bragg was commencing his retreat, but like every good thing that Isham ever did it was done too late. Had he made the call two months or three ago, it might have been practical, & done some good. Sunday 12th July 1863 X On Thursday last I was sick and on yesterday lay in bed with a headache\_\_ had it this morning also\_\_ so that I could not go to Sunday School. I having been sewing during the past week\_\_ making up some domestic the Col. brought up for me, and fixing up the children who were sadly out of repair. Yesterday morning we were suddenly apprised that there were soldiers about Mrs A. went out the front door, where a stalwart fellow stood who demanded 15 lbs. of bread. She thought he was a Yankee, & asked rather poutingly what kind of bread do you want? It is immaterial madam. Whose command do you belong to? she asked falteringly, Whartons Oh! she cried I thought you were a Yankee\_\_ are you sure youre not a Yankee? The man laughed\_\_ heartily Why madam did you ever see a Yankee in this? he asked taking hold of his brown jeans costume Oh! yes you could disguise yourself in that\_\_ but if you are one of Whartons men we have plenty of good bread, & away she went to hurry up the cakes. It proved to be a scout operation of about 20 men, among them Gilly Campbell of Wheelers staff\_\_ they were going to spy the movements of the enemy below.

They brought the Col. and Mollie letters from Maj. Chaffie with the good news that Vicksburg had not fallen that Dick Taylor & Guardsmen had joined Johnston. Gen. Lee had a great victory in Gettysburg, Penn., taking 40,000 prisoners, and that our army is down here just over the Tenn. river. Capt. Carter sent me word that a scout which he sent out with torpedos had blown up his trains below Murfreesboro on the 29th June. I put away a canister of papers today\_\_ hiding my Mss. of my book among the bushes. Other valuables consigned to the keeping of mother earth. The enemy are below us in the vallies threshing out the wheat crop. I look for them here daily, should not be surprised to see them at any time, and when they come I am prepared to be robbed of everything I cannot hide away. Our trunks etc. will all be overhauled & they will appropriate whatever they may fancy. I am prepared to lose everything before this war is over. Well, it cannot be helped. We are again upon the brink of the precipice\_\_ upon the debateable ground. The enemy in a few miles of us\_\_ the mountain full of deserters consequent upon this retreat of the army, (which they say we must not blame Bragg for!) then the brigands. I do not fear the two latter, my only dread is of those despicable Yankees, and their negro marauders. Aside from them I rather enjoy the life we now lead. We have plenty of good provision\_\_ a beautiful

place and the pleasantest of friends. I have written to Mrs. Waters concerning the place but I am very doubtful if she will sell. And then the Yanks may come in at any time and destroy the whole concern. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Sunday 19th July \_\_\_ The past week has proved that we are indeed abandoned to our fate. The news also that reaches us today thro roundabout sources is gloomy enough to depress us below zero. By indirect means we learn that Vicksburg has certainly fallen \_\_\_ our garrison starved out, as we feared, \_\_\_ Grant has defeated Johnston at Jackson, Miss. And driven him back, \_\_\_ Bragg is fortifying with his few men at Chattanooga, \_\_\_ the enemy has taken Charleston, and Lee has been compelled to retreat from Pennsylvania. All this is exceedingly depressing, and I feel depressed accordingly. Perhaps I would not feel so badly but I am exceedingly weak & very nervous, \_\_\_ I thought I was getting over my late illness, but on Wednesday we had an alarm of Yankees. I have been worse ever since. Mrs. Blackman, Mrs. Riddle, & Miss White were here on that day, when Mrs. Armfield came in & told us the Yankees were coming from Altamont. We had just heard of the fall of Vicksburg. There were but three Yankees came \_\_\_ they cut up round here a good deal took Mr. Scotts mules broke open the store, finding nothing, then broke open Col. Armfields carriage house, where articles belonging

band lived. Contemptible fellow! Every time he was looked at hard he dropped his eyes in confusion\_\_ he knew he was a thief. About noon they left laden with spoil from the Hotel. Unfortunately many of the articles from cottages had been placed in the Hotel for safe keeping, and they did not escape of course. Great cedar chests of fine ware, ornaments, etc. were broken open & rifled of whatever took their fancy. They broke into Mr. Dahlgrens cottage also, & I think into Dr. Waters.\_\_ In the evening Mrs. Blackmore & Miss White came to tea\_\_ Mr. B. came late in the evening\_\_ he had been out in the woods all day with Shakspear & the ticks & musquitos. We had a good deal of amusement comparing notes after wards of our experience while in the hands of the robbers. \_\_ \_\_ Tuesday 21st July 1863. This has been a hard day for me\_\_ harder even than was the 21st of April, when the last Yankee raid was made upon our house. Towards morning there had been a very heavy rain\_\_ I was awakened by the thunder, but after wards lulled by the falling rain, dozed off again. I had gone to bed with a severe headache, and it was aching still when suddenly I became aware of ^a tumult of men & horses in front of the house. Yankees! was the thought that flashed across me. I sprang up, opened the shutters, and saw them thro the vines\_\_ a troop of sure enough Yankees\_\_ surrounding the carriage house. There were 100 men in all\_\_ came to arrest the Col. and Mr. Henderson. I know whom to thank

for this\_\_ the dear blessed Unionists of sweet McMinnville and I here promise never, never to forget them. There will come a day of reckoning. They tried the game last summer but were afraid, but were afraid to work out their malice. They will carry it out now. It was what I expected\_\_ so I was not in the least surprised. The Cols. intimacy with Gens. Wheeler, Wharton, Morgan etc. will have to be atoned for of course. I wanted to see the Col. of the gang but he declined coming to my room lest he should be influenced against discharging strictly his duty, (so he said,) but the person who made the arrest, came into my room & up to my bedside with Darlin and entreated me to compose myself assuring me that Mr. French should be very kindly dealt with, etc. etc. I inquired why my husband had been arrested? He replied he did not know\_\_ but it should certainly be all right! I asked if he did not return in three days could I be permitted to meet him in McMinnville? That would be impossible madam but I pledge you my word of honor he will return. was the reply. I hated to do it, but was so relieved that I offered my hand and thanked him! I scarcely know now how I could do it\_\_ yet such was the fact. My last exhortation to him ^ Darlin was to deport himself like the gentleman he was & never to allow his enemies for a moment to suppose that he felt humiliated or cast down before them. He said he would deport himself in a manner worthy of the woman he called his wife\_\_. and I bade God bless him & good bye.

It was hard for me \_\_. Very, very bitter \_\_ yet I did not have a fit of crying. I could not cry \_\_ I was so hard, so bitter, so indignant! One hundred armed men, came up here to take two unarmed citizens! They left McMinnville at 6 P.M. the evening previous \_\_ had lost their way \_\_ travelled all night, & in the rain, and arrived here at daylight. They had written down the names of all the Cols. fine horses, and inquired of him where they were. I suppose his Union friends want the sweet Yanks to get all his property \_\_ and perhaps they will be easy. I dont care for the property \_\_ if they will only let him alone. \_\_ but yet I shall remember them for this. George Stubblefield is said to be at the head of all this fine movement \_\_ well, I want him to go his death on it now that he has the chance. May be the time may some day come when he wont have a chance! If that time comes I will use it, in remembrance of him & others of his like. \_\_ We can get no news now except such as the enemy choose to give us \_\_ to wit, that Vicksburg has fallen \_\_ Charleston ditto \_\_ the Yankee cavalry in Chattanooga, \_\_ Lees army driven out of Penn. with loss of 33,000 etc. etc. which if we could believe might incline us to be gloomy indeed. \_\_ This evening I went down to the Hotel, & got some china, etc. \_\_ (the Yankees went off this morning laden with articles from this doomed hotel.) Ryan is now selling off many of the things \_\_ the mountain people are the purchasers. \_\_

Wednesday 22nd July. Nothing of much consequence occurred to-day until evening. I was up all day, endeavoring to sew & attend to my duties, but with a preoccupied mind it must be confessed. I went down to the rock twice\_\_ once before & once after tea although I did not expect Darlin to return today but when it was nearly dark & we ladies were sitting quietly knitting on the gallery, Col. Armfield came up & said Mr. French is coming! The children shouted for joy, everybody exclaimed something or other expressive of their great satisfaction, & all rushed out to the gate and down ^ towards the plank walk. Sure enough it was he,\_\_ he looked worn & weary\_\_ tears sprung\_\_ into his eyes as he clasped me exclaiming in a low choked voice Oh! my little darling! It was a joy to me.\_\_ a joy mingled with sadness, for he did not look joyful. Our greetings were warm indeed\_\_ he seemed affected by them\_\_ everybody was rejoiced to greet him again. \_\_ Mr. Henderson returned with him, \_\_ They were carried down & compelled to take the oath, & Mr. H. to give bond for 5000 dollars,\_\_ the Col. for 25,000. He says they put so heavy a bond on him because he would not condescend to ask the slightest favor or leniency from any of them. Stubblefield, Cain, & Armstrong were in the Provost Marshalls office all the time he was there,\_\_ neither appeared in the slightest degree friendly but Stubblefield. But, he says it would have done my heart good to see how he was welcomed by the Spurlock

family, the McMurrays, Rowans, and Mrs. Read. He was allowed to go where he pleased, and he staid the night with old Mr. and Mrs. Spurlock. Mammy too was rejoiced to see him, she had heard that we had all gone South, and she was very much distressed about it. She and Lee seemed to be getting on well. It was said that the Yankees were in possession of Mrs. Ben Hills house & said they would take my furniture to furnish it with, to be occupied by their officers. I said, if they did, why let them, and let them make the most of it. The Col. said he was told that 5 young ladies were to be arrested\_\_ viz. Florence Spurlock, Sallie Rowan, Ann McMurry & Octa and Mary Smartt. While he was there a man came up the walk at Mr. Spurlocks reading a written paper.\_\_ poor little Florence started, turned pale as death, & trembled violently. She thought her time had come. It turned out however, to be a man with an order for forage. Sallie Rowan & Octa Smartt I dont think would care a continual to be arrested\_\_ but the others would. The whole place seemed to be subjugated & dozens are going in daily to take the oath. It was the aim of these Unionists to get Mr. French sent off & separated from his family\_\_ They wanted to make his bond so high that no one would come forward in these ticklish times to be his securities. But he did

Sunday 26th July. Scenes enacted here today beggar description. Early in the morning the sack of this place began. But a few of the bushwhackers were in\_\_ The mountain people came in crowds & with vehicles of all sorts & carried off everything they could from both Hotel & cottages. Mr. Armfield seeing that the place was going opened Dr. Hardings & Mr. Bass cottages, just opposite, and told his negroes to come & remove whatever they wanted. The negroes pitched in with a will\_\_ and furniture & housekeeping articles changed places rapidly. Mrs. Scotts wagon was here\_\_ she had it filled, & Mr. Madden took it down home for her, going in company with our gentlemen. Darlin & Mr. Armfield started about 11 oclock intending to remain over night at Mr. Scotts. In the morning Miss Jane & I went to Sunday School with the children, but no one arriving but Miss Martha Smartt and May, we came home, without any school. Sending word to Miss Myra, we found that Mrs. Cain was very ill\_\_ that they had been up with her all night & were too worn & weary to come. The excitement of the day previous had been too much for Mrs. C.\_\_ They were emptying Mr. Cockrills house, as we went to the school-house, & two rough fellows were in our room playing on the melodeon. After we came home & reported, Mrs. A. sent for it.\_\_ About two oclock I was told our black horse was taken off. I took Bouse, & Mr. Cagle accompanied us to look for him. We ascertained that whoever it was took him had been gone two hours,

I left there & took Bouse with me to go look after the other horses which Nathan said had been taken also. We found them all three however, \_\_\_ but the scenes we witnessed are indescribable. Gaunt, ill-looking men & slatternly, rough bare-footed women, stalking & racing to & fro, eager as famished wolves for prey. \_\_\_ hauling out furniture \_\_\_ tearing up matting and carpets \_\_\_ moving to & fro after entrances into inclosures. The women fully as full of avaricious thirst as the ruffamily men. Others seated on their piles of plunder, smoked & glared defiance on any one who came near them. One crone, a Mrs. Anglin, a veritable meg Meriless in appearance, sat on her pile, & crooned a hymn by snatches & starts! One girl, bare-headed & bar-footed took off some dresses from Bp. Oleys. She could not wait until she reached home to try them on, but put down her bundle in a fence corner, tried one on & had a great overgrown boy hooking them up for her! Satisfying herself as to the fits \_\_\_ she resumed her bundle & marched on! Speaking of fits reminds me that one of those Yankees who were up here on Tuesday fell down in a fit at the dining-room door \_\_\_ just as he was going in to breakfast. He was a frightful object \_\_\_ and they deluged him with water & poured brandy over his face, & beat & rubbed & shook him. They saw Jane & Mollie, & one of them said It was a d \_\_\_ d shame for them secesh women to be laughing at Dave. Mrs. A.

asked what was the matter? They said he had a fit in consequence of his night ride, no supper, the storm, the losing their way\_\_ the scare etc. etc. Why! she exclaimed soldiers scared\_\_ scared into fits! Oh! if youd been there youd been scared too\_\_ my horse jumped down a precipice 15 feet high,\_\_ etc. etc) At Mrs Freelins house they held an orgie the whole night, singing, shouting, and it is believed dancing.\_\_ I heard the noise among the cottages myself, when I closed my shutters at 11 oclock. It was brilliant moon light\_\_ fair & cloudless, with a light breeze blowing. Nature so serene & lovely seemed to smile upon the scene of confusion. They dragged off matrasses\_\_ fine furniture, etc. into the woods, & left it, coming back for another load, & in this way many who had no conveyances managed to get away a great deal. It called up before me (on a small scale.) visions of the reign of terror & the mob of Paris shouting to Versailles! The difference was that blood flowed there so freely\_\_ & it would have flowed here \_\_ if resistance had been made. And not withstanding it was so serious an affair, many incidents occurred which provoked me to laughter. Miss Sue White said that one woman had a lot of books from Bishop Oteys residence\_\_ many were Latin & French books, theological character, & pamphlets of Church proceedings. The woman who did not know a letter to save her life, said she had some children who were just beginning to read & she wanted the books for them\_\_ she wanted to encourage em! To crown

All ^ imagine one scene of old Meg Merilees sitting on her plunder with a bucket in her hand scooping out greasy boiled, cabbage & swallowing it wholesale, & clawing it up in her long bony fingers & helping another who being more fastidious rather expostulated as to the manner of being helped\_\_ when old Meg cried out take woman as ye can git it\_\_ ye musnt be so nice these times. Two women went into a regular fist fight & kept it up for an hour\_\_ clawing & clutching each other because one had more than the other! A band would rush up & take possession of a cottage\_\_ place a guard, drive off every one else, stating that this was theirs. \_\_ and many were the scenes of contest that ensued. The men would have red curtain tassels on their hats\_\_ the women beggared description as to costume. I saw one tall, lathy, figure with a tallow face & lank hair\_\_ barefooted, bareheaded, \_\_ a skirt of faded calico rent in several places, a body of a different material with a belt of red horse girth, vainly endeavoring to make the connection between the two incongruous garments! She went like a locomotive hither & thither leaning forward until she was half bent in her eagerness to get everywhere before everybody else!\_\_ All day it was beautiful, sunshining & calm, over the white cottages nestling among ^the heavy green foliage,\_\_ but oh! the scenes enacted around that doomed Hotel & among these birds nest dwelling places of luxury & taste in rural retreats! Eer\_\_

it is the the masses had it all their own way on this memorable day. The aristocrats went down for the nonce. And Democracy Jacobinism & Radicalism in their rudest forms reigned triumphant. It has been a memorable day this 26th July 1863 when the Master went down to town to take the oath, & become in Lincolnite parlance a subjugated rebel, & Bersheba was sacked in his absence by a wild onset from the very people he has been building up for years! The bushwhackers were in, in the evening, & one Campbell (as old Mrs Dykes says,) went out to Hobbs and stole off our magnificent Morgan horse Black Hank. He went down the mountain into the valley where some of the band were pressing mules, wagons etc. & carrying off corn & there meeting with Fary he told him to tell Mr. French that Campbell hath his splendid horse. He said he was going to McMinnville, but upon being told that Mr French was there he turned and came up the mountain again. I have given thus but a faint & feeble as well as disconnected outline of the strange doings of Sunday. I never expected to be in a sacked city but I now have a realizing sense of what it would be having witnessed a sacking on a small scale. And having seen something of the demoralizing effect upon the servants, & indeed upon ourselves. I can imagine what its effect would be upon an army; if allowed to revel in the license which has marked the proceedings of this day. I know of nothing which would utterly annihilate the soldier in a

Monday 12th Oct. \_\_\_ Some time has elapsed since I have journalized any. About the 29th ult. I was sick in bed having also a great boil in a very inconvenient situation which obliged me to lie upon my back all the time, & was exceedingly painful indeed. On Thursday I think it was, I had it lanced, and it grew easier immediately \_\_\_ subsequently discharging a great deal. I did hope that I should have been greatly benefited by this external ulcer, but as yet cannot see that I have. I still drag on \_\_\_ trying to get thru with my work \_\_\_ trying to neglect no duty \_\_\_ halfsick & languid, or suffering all the time. \_\_\_ On Thursday Mollie intended going down to McMinnville \_\_\_ the Col. was to take her \_\_\_ but it rained & was cold & disagreeable \_\_\_ so they postponed the journey until next day, Friday. The Col. intended to endeavor to procure salt, sugar etc. & goods for winter, clothing for the family if possible & return on next day. He did not come however, and as a thousand rumors reached us of a raid having been made by Wheeler & his men some 7000 strong into McMinnville, we were excessively anxious & all on the qui vive. The Rock & the Lookout were sentineled all day, but there seemed to be no one passing and nothing definite could be learned from below. On Monday morning however Mr. John Paine arrived & relieved our minds greatly. He had been down in the valley on Thursday \_\_\_ on business, was cap.-

by a party of Stokes cavalry, some 60 in number, who were deserting\_\_ & carried on to McMinnville where they left him, & pretending they had been ordered to the rear after guerillas, passed on. The commander of the Post ordered John to the guard house, he remonstrated, & upon Armstrong becoming his voucher they allowed him the freedom of the town & he was to report next day & take the oath. Next morning (Saturday.) about 11 A.M. Wheeler & his men surprise the Yanks completely & took the town. It seems the Feds had heard that the Confeds were approaching & had pressed everybodys horses to mount a scout to send out in this direction but that scout was met by these men of Stokes just at the river, who assured them they were just off the mountain & it was all a false alarm\_\_ there wasnt a sesh to be heard of anywhere. Stokes men had crossed by way of Tracy & Altamont while Wheelers force after burning 700 wagons with supplies for Rosecrans in Sequatchie valley, capturing & paroling 1600 men & killing about that number of mules & horses, came on direct by Hills creek road to McMinnville\_\_ treating the Yanks to a complete surprise. They knew not a breath of Wheelers being near until Whartons men appeared at the top of the hill on this side the river. The pickets stationed at the river fired\_\_ Whartons men returned the fire, killing

six Yankees. Wharton had intended to charge the town & take it by assault\_\_ but the Yanks, getting wind of the fighting at the river, threw themselves into the houses at the end of town\_\_ breaking out the windows to fire on the rebels as they passed. Wharton then rode slowly up to this side of town & send in Dave Terry & Cham Spurlock with a flag of truce, demanding the unconditional surrender of the place. The Federals, 800 strong marched out into the square and stacked their arms surrendering unconditionally. Everybody was frantic with excitement. They imagined there would be a fight in the streets\_\_ that the town would be shelled etc. etc. & bad as hundreds of them wanted to see the fight, there was a rush for cellars & other safe places which was as ludicrous as it was earnest. John Paine said he was sitting quietly in a barbers shop, about to have his hair trimmed\_\_ the barber had given two clips at it, & Tom Armstrong\_\_ the deserter, was standing by, explaining some Yankee movement to him when somebody exclaimed\_\_ Good God! There come the rebels! & in an instant John was alone in his glory! Such straight coat tails he never saw before\_\_ whew! such a skedaddle! as the song says. After the surrender John went round to report himself to the Federal Maj. who pleasantly asked him if he had come to take the oath? John thought he wouldnt take it that day unless the Maj. insisted\_\_ which he did not.\_\_

Darlin was standing on the corner of the square opposite the Warren House, when the rebels dashed in\_\_ such confusion he says he never saw. A Federal officer assured him they would fight\_\_ but he looked on to see it & in about two minutes the Yanks marched out & stacked their arms, & the surrender was complete. The rebels made a clean sweep of everything. A squad had been sent round to burn the Hickory Creek Bridge the train having passed up to town\_\_ The loaded train was captured & burned. The Pickett House\_\_ the Yellow house\_\_ Court house, and another store-house down town were filled with commissary stores\_\_ Wheeler threw all open & told the citizens to come in & help themselves. Everybody rushed of course & after they were satisfied the soldiers burned stores all night. The dry goods houses went up in a twinkling\_\_ the soldiers throwing bonnets, dresses, shoes\_\_ everything to the girls as they dashed about the streets. Said streets were all strewed with corn, crackers, sugar, spools of thread etc. etc. The Col. & Mr. Henderson saved some thousand dollars worth of goods for John Ramsay and next day John sold them such things as they needed, before that he had not been willing to let them have anything. Sallie Rowan, Jennie Scott, & Mollie had more things than they knew what to do with. The boys would dash by shouting Heres your ragged rebels! throwing over the palings to them, calico,

domestics, shoes, hats, and anything else they might happen to have. The Col. said he laughed a good deal at Mammy. He had picked up 2 or 3 dozen spools of thread scattered in the streets, and given it to her. She was rushing after coffee & sugar etc. & in her excitement lost all her thread & forgot. \_\_ Gen. Wheeler knew there was a Yankee force in his rear estimated at some 2000 and waited half a day at McM. For them to come up, but they did not come, \_\_ he then pushed forward in the direction of Murfreesboro. On Sunday & Monday the Yanks passed thro McM. After Wheeler, \_\_ they made everybody give up all the government stores Wheeler had given them \_\_ and acted rudely enough as may be supposed. On Tuesday Darlin got home, and what seemed almost a miracle got home safely passing two forces of yanks, by either of whom he would have been robbed, had they met him. Our satisfaction upon seeing him was great indeed. It was a cool gray evening, somber and autumnal but bright faces and warm hearts awaited him. With what he brought we can make out tolerably well, during the winter, if we are not robbed, of which there is at all times great danger. Clothing & bed-clothing will soon be in demand, & the outlaws may claim all that we have. \_\_ Since Darlins return there has been but little passing \_ rumors are rife, but reliable news exceedingly meager. We are now sure that a great victory was gained by our troops at Chickamauga, that Rosecrans was worsted & Burn[side] [MS. torn] defeated. Report state now that Rosecrans is [MS. torn] [at] Chattanooga occupying the late rebel fortification [MS. Torn] & that he is surrounded. [MS. torn] Longstreet [being on this side of the river,

Forest is also said to be on this side the river and Wheeler to have gone on from McMinnville to Shelbyville, which he captured, destroying stores etc. just as he did at McM. The mountain people who have been robbing so much here all summer, are very much frightened I am told, for fear of the retribution which is to come if the sesh get in again, and many of them are moving off. It will be a good riddance to any place when such a population leaves, certainly; but I fear they are not half frightened enough. Their doings have been so outrageous that I would wish them to be scared out their seven senses, if they have the usual number, which I think doubtful. \_\_ Yesterday Darlin & I rode out a little way on the Altamont road in the buggy, but I was uneasy the whole time consequently our ride was brief. I do not like to leave the house for any length of time \_\_ there is no telling what may happen before your return. We are environed by dangers on every side and live as it were on the brink of a precipice. Robberies take place every day or two, and we know not when our turn may come. Lawless men roam at large all about, belonging to neither, or both armies, but whose only object is rapine and plunder. I see the Abolition Nashville Union exalts in the fact that Warren County has been desolated, nothing left the rebels there but their lands & houses \_\_ some of the latter gone too. Well, so it is \_\_ but God I trust will care for us & help us if we try to help ourselves. \_\_ Col Armfiled is still ill, but recovering slowly. Dr. Franklin could not [come] [MS. Torn] the Federal authorities would not allow him [MS.torn] [a pass --] they are [strin]gent-- Chickamauga [has scared] them [up some.--] [MS. Torn]

Dec. 27th Sunday. \_\_ I have not written in my journal for 2 weeks. During the first nothing particular happened. On Monday night last a party of Federals came up from McMinnville \_\_ The officers in command were Captain Bigelow, the Pro. Mar. & Maj. Griffin of the 19th Michigan stationed at that place. They were piloted here by old Wright, & came to search our house for Bersheba property \_\_ Maria (!) having told them that Mr. Ryan had concealed a large amount of valuable Hotel property in the ceiling over my room!! They came, were very polite, we all equally so, of course, and when they stated their business \_\_ our gentleman told them they knew nothing of any concealed Hotel property, but insisted they should come & make the examination. This, however, after questioning everybody & being convinced that they had been duped, they declined doing, and I was very sorry they did so, because of course, as nothing was ever put there, they would not have found anything, & so the matter would have been set at rest. I understand that the mountain people say now, that they will come again, for some of them (i.e. the natives.) saw Mr. French one day, putting them in thro the roof!!! Darlin did go up on the house top one day to fix the roof where it leaked into the dining-room & lo! What is made of it! I hope none of us will die up here for if we should they will certainly have a post-mortem examination of our stomachs for Bersheba property. After that poor doomed Hotel has furnished two Hospitals & all this country for 20 miles around, these mountain people seem still to believe the theme inexhaustible. My opinion is, that they never will rest until they have our house, Dr. Paines & Col. Armfields all over-hauled & everything taken from us that they can find any pretext to take, or rather everything that they happen to want. I look for a descent to be made upon us any day, & every day, & should not be surprised to be over-run at any moment, and have everything we possess taken from us, upon some pretext or other. That we will ever get home again with what little have brought I saved here thus far, I do not for a moment

imagine. The Fates seem determined that we shall be stripped of everything we possess. Oh! when I see the ruin around me, and think of our wasted home, and know that thousands among us have lost dear ones of the home circle, as well as property. \_\_\_ words cannot express the bitterness of my soul towards those who have plunged our people into this needless & unnatural war. Every day my whole heart & soul cry out \_\_\_ will it never, never end? \_\_\_ Maj. Griffin who came up on this expedition on Monday came to see me. He had been stationed for some time on the Eastern Shore of Va. and knew all my kinfolds there. He seemed to wish to be very accommodating & courteous, \_\_\_ took the names of the gentlemen saying he would apply to Gen. Rosecrans at Nashville for protection for us \_\_\_ but I \_\_\_ somehow \_\_\_ doubt it. Now! Perhaps I am wrong, but it is an instinctive feeling \_\_\_ I cant help it. The Maj. urged us ladies to write to our friends, saying he would put our letters thro, \_\_\_ said he would send us up papers, periodicals, etc. and on the whole I think both officers were a little surprised to find us of a class of society which they had not anticipated. The mountain people with whom they have been conversant are certainly not such as would impress them with a very profound sense of the elegance, intelligence, worth or wealth of the citizens of this place. \_\_\_ X On Tuesday I was not well, Wednesday very unwell, took an emetic, which relieved my head after 24 hours. Thursday however, I was up, for I had to bake cake etc. for Christmas, & on that evening some candy opportunely arrived from Mollie. With that exception all my Christmas gifts were home-made, & consisted of hoods, gloves, needle-books, cuffs, etc. etc. with cakes, apples, etc. The children, poor little things seemed as much delighted with the rude, men & women, deer, pigs, rabbits, etc. cut out by Martha & myself, as they used to be in better days with the choicest toys & confectionary. Jessie & May were invited to dine at Dr. Paines \_\_\_ the remainder of us at Mrs. Armfields. Hattie was here, \_\_\_ I made custard for Mrs. Henderson, who is ill, & we sent a large basket of cakes, etc. over to them. Christmas eve was a lovely, bright, cold moonlit-night. It has rained all day yesterday and to-day. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

Sunday 28th Feb. 1864. \_\_\_ A cloudy day with a little rain but not cold \_\_\_ the atmosphere thick with smoke for the mountains have been on fire all around us. The weather has been windy & dry, the valleys full of smoke \_\_\_ the sun & moon looking at their rising & setting like globes of blood. Last night the fires were in lines clear across one or two mountains \_\_\_ then running up to the summit \_\_\_ looking like the lines of an army. Last Sunday the Col. was down at town. \_\_\_ he went down to try to get Lee off \_\_\_ but did not succeed as there was no one there who had authority to discharge him. Lee had sent him word to please come & get him off, for if he could not be released he would run away anyhow, & came to Bersheba. His furlough is out on March 1st when he will be obliged to return to Murfreesboro \_\_\_ the Col. & Dr. Paine spoke of going down today, or tomorrow, as the former would like to get Lee off, if he can, \_\_\_ yet I do not think they will go, because of the rain. Besides I do not believe that it will be of any use to try to get Lee released because they will put it off from one commander to another \_\_\_ and postpone \_\_\_ & dilly dally until it is time for the troops to go into active service & then there will be no opportunity. The Col. found Cooper also with his mother \_\_\_ he was in bed, suffering greatly from rheumatism, \_\_\_ poorly clad & with no money, \_\_\_ sick of Yankees & wanting to go home once more, he said. I suppose he will continue in this mind while he is bed-ridden, according to the old saying \_\_\_ The Poindexters went down bag & baggage on last Monday, ( \_\_\_ or Sunday I believe it was, ) \_\_\_ Mrs. Smartt having had a flare-up with the Brother & left his domicile. Mrs. Armfield seems greatly relieved to think Mrs. P. had left the mountain \_\_\_ she says that lady oppresses her. \_\_\_ Had a note from Mollie, by the Col. \_\_\_ kind enough, though the Col. says she was quite cold & distant to

him. Well, I cannot help it\_\_ I have done my duty & must leave the result to a higher power.\_\_ She had heard from the Maj. by flag of truce. War items are scarce, and not very important. A son of a Mr. Walker who came in last week\_\_ having been taken prisoner\_\_ says he is just from the Southern army\_\_ that it is stronger in effective men than ever before,\_\_ that they will fight 30 years.\_\_ that they have the greatest abundance both of food and clothing.\_\_ that prices are high, but people have the greatest quantity of money, & do not mind it.\_\_ I see from some accounts that flour is in Ga 280 dollars per bbl. Meal 15 to 20 per bush. Sweet potatoes 8 to 10\_\_ Butter 4 to 5 per pound. Beef 1 dollar per lb. Bacon 1.50 to 300 per lb\_\_ Calico 6 to 8 per yd, etc. etc. In Richmond prices about the same.\_\_ There are a great many rumors afloat. It seems to be pretty well settled that Longstreet has Knoxville\_\_ some say he is even now pushing into Ky. by way of Cumberland Gap. There are but few troops now at McMinnville\_\_ they having stopped work on fortifications & bridges etc. suddenly and gone off to some other seaport. The guerillas are very saucy too\_\_ dashing all about McM\_\_ shooting scouts, robbing Union men, etc. We heard a short time since that Champ Ferguson had been captured\_\_ it turned out to be a mistake however. We understand that Bob French was killed some 3 weeks since, somewhere near Sparta\_\_ I trust it is not so\_\_ yet we fear it is true. \_\_ The saddest news that has come to me is the announcement\_\_ thro a letter from Auntie\_\_ of our beloved Grandmas death. Though expected for years, the shock was none the less severe to my heart. She passed into Gods eternal rest on the 20th Jan. & was buried on the 23d her 97th birthday. Oh! how I longed to go to Auntie when I read her letter\_\_ it seemed to me I must go! May Heaven help us to live so that we may meet her on that farthest shore where partings come no more! Gods rest be hers.\_\_ for surely earth never lost a saintlier soul!

Sunday evening, \_\_ March 20th 1864. On Wednesday last \_\_ the 16th I was ill all day with headache \_\_ at night deadly faint & sick with it \_\_ & so nervous I was nearly frantic. Thursday I was in bed all day \_\_ Friday better, & Saturday at work, as usual. It was the severest spell I have had since that one at New Years. This week we read aloud Husks by Marian Harland. We liked it \_\_ but not so well as Mrs. Stephens Rejected Wife. I commenced reading this morning the Raids & Romance of Morgan & his men by Mrs Ford of Ky. \_\_ do not know how I will like it however, as Hattie & Edith, Mrs. A. & Miss Jane were here all the morning, \_\_ after dinner we walked out, & tonight I have been reading stories to the children, until they have gone to bed, so that I had very little time for my own reading. \_\_ On Thursday evening about 60 Rebels, dashed thro this place \_\_ two stopping a few moments at Mr. As \_\_ one of them was Luke Ridley, a son of the Judges. They encamped in a little grove near Mr Dugans at the base of the opposite mt. where their campfires shone all night long. About dawn this place was full of Yankees, flourishing their pistols & in hot hast after the Rebs. Their number about 3 times that of the rebels \_\_ they were principally Stokes men \_\_ the rebs said they were Col. Hughes men & belonged to Carters command. It seems they had been down to Decherd \_\_ destroyed a train, (containing only hay & forage.) & were getting back to Sparta. I dont know where the Yanks came from \_\_ at all events they got down the mountain unseen \_\_ & surprised the rebels at breakfast \_\_ who took off pell-mell up the opposite mt. Looking at its rugged face & rocky brow from here, as it lies nearly opposite to us one wonders how they could scale that height on horseback, but they did. As they came out on the top of the mt. they made a little stand \_\_ one Yankee was wounded &

Wednesday 30th March 1864. \_\_\_ A dull, bleak, leaden, cold day, with a gray snow, and a keen, creeping wing. The mountain are black-blue, as if with cold! And the rocks that crop out all along their brows, look grim, savage, & desolate. On the top edge of the opposite mountain men are disinterring one of the dead rebels, killed in the fight there. Mr. Dugan found him & buried him, there, but without a coffin or anything of the kind \_\_\_ two of his brothers arrived on day before yesterday & they procured a coffin, & were to disinter him this morning & bring him down to the valley, where they will bury him by the other victim who fell on that morning. The Yankees themselves acknowledged in town, that their Captain ordered some negros who were with them to shoot down these two rebels like dogs, after they had surrendered. One of them was wounded some days before at Decherd, & could not get away \_\_\_ they shot him thro the head. The brothers who came to see after this last one, seemed to be greatly distressed. Ryan & 2 of the negro men went down this morning at daylight, to assist them. \_\_\_ We fully expected Darlin home last night, but he did not arrive, and I was a good deal disappointed. Times are so disjointed, that I feel anxious whenever he is not at home. Monday the 28th was, I believe the windiest day I ever experienced. It commenced blowing on Sunday night & it stormed, & raved & tore, rattled & banged & roared, & drove everything before it until Monday night at bedtime when it ended in lightning, thunder & rain. Yesterday was bleak & chill \_\_\_ today is bleaker & chillier. Jessie has a swollen face, & complains of it much at night, which disturbs my rest a great deal \_\_\_ she plays all day however, while I get sleepy & dull over my work. \_\_\_ Yesterdays news was that France has certainly recognized the South; \_\_\_ Charleston has really been abandoned by the Federals in despair, \_\_\_ Grant has been ordered to supersede Meade in Va. to try his hand against the greatest man of the times \_\_\_ Gen. Robt. E. Lee. \_\_\_

Sunday 22nd May\_\_ A most lovely day\_\_ warm & indeed very summery. A light breeze is stirring, just enough to make it pleasant\_\_ The locust trees are in full bloom & in the evenings & mornings fill the air with their rich and heavy fragrance. There are long lines of them all along the street between us & Mrs. Armfileds\_\_ and round the Hotel\_\_ the court too is full of them. Berseba is very, very beautiful now, everything is so free, fresh, & luxuriant. I was glad everything was looking so beautiful, to welcome home our friends. They returned on Thursday last bringing with them Miss Adele Franklin & on Friday Mr. & Mrs. Scott and their children came. All will spend the summer, except Mr. F\_ who will vibrate between this point & Nashville. Everybody seemed as much delighted to get back to Bersheba, as we were to see them\_\_ the accounts they give of life in Nashville are stifling\_\_ suffocating. They had however, good weather, met with kind friends, got all they wanted, to bring out.\_\_ were very politely treated by the Yankee authorities,\_\_ & in short had a safe, speedy, and successful trip; for which we are all deeply thankful. They brought out presents for old & young, and both Mr. & Mrs. A. have been exceedingly liberal in dividing with us medicines, & other supplies. Mr. A. persuaded me to commence taking Hostetters Bitters\_\_ says he found it of great service to himself so he brought a supply for me also. I hope it, or something will brace me up so that I can go to writing some soon. \_\_ Mrs. Scott is very feeble indeed\_\_ says she could not possibly have lived thro the summer in N\_ but hopes to be enabled here to gain strength to resist her disease. Her lungs are affected, her breathing is labored, she expectorates much, & has had some night sweats. Yet she is cheerful, talks and laughs & her will & energy to be well may save her\_\_ I do most sincerely hope so. She is worse than I\_\_ yet I think not so depressed in spirit; I get ashamed of myself when I see her/ Oh! that we could both be restored to vigorous health, & spared to our little families!

I enclose with this Mollies letter concerning Coopers death. The physicians pronounced his disease a rapid consumption induced by exposure. Poor Mammy! I feel so for her. The Col. says he will go down this week & take Puss with him to see her mother\_\_ I wanted to go very much myself, but he is not willing that we should go alone, & I think it may do Mammy more good to see her own child than to see me\_\_ so I will remain at home as usual. Mrs. Ridley sent word to John as she calls him, to bring me right down to her, that she could cure me & for me to come right away. etc. I know that traveling & such things are just what would restore my health & make me a new person, but how can I do that now? Will the time ever come when I can have dear Auntie with me to take the care off me, while I get a breathing space to recruit a little my shattered system? \_\_ The papers are full of the late great battles on the Rapidan. The fighting commenced on the 8th (I think,) & continued 8 days. Grant claims a victory\_\_ & the Yankee prints are full of startling announcements of their success. Lee wounded\_\_ Hill & Longstreet wounded etc. etc. and yet our friends say they saw no exultation among the Feds,\_\_ they seemed rather to doubt. Lee dispatched to Gen. Cooper that the blessing of God we have achieved another signal victory-- so say our rebel friends in town. We cannot yet tell the result\_\_ yet the Yankees acknowledge a loss of 35,400 men in one corps\_\_ the 6th\_\_ & the Gov. of N. Jersey has ordered out all the militia of that State for 100 days service. I cannot but fear however, that our incomparable Lee will be overwhelmed\_\_ such are the myriads sent against him. God help him, & God defend the right!\_\_ The news from GA. is that the Federals have Dalton\_\_ the Confeds having fallen back to Resace & Rome. Thomas & Sherman are commanding the former\_\_ & Gen. Jo. Johnston the latter. We look with great further news with great interest.

I have gotten through with all my spring sewing, & notwithstanding the stringency of the times, the children by carefulness & economy, have a good supply of very decent summer clothing\_\_ servants also. I am a trifle short of dresses myself\_\_ but think I can get along. I have nothing left now of my supply of ribbons, trimmings etc. not even ribbon to make a knot to fasten a collar\_\_ but then I can look neat without such things, & dont mind the lack of them.\_\_ The Col. has promised to take charge of the children\_\_ hearing them two lessons per day in spelling & reading, beside their speeches. I am anxious to see if he will fulfill his promise with any sort of system or regularity. If he will, it will take just that much labor\_\_ sedentary labor off me\_\_ which time I can devote to my writing. Oh! I long to get at it once more! To feel that I am doing something that may hereafter tell, & perhaps, if well managed, pay. If I could have dear Auntie to stay with me, I think I could accomplish something worth while, and also regain my health. Wednesday morning 25th May\_\_ Cool and damp. The Col. & Puss started down to McM. this morning\_\_ he would have gone yesterday but we had heavy showers thro the day & once considerable hail with thunder & lightning.\_\_ I saw no one from the other house yesterday\_\_ on Monday evening I was over. A constraint seemed to be upon all, which I did not understand until just as I was coming away Mrs. A. told me she was in much trouble, but could not tell me the cause just then, except that C\_ & R\_ had been telling tales to Mr. A. I do not understand it at all, and will not until she informs me. I feel very much for her & was extremely sad yesterday\_\_ and am so still. I feel depressed & apprehensive of evil\_\_ I scarce know why. Mrs. A. asked me to pray for her\_\_ I have done so, most fervently,\_\_ she has so much to bear. Oh! I would that my petition could do her some good. I am glad she has Mrs. Scott with her;\_\_ she understands, & is a true friend.

Sunday 11th Sept. 1864 A lovely day\_\_ bright, beautiful & quiet,\_\_ with the haze in the air & that light, metallic rustle in the foliage that is so sure a herald of the fall. No troops have passed to-day which is a great wonder just now, when they are constantly on hand\_\_ of all sorts, grades, and sizes. Oh! how fervently do I wish that the time would come when we would see soldiers no more, or only see those of one sort. On Thursday last a very large body of Rebels passed\_\_ commanded by Gen. Williams\_\_ they belonged to Wheeler\_\_ and still not one of them could tell us where Wheeler was. I would inquire laughingly\_\_ Well\_\_ wheres Wheeler? Some said here\_\_ some there\_\_ some away over yonder,\_\_ some that he had gone out of the state\_\_ others that he was not gone\_\_ & was not going either. One fellow said Madame\_\_ dont believe anything these boys tell you\_\_ for they dont know any more about it than you do yourself. I laughed heartily & told him I thought he was about right\_\_ but I liked to ask them to see how many different stories they could tell about one thing. I went down to the steps to speak to 2 who wanted some dinner, taking a basket of luscious peaches in my hand, but in a minute I found I had mistaken the men & handed the fruit to a man who very much resembled Niles & who I afterwards learned was Col. Prather. He was exceedingly polite & when about to leave asked me to please give him my name. In a minute after reaching the steps I had 50 men in waiting before me, for fruit & water. I found I was in for it and tho I did not mean to be there, & rather shrank from being alone among so many, I sent Martha for more water & fruit & waited till that regiment passed. Then as there was a little space I ran back to the house and did not venture out any more.\_\_ having enough to do to attend to those who came in. They laid down the fence & rode into

the peach orchard ad libitum,\_\_\_ and I was glad to see them help themselves for there was plenty of nicest fruits, & they needed it. I laughed till I was tired at them, they were so ragged & dirty & devil-may-carish. Why said I, you are ragged rebels sure enough, this time, but were just as glad to see you. Yes said Col. Prather weve been out 6 weeks & havent changed our clothes. When Maj. Chaffie was here, going down, he told the girls he hadnt but one shirt in the world & hed worn that one 3 weeks. Ginnie Scott gave him a nice new one. We do not know with certainty Gen. Wheelers whereabouts. It is certain they had a fight at Franklin, some say Gen Rosecrans mortally wounded\_\_\_ some say Gen. Kelly, (rebel,) killed, but none know. Some think Wheeler has gone out of Tenn. near Muscle Shoals\_\_\_ some say he will hold this mountain country, having H. Quarters at Sparta\_\_\_ & others say he will go into Ky. And so it goes\_\_\_ and nobody can rely on anything. I have quit believing even in myself. We are informed that Dibrell is now at Sparta & Gen. Williams encamped some 12 miles out on the S. road, from there to Sparta, in places. All the horses & mules in the country have gone up\_\_\_ scarcely a farmer that has even one left. We havent a thing here to ride or haul a bit of wood; as my gray is still at the mt. \_\_\_ if she had been here she would have gone long since, & she may go from there\_\_\_ no telling. I have been wanting to go and see Mrs. Scott, but having 2 buggies, have no horse. The Yanks & Rebs both chase the ponies every time they come, but the things are perfect mustangs now & cant be caught at all. They roam about where they please and bid defiance to the Cavalry. If the curses that have been heaped upon them were burdens they would be borne down with the load long since. Pocahontas is a real old Indian thing\_\_\_ savage and wild as on her native Texan prairie.

Yesterday I was very busy all day long, preserving peaches, putting up tomatos, etc. Ive made 4 jars of preserves\_\_ large jars too\_\_ & 3 large jars peach butter. I want to make up my pickles & ketchups now\_\_ but have no good vinegar & do not know where I can get it. In the middle of my work yesterday came the old cry\_\_ Yankees!\_\_ and here they came. It was some of Stokes Cavalry \_\_ nearly 200\_\_ went in and won the town with drawn pistols etc. as usual, (there being no rebs in,)\_\_ remained 2 hours & then returned,\_\_ to Tulahoma we suppose. Mr. Myers called out to one of them Wheres Capen Cliff? Oh! replied one hes to the rear. Yes said another hes coming on behind. Why, exclaimed a third, hes dead. Killed over there tother [sic] day at the river in a skirmish. & then they all laughed fit to burst their blue jackets. Evidently those men had ridden all night\_\_ they were sleepy & tired, and there was no stragglng. Only 2 went in among our peaches, & they hurried on again. They reported in town that Wheeler had left the state\_\_ had to destroy his own wagon-train, he was so closely pursued. Sherman, they said, had had lately a fight 20 miles below Atlanta\_\_ cut Hoods army in two\_\_ he was pursuing one wing & Thomas the other! When the Yankees do lie, (which is very seldom,) they can pile it on high as any people I ever heard of. However its just as well, \_\_ if there was less of it one might swallow the pill, as they put it up the bolus is too bulky for our throats. Some of these fellows told the biggest yarns\_\_ while others said there had been no papers among them for 10 days, & they didnt know anything at all about it. Which same I presume was the truth\_\_ especially the latter clause. In fact nobody seems to know anything about anybody. I believe it is confirmed, that Paul Anderson took Bricksey the mt. Bushwacker, & settled

with him for all earthly time to come. \_\_ Mollie told me a funny incident to-day about old Maddox, a Union man out here in the country. The Yanks last winter went out & gave him a whipping, mistaking him for some cussed secesh whom they wished to chastise. After the beating he proved to them he was an unconditional Union man & swore he would go to town next day and report them. They in turn got scared & paid him over 30 dollars \_\_ to take the beating & not tell, which he did! \_\_ I am working every day now, hard as I can. I have not had headache, but in the last 10 days have suffered much from acidity of the stomach & indigestion. However, I believe I am looking pretty well, & that reminds me of a joke I have on the Col. The other day a saney-looking fellow in a gray jacket rode up to the back porch, where I sat peeling peaches, in my brown blouse volante, and broad gray hat, which I call my Rebel, \_\_ and looking hard at me said, Is your father, Mr. French at home. No, I replied, Pa has just gone to town. It amused Martha and the children exceedingly. \_\_ Well, heaven knows what is to happen this week before I write in my journal again. There is a rumor that a large force will be sent here after these Rebels. \_\_ there is a rumor even that Sherman has fallen back to Chattanooga! The Col. of the 9th Penn. Said that one of 2 things had now to be done very speedily; either Hood must demolish Sherman, & Sherman could not retreat now even if he desired it. \_\_ The papers (Northern,) we hear, are crying Peace, Peace \_\_ tho we do not see any papers now. I would give a pretty to see the Cinti. Enq. Or Metropolitan since McClellans nomination. If the war democrats are to have the man, & the peace men the platform \_\_ I want to see that platform \_\_ prodigiously, \_\_ Have patience! \_\_

Sunday Oct.30th 1864. Three weeks since I have written in my journal. I really do not know why, unless it be that a deep feeling of sadness has settled down upon my soul, and I have had nothing cheering to think upon or write. The buoyancy of spirit\_\_ the power to make the best of it under all circumstances seems to be dying out of me at last. Under the long & terrible strain I have lost courage, & the power of endurance\_\_ I feel it myself & deplore it\_\_ but what can be done? It is even now a struggle with us for bread & meat, & the wherewithal to be clothed, and we are utterly without hope that times will be any better soon. In about 10 days we shall learn perhaps who is to ruin the country, and butcher our people for the next 4 years,\_\_ everything goes to show now that the Richmond papers will be gratified, & Lincoln will be the tyrant. It makes me heart-sick to think of what the future has in store for us. We are worn out enough now, God knows,\_\_ but what is coming upon us no one can tell. During the past 3 weeks everything has seemed to favor Lincolns cause. I knew that everything would be made to appear so at least, more than ever, until after the election\_\_ they must have victories to elect him, and they are having them\_\_ on paper at least. Grant ordered the destruction of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley,\_\_ which was done by Sheridan\_\_ more atrocious even in its details than the action of Sherman in Atlanta: Sheridan claims, with the usual grand flourish of trumpets, to have completely vanquished Early,\_\_ yet Sheridans real object was to take Lynchburg, which he at last accounts, had not done. I presume we shall have some great, grand, & astounding action from Grant in a few days\_\_ just in time to influence the election. I look for Richmond to be squelched bodily. (by tell-lie-graph.) nothing left of Lee;s army but a grease spot. Novs verrons. Hoods army, at our front seems by the Yankee press to have accomplished nothing as yet\_\_ by getting up in Sher-

-mans rear. Dalton was taken, but evacuated. They had a fight at Altoona\_\_ both claiming the victory of course. Sherman is now said to be chasing Hood South. Forrest is reported at Jackson. W. Tenn. conscripting mercilessly. There was a rumor last night that Hoods army was at Gunter's Landing on the Tenn. river, not far from Huntsville\_\_ preparing to cross. Price has gone into Mo. Victoriously, calling upon the people to rise now or never\_\_ he was reported as having been very successful\_\_ but the last news among the Yanks is, that they have whipped him out of the State. Of course it will not do not to whip out every thing, just now! Many persons seem to think that if Lincoln is elected there will be a revolution in the North. 350 thousand men North are said to be organized in various secret Societies, adverse to Lincoln & his policy, and the McClellan Minute Men it is affirmed is a large organized force, with all its officers, companies, brigades, etc.\_\_ a genuine military organization all ready for any emergency.\_\_ I do not know that I hope much in regard to the North\_\_ they are great on Societies\_\_ clubs\_\_ & combinations of all sorts, but they have never done anything with them yet\_\_ & they have submitted so long I guess they will submit still. After the election the papers will puff & blow, the orators will spout & fume, and finally all will settle down, and Abe will sit down on them & so the government will be perfectly safe. If Abe & Andy should be elected, I want to get up & leave this God-forsaken land, and go somewhere where no one has ever heard of America\_\_ her glory or her shame! I presume the Yeyie Islands, or Borribola Gha\_\_ have never yet experienced the civilization (?) that dwells in Abolition & Secession\_\_ if so either would be a good Christian place to go to & I should like exceedingly to emigrate there unto!\_\_

Think of the McClellan meeting at Nashville a short time since, being dispersed by Soldiers with pistol & bayonet\_\_ think of armed negros firing promiscuously into a crowd of white citizens, & Andy Johnson making a speech to them & upholding them in it! Think of the voters of N. Orleans sending to Lincoln, the opposing candidate, to know if they could be permitted to run a McClellan ticket in that city! Great Heavens! Whether are we drifting? No one is to be allowed a vote in Tenn. unless he first swears to support the Lincoln ticket! Poor Tennessee! God help her\_\_ for nobody else can, and she needs it, heaven knows!\_\_ Home matters progress as usual. I am just coming through with a 2 days headache\_\_ did not suffer so intensely thought as I used to do at the mountain. Coggins was to have brought down the remaining things left at Bersheba, on yesterday, \_\_ but he did not arrive. The Armfields have gone down to Sumner. They staid at Maj. Rowans\_\_ were not invited to do so however, and Mrs. R. was not pleased to have to entertain them. I saw Mrs. A. a few moments\_\_ she seemed as good a friend as ever\_\_ the gentleman allowed his fears of Mollie to prevent his staying with us\_\_ the only place where they were invited, or would have been really welcome.\_\_ Commenced last week quilting skirts & making winter clothing for children & Svts. Think I have what will make them all quite comfortable for the winter, which is saying a great deal these times! The porch about which so much has been said, remains in status quo \_\_ viz. on the ground. Nothing has been done in the yard, gardens, or kitchen. The men spend their time as usual\_\_ running after Yankee news & newspapers, & discussing the Times. None of them try to help the latter yet, as I have seen by minding their own business, nor do I think they ever will get rich at that game\_\_ \_\_

Sunday night. 6th Nov. \_\_\_ A stormy night \_\_\_ wind blowing heavily & in great gusts around the house \_\_\_ such a night as makes one feel thankful for a shelter \_\_\_ a warm, comfortable room & good fire. We have all these things as yet, thank God! And I say it with the most fervent gratitude. The little ones are well & hearty, have just now all quietly settled into their beds \_\_\_ after I had heard them recite their Sundays lesson & read them a story. \_\_\_ Nothing of any particular interest has occurred during the week that we know of \_\_\_ with certainty. Rumor places Hoods army on this side the Tenn. river \_\_\_ but all military news is said by the papers to be contraband. Enrolment of the militia commenced here \_\_\_ prominent Secessionists are chosen as Enrolling officers. The McClellan ticket has been withdrawn in Tenn. the supporters of Mc. Asserting that they could have no sort of a showing in the matter. Such are the high-pressure measures adopted by Lincoln & Johnson that ere another week rolls away I shall have to record their election \_\_\_ I feel assured of this much. Then what will the Northwest \_\_\_ the McClelland Minute Men of N. Y. & the McClellan Legion \_\_\_ the Sons of Liberty, the K. G. C. etc. do? Nos verrons. \_\_\_ (perhaps) \_\_\_ All the week I have been busy \_\_\_ cutting out clothing, making comforts, shirts, etc. to keep warm and apple-butter to eat. I sold some of my odd housekeeping things to Mrs. Myers & I am to get syrup from her for my apple-butter. We have the nicest sweet pumpkins I ever saw & I am drying a quantity for use in the spring. I find it very difficult to get thread to make up our winter clothing, and will be compelled to depend for the most part on that which is home-made & dyed with bark. It requires constant attention & great economy to get along, but if we can remain unmolested, we can, with Gods god help, weather the storm. May He care for us & teach us how to care for ourselves, & show us His wise purpose in all these, our troubles, & trials. \_\_\_

Sunday 20th Nov. 1864. I have written nothing since election day\_\_ for the reason that there has been nothing to write save to chronicle the election of Lincoln & Johnson. The weather has been since that dies irae (or diem ira or whatever its proper name is.) the same subject continued viz. rain, & clouds, & murky skies, and mud, & general discomfort. I suppose it is prophetic of the second term of Abraham. Assisted by the Tailor of Tennessee. I expected the papers would storm & rave over the result\_\_ one set for exultation, & the other for exasperation. But strange to say the all, (so far as I have seen\_\_ tho but few have reached us.) seem to be taking it calmly. There is no rumor of revolution\_\_ no protest against the astounding frauds which it is said, made Abrahams calling & election sure,\_\_ no marshalling of the Minute Men,\_\_ no cry to arms to save the state. We do not even know yet what is Lincolns majority & all war news. (especially of Shermans & Hoods movements.) is contraband. We do not know where Hood is\_\_ some say at Corinth Miss. some marching on Chattanooga, etc, etc. Sherman some report as having destroyed Atlanta & Rome & left Ga.\_\_ other say he is marching on Savannah, others on Mobile. During the last 10 days thousands of convalescent horses have passed here en route for Nashville\_\_ also nearly 400 wagons. Many persons thought it a portion of Shermans retreating columns.\_\_ but we have no certain knowledge that it is, or is not. I dont much think it is a retreat to hurt. The only rumor we have heard of Abraham since his re-election is that he has proclaimed all the negros free all over the universe,\_\_ & the only report of Andrew is, that of his speech making to the negros at the Capitol\_\_ where one soldier was shot down in his tracks, riddled by bullets, because he hurraed for McClellan, & divers darkeys were also caused to bite their original dust, in the melee!\_\_ Had a letter from Lide a few days ago\_\_ the first in a long, long time. She & family have been off again on a ge-rand tower Northward. They spent the summer at Mackinaw & Cheboygan, & returned in Oct. to Memphis \_\_ all well. They had made some cotton\_\_ & Niles was about shipping some goods down to Memphis\_\_ I sup

pose with the design of speculating thereupon. I wish we could speculate in something, wherewith to get us a few victuals & clothes. But there dont seem to be any speculation in our eyes like Hamlets fathers ghost:\_\_\_ or rather perhaps I should say, our speculation is all in my eye. The Col. it seems has been conversing with Dr. Warder who is soon going to Philadelphia, upon the subject of publishing a Southern Sketch Book of mine at that place. They seem to think there might be some money in it\_\_\_ I do not. If they want the Mss. I will hand them over, but not with the smallest hope, or the most remote idea that it will ever be made of any benefit to me.\_\_\_ The Col. has also another crotchet in his head\_\_\_ viz. if times dont improve\_\_\_ (& we expect them to grow worse & worse daily,) we are to mortgage the place\_\_\_ sell off our household goods & go North to Penna for the war.\_\_\_ I am averse to this if it can be helped\_\_\_ yet it may come to be the best we can do\_\_\_ nay, more, we may be forced to leave our home under circumstances far less advantageous. The time may come when we will have no household goods to sell, & no place to mortgage for means to take us thence. God only knows what is before us. I trust Him that He will make all things, whatever may be in store for us, at least endurable to us, giving us good resolution, courage, & fortitude to patiently hold out to the end.\_\_\_ Mollie was to have commenced school in town last Monday\_\_\_ but postponed it until tomorrow. Our little ones I teach as I can at home\_\_\_ they will not go to school & for several reasons, among which are the uncertainty of the times\_\_\_ the bad children which will be associated in the school, and the exposed place\_\_\_ right on the street with a picket post at the door. The rainy winter weather & other reasons beside all urge upon us to keep our children at home & educate them as well as we can at our own fireside.

The news is stiff what is of it\_\_ but it is meager. It is believed from all rumors etc. that Hood has closely invested Nashville\_\_ some say Murfreesboro also. The rebels are reported all around Nashville\_\_ in 3 miles of the city\_\_ while some say Forrest is operating on the Nashville Louisville road & others say he is at Murfreesboro.\_\_ There is also a rumor that he has taken M. If he is about all these places he must be rather an ubiquitous individual. We hear nothing from Virginia\_\_ from Ga ondit that Sherman will not, can not, & shall not make his proposed trip to the Atlantic seaboard. So mote it be! There is no villain I wish to see properly punished as I do that wholesale villain\_\_ W. T. Sherman! Christmas Dec. 1864. 7 o'clock P.M. Tonight I have but one thought\_\_ the cause of the South has gone down. The news all around us is evident of the fact. For my part I freely acknowledge that I can see no brightness now for the Confederacy. Hood has been beaten at Nashville & is now endeavoring to get out of the State, and Shermans raid through Ga. has been successful\_\_ he being now at Savannah if he has not possession of the city. Mr. Sam Black & Mr. Wallace returned from Nashville last night\_\_ they brought papers & the news of Hoods disaster. I have just been reading the late Press, Union, & Cinti Enq. All are full of Thomas late victory over Hood. The official report of the former states his success. The battle was fought on the 16th & 17th\_\_ ending, they claim, in the complete rout of the rebels. Fifty-four pieces of artillery they state to be captured\_\_ with 5000 prisoners. Hood at last accounts was a few miles beyond Columbia\_\_ is said by the latest reports to have abandoned his wagon train at Duck River.\_\_ This however is not credited. M. is very anxious commencing this point as Maj. C\_\_ is Inspector of Field Transportation in Hoods army\_\_ she believes. Mr. Black is of the opinion that Gen H\_\_ will lose one-half his army by desertion & demoralization before he can re-cross the Tenn. \_\_ even

should he be able to re-cross at all; for one report is that his pontoons are captured. All the rivers are high now, & the bridges behind the rebels said to be destroyed. I doubt much if they will escape capture, or dispersion at least. I never have felt at all sanguine as to Hoods success in taking Nashville, after the first week passed and it was not taken. I thought if he came to take it, he would do it speedily, or not at all, if he allowed Thomas to be reinforced. He intended, (say the Yankee papers,) to blockade the Cumberland, & cut the N & L R. R. \_\_\_ and thus investing the city \_\_\_ capture it without throwing his men against the fortifications, which are said to be very strong. But the plan failed \_\_\_ if such was indeed his plan. Thomas estimates his loss at 3000 \_\_\_ rebel killed & wounded 1,800 with no end of prisoners. Mr. Black himself states that there were droves of prisoners brought in \_\_\_ he heard that Charley Morford was among them. He could not converse with any. Rumor says that many of the captives were loud in their denunciations of Hood \_\_\_ cursing him violently for everything, & also that not one half of the poor fellows had shoes. If this is so think of it! In mid winter, & the thermometer standing at nights at 18, 16, or 9! Poor fellows! Their constancy deserved a better fate! This is Christmas \_\_\_ but oh! how different from the Christmas times \_\_\_ the merry Christmas times of other days! Yesterday Martha & myself worked the live-long day making cakes, molasses candy, egg-nogg etc. for the children must have something. I felt it a drag \_\_\_ all the time. \_\_\_ I did it from necessity. The children saw their odd cake elephants, horses, birds, old women etc. while in the process of baking, and therefore they would not do for the nice white stockings that we put up to tempt good Santa Claus. I never was so put to it to get up something for the stockings, but I had a set of tiny coffee cups & saucers & some other

little affairs which they had never seen, or forgotten\_\_ these I filled up the little girls with, & put in the fine boys paper, pen, pencils & some greenback. They all seemed highly pleased, & enjoyed their meager rations from Santa Claus, tho contrasting so greatly with what the good old pensioner used to bestow upon them. Oh! I felt very, very sad this morning\_\_ our Christmas times are no longer holidays\_\_ as of yore. How dark & darker they grow! I am ready tonight to cry Oh! God! Give us peace! Peace on any terms! It may be weak,\_\_ but if so\_\_ Heaven forgive us!\_\_ we have borne the strain so long! I took down my prayer-book & read the service for Christmas day, & tried to imagine myself once more under the stately arches of Calvary Church, with our good Bishops or Dr. Page officiating\_\_ To recall the wreaths & emblems, to fill my soul once more with the melodious flood of the organ\_\_ the grand Te Deum\_\_ the exulting Gloria\_\_ ah! How vain! How vain! I could have wept\_\_ but my tears are few now-days, & their springs lie deep, deep. I had the same feeling today that I had when poor Cap. Spurlock was brought home dead from the slopes of Stones River. It is a strange feeling\_\_ with a depth of sadness too deep for easing tears. \_\_ Oh! will this strife ever be ended, or will I never be able to get out of it? Mollie came yesterday to spend her Christmas with us\_\_ I was very glad she came. Tho it is not at all like the old days\_\_ yet I wanted to have her with us. She has seen some merry Christmas days in old Forest Home\_\_ will she ever see another as gay? No! I cannot hope it.\_\_ We did not hear the news of Hoods retreat until this evening\_\_ then Malone came over & told it. He has slept here every night since his fight by those bushwackers. I do not think him in any danger from them now, but his wife is ill, & insists upon his not remaining at home at night, & I have told him he ought by all means to do as she wishes.

1865. New Years Day. \_\_\_ And thus we wear \_\_\_ wear \_\_\_ along. I have forgotten with what an animus I wrote on this day one year ago \_\_\_ it was. I presume in no very exhilarating mood, and though another long dull year has worn along, bearing us with it, with patience as thread bare as our clothes, \_\_\_ still are we under the clouds, as dull & gloomy as ever \_\_\_ perhaps even more so. There seems but little to live for \_\_\_ yet we live on, & strangely enough as it seems to me at times, we still wish to live. Life to us is devoid of pleasures, \_\_\_ and is made up of endurances. Still there never was a bad but it might be a worse \_\_\_ so let us console ourselves in that we have yet some little to eat & wear & a shelter to cover us from the elements. One month of the winter has gone, and it has been bad weather all the time \_\_\_ scarce a gleam of sunshine in it. Today is excessively cold for this climate \_\_\_ indeed I believe this climate is rapidly changing \_\_\_ it is not at all what it was when I first came to this region \_\_\_ so much colder. We have a snow 2 or 3 inches deep on the ground \_\_\_ it fell during the night of Friday \_\_\_ and this morning rose clear & still & intensely cold, thertr standing at 2 !! The sky at the sunrise golden \_\_\_ the horizon misty with frost the blue smoke rose curling from chimney tops & white vapors from the river \_\_\_ while every tree & shrub & weed was glistening with frost crystals. Not a sound was heard \_\_\_ even the dam was hushed, and I saw no living thing but one little snow bird flitting among the frost laden boughs. The scene was beautiful, and I have seen the time I would have enjoyed as well as admired it \_\_\_ but I do not really enjoy anything now but a good fire & a pleasant book. \_\_\_ Mollie left us yesterday after dinner \_\_\_ she made a wreath of evergreens & carried it with her to place upon poor Cap Spurlocks grave \_\_\_ it was the anniversary of his death. I thought of

him last night and of his lying cold and dead on the field of battle. There was a bright moonlight then\_\_ last night the moon was a luminous silver shell, with a large fair star by her side\_\_ both wondrously brilliant. Last night too was the anniversary of our Union Party 4 years ago! Oh! Heaven! How changed are we all since that eve of a gay social re-union! To look back is most saddening\_\_ to look forward, even more disheartening for it seems we have nothing now for which to hope. All is to be endured\_\_ nothing of good anticipated. Had I no children to care & educate I could sit down even here if duty bade me stay, and study so to improve myself that I might amount to something after our troubles are ended, that is should we ever see the end of them\_\_ but my concern is for my children. They weigh heavily upon me, oh! so heavily! They are to be fed & clothed & educated, \_\_ and how is it all to be done? I have energy enough but it is frittered away in little matters of every day and every hour\_\_ I have no time, even if I have the heart or power, for any continued work which may one day be of service to me or them. I feel discouraged in every way\_\_ our cause seems sinking day by day, our resources certainly are failing fast, as a family we merely get along,\_\_ as agent for any good anywhere\_\_ we are powerless. Surely it is disheartening\_\_ God help us thro it all. I was reading last night a sketch of the palm groves & sunny skies of Cuba\_\_ oh! how I wished myself there instead of shivering here in this enlightened land of zero, and rapine, and wretched war. To be, where it is as on June days, a luxury merely to live\_\_ where the mere fact of existence is a blessing amid the beauty and the balm. Poor Maggie Tulliver! How I feel for here & with her now! Panting after the beautiful & true, & hungering for the light & bloom of life,\_\_ condemned ever to the hard actualities\_\_ dueling ever under the cloud, and amid sternness & barrenness!

Sunday Evening 8th Jan. 1865. This has been a tolerably agreeable day, considering the weather we have had this winter. I have read most of the day, except to write a letter to Lide, \_\_\_ having received one from her this morning & also one from Miss Jane Franklin. Mr. Wallace will go to Nashville tomorrow & I will try to send by him my letters to Lide & Mrs. Armfield. Last night Coggins returned from N. \_\_\_ he staid all night here \_\_\_ had a quantity of late papers & we read them last night until 11 o'clock. From them we gather that the general situation stands thus, \_\_\_ Lee is holding his own in Va \_\_\_ some deserter however had reported to the Yankees that Lee would within the next 30 days execute a movement which will astonish the world, \_\_\_ Some Yanks interpret this to mean that Lee will evacuate Richmond, concentrate his forces & move North \_\_\_ others that he will evacuate the Capital & move South \_\_\_ so there is some difference of opinion! Sherman it seems has done all he wanted to do in Ga. Savannah is taken certainly \_\_\_ Hardee getting away with his 15000 troops, & moving in the direction of Charleston. Various opinions prevail as to what Sherman will now do \_\_\_ go to Richmond to assist Grant \_\_\_ move on to attack Augusta, or Charleston; \_\_\_ or garrison Savannah as a base, supported by the fleet, & then move back into Ga. after Macon. \_\_\_ Hoods attempt in Tenn. has proved as much of a failure as Shermans in Ga was a success. He is now across the Tenn. on last Thursday a force of Confed cavalry \_\_\_ Gen. Lyons passed near here; the Gen. & some officers & men were in town. They passed down by Hillsboro, a force of some 3000 \_\_\_ admirably mounted & equipped, having just come out of Ky. \_\_\_ they were going to join Hood. The sentiment among officers & men seemed to be, There will yet be a Con \_\_\_

\_\_federacy!\_\_ Well people keep on saying so\_\_ but I do not see that the prospect is very brilliant at present. We have heard nothing for a long time from the trans-Mississippi,\_\_ some indeed do say that Price has reinforced Hood\_\_ but no one knows\_\_ would that price had command instead of Hood.\_\_ The grand naval Expedition under Admiral Porter which was sent against Wilmington seems, from the accounts, to have been a failure. Throughout the North, things go on as usual\_\_ everybody expects the rebellion to be crushed in a week\_\_ two weeks\_\_ 2 months or 60 days as the case may be.\_\_ Coggins brought no local news from N. except that everything was very muddy filthy, cold, rough, & altogether disagreeable in & about that city! I had sent by him for 8 lbs of Coffee\_\_ he brought but 4\_\_ they will allow but 10 lbs to be taken out by one person at a time, it appears, from his account.\_\_ I have been diligently & regularly instructing the children this week in their lessons\_\_ they all did well. I have been reading too Irvings History of N. York, and I was even more amused than when I read it years ago at school. I have tried to write some too, but I never sit down to it but some interruption takes place. It really seems fated that I shall not get on with that kind of work, try as I may. I do so want to improve myself some during all these years that we are compelled to live under the clouds of war, & if possible \_\_ to do something which will be of some service to us hereafter. But yet I almost despair of being able to accomplish anything\_\_ my time is so occupied & my head so worried about things that are necessary to keep body & soul together. The Col. bought 150 lbs. beef yesterday, paid 18 dollars for it\_\_ & bones are plenty in it at that. Coffee is 55 cts.\_\_ molasses 1.50 per gallon.

Jan 24th 1965. Tuesday night. We are in the midst of another cold snap. Thermometer this morning 15 snow on the ground. As usual in such savage weather, I'm savage too, for we have bad wood, and I have to attend to getting it in\_\_ and very often make the fires myself. Always when I write I carry in my own wood & make my own fires. But one thing, a good fire I will have, if it is get-able, and when I get one to going, & get my cup of coffee made, I'm all ready for my pen & books! I have attended strictly to the childrens lessons except 2 days when I was too sick to attend to anything. I have Martha to attend to now, as she is poorly,\_\_ not in the bed, but essentially no-account\_\_ I have taken her in the house for I find that as usual she has to be watched & dieted & medicine & coddled generally speaking like a child of 2 years old. I would be very well satisfied if her mother had her, (if she was well.) & I had one more responsibility off my shoulders. My poor shoulders! They have a need to be broad and strong\_\_ and they are neither! Well, let that pass. \_\_I entirely missed saying anything of our anniversary\_\_ the 12th\_\_ because it was dull, as all our days are now. On Saturday the 14th I went to town\_\_ it was a bright day but cold\_\_ I called at Mrs. Myers, Mrs. Rowans, Mrs. Reads, Mrs. Armstrongs & dear old Grandma Lyons. Mollie came out home with me that evening & remained all night. It made me feel sad to go to see friends\_\_ all seem to be living just as we are; that is, just how they can, only some more so. I had not made a visit in six months before, & it made me sad. Last week we had pretty weather until Saturday\_\_ on which day it set in to rain & has been miserable ever since. This one week of pretty weather is all we have had since October,\_\_ The Col & Mr. Humble were busy all the week removing the timbers of a large livery stable from town, out here. They did not get thro when the bad weather again set in. Mollie was here on Saturday & Sunday\_\_ Sallie & Jennie were to come also but were prevented by having company. I received letters

during the week past from Mrs. Armfield & Jane\_\_ Mrs. A. enclosing one from Hattie. Everything with them she says is scarce & high\_\_ provisions scarce, very,\_\_ & as for all superfluties, everybody, rich as well as poor, do without them. There is a Contraband Camp a few miles from her Uncles where she says poor wretches literally freeze to death by dozen during this severe weather\_\_ they have no clothes scarcely\_\_ bedding, etc. shelter, etc; & food the same, while their friends (?) the Yankees curse & abuse them for everything low & vile, & no-account. Of course\_\_ who expected anything else?\_\_ The papers at present are full of Peace rumors. I think the Yanks are becoming quite as weary of the war as the Rebs are reported to be. F. P. Blair & his son Montgomery have gone to Richmond to see if they can fix anything up with Mas Jeff,\_\_ but it seems their mission is not official, & so nobody expects much to result from it. A more important rumor is the old one revived \_\_ Intervention of England & France. It is stated that they will, on, or shortly after the 4th of March next recognize Mr. Lincoln as President only of the States which elected him\_\_ thus recognizing the Confederacy. And further the rumor goes that an agreement is to be affected between these Powers & the Confederacy, to wit, the latter is to abolish Slavery & the former is in consequence thereof to form treaties & alliance with the South and guarantee her independence. This makes the North begin to look about her\_\_ she does not relish the idea of the South making alliances & trading be direct with foreign Powers, and she losing all the profits she hitherto reaped from Southern trade,\_\_ also she says if slavery is abolished\_\_ that is what we want.\_\_ Why cant we then have peace upon this basis & secure the alliance & the profits for ourselves as heretofore? Why indeed? Besides the North too seems to be thinking something of a foreign war, if England & France form alliances with the Confederacy\_\_ & certainly things do look equally

in that way. France has her armies in Mexico, England is sending troops to Canada & also raising troops in those provinces. There is much excitement there at present\_\_ the draft being resisted in some localities, so that they have a little rebellion on their hands too, as well as ourselves! Mr Seward's passport system seems to be giving great annoyance & offence to the Canada brethren & altogether the quarrel & general fuss is a very pretty one as it now stands.\_\_ Hood is South of Tenn.\_\_ Thomas said to be at Corinth watching him\_\_ to prevent his going to Charleston to assist in getting after Sherman. Said W. T. S. had not advanced anything towards Charleston at the latest accounts,\_\_ but of course it is only a question of time, he will take it or any other place when he damn pleases as he elegantly expresses it. The Wilmington affair\_\_ so far, has been one grand mizzle \_\_ the shot & shell on fort Fisher a pretty considerable drizzle\_\_ and the explosion of the fireship which was to annihilate the Confederacy generally\_\_ a very considerable fizzle. The expedition cost over 3 million dollars, & ended in nobody hurt much on our side, and the removal of Butler for its failure. Butler ought to be called Butler the Blower\_\_ first he blew up the folks in N. O. \_\_ then the fort at Petersburg\_\_ then the fireship at F. Fisher, then the Dutch Gap Canal\_\_ & finally it is to be hoped he will blow up, himself! \_\_ The Pirate, Capt. Semmes has just returned from furrin parts to his home in Mobile\_\_ came in thro Mexico. His news is that the furriners\_\_ Johnny Bull & Johnny Crapand will see us all righted in a short time. Many predict Peace in 3 months\_\_ Oh! well, that is an old story\_\_ weve heard that talk afore. The Confederacy I think is in a worse fix than ever before, and if E. & F. dont want us conquered or united (!) again to the North, & I believe they will not (for their own interest,) ever allow

that again\_\_ I believe that we shall see intervention before a great while.\_\_ Missouri has passed an Emancipation Act and the North thinks La. Ark. & Tenn. will soon do the same. A convention of the unconditional You-nion strife met in Nashville on the 9th inst. \_\_ their principal business seemed to be to get up oaths sufficiently powerful to kill at 300 yards\_\_ to free the negros a number of times\_\_ to appoint a Convention for Feb. 22nd which is to free them another number of times\_\_ and to nominate Brownlow for Gov. of Tenn. after Andy goes to rusticate at the place next door to Abrahams bosom, on the 4th of March next.\_\_ We see terrible accounts in the papers of Gen. Paines Inquisitorial rule in Western Ky.\_\_ the report of the Investigating Committee is blackened with his foul deeds. However if Truesdails reign in Nashville were investigated or Butlers in N. O. or Shermans in Atlanta\_\_ would not they all amount to the same thing? The big rascals escape however when little ones are taken to be made examples of. So mote it be\_\_ this is Yankee justice.\_\_ It is said that the Administration(\_\_ now that it is re-elected & all safe\_\_) begins to weary of its last grand invention\_\_ Ulysses Syphax Grant, and is inclined to shelve him among its other disabled toys. Well,\_\_ the Philadelphians in a gush of generosity & greenbacks have presented Mrs. G. the inventions better with a house & necessary accompaniments\_\_ so that if U.S. is shelved he need not seek a lodge in some vast wilderness\_\_ (tho he left many of his men there.) but can go to Mrs. G.s house & retire. Hes been the big dog of the concern quite long enough any how, & its time he was giving way to the rising sun of Sherman.\_\_ Gen. Sterling Prices death is rumored. \_\_ but not confirmed Gen. Mosby is recovering from his wound. A. H. Stephens is said to be complimented with a free pass to come to Washington & consult with Abraham of & concerning Peace measures. \_\_ \_\_

goes down I shouldnt wonder if it left Mr. A. quite poor comparatively. Well\_\_ all will be poor, so there will be no room for envy on the score of wealth. I see one way in which I believe I could make money\_\_ if we have Peace, & honorably too\_\_ I dont want it & wouldnt have it any other way.\_\_ Sunday morning 23rd April 1865 We had a continuous, cold north wind all day yesterday and some little frost last night, \_\_ and this morning is quite chilly. I feel headachy, chilly, and not well generally,\_\_ am sitting by a good warm fire, Mollie is covered up head & ears, on the lounge, fast asleep. It is 9 oclock\_\_ the children are at play out on the big table on the sunny side of the house where they are sheltered from the wind.\_\_ The Col., Mr James Spurlock Jr. & Mr. Colville started for Nashville on Friday morning, having one horse & buggy between them\_\_ the Col finding the buggy & Mr. S. the horse. Any one goes to Nashville now who desires to do so & can get something to go in, or on, or about. I see numbers going by from time to time, who are about a wagon, without seemingly the least possible chance of even being in or on it. The Col. & Mr S. actually had a horse\_\_ or something to that effect, as their propelling power. \_\_ Yesterday & day before the 21st & second, I thought much of the Wilder raid on those days in /63. On the evening of the 20th ^ in 63 Gen. & Mrs. Morgan were here\_\_ the last time I ever saw the General. The next day they were obliged to fly before the cloud of blue. I learned lately that Mrs. M. has another babe, and will soon return to Murfreesboro to her fathers house. I dreamed the other night of talking to some Yankees about the manner in which General Morgan had been betrayed to his death, and denouncing the treachery unsparingly. It was an infamous deed, & history will so record it. The woman who did it, is I am told, a connection, by marriage, of Mrs. Morgan. Ive no doubt her deed will some day recoil upon her\_\_ the mills of the gods grind slowly however.

A great tragedy has been enacted, since my last writing, in the assassination of Lincoln & Seward. The first we heard of it was on last Tuesday evening. I was out in the front yard clipping some cedars when the Col. came to the door\_\_ he had just come up from the garden, in his shirt-sleeves\_\_ and he said very quietly Well, Lincolns dead! I had not the smallest idea it was true. Mrs. Myers sent Billy out to tell us. The Col. went n town directly to learn the particulars. The story then ran that Lincoln & Johnson had been at the theater together\_\_ a man had rushed up & stabbed both\_\_ killing Lincoln & mortally wounding Johnson, and the assassin had himself been killed on the instant. That was all anybody knew. Next day, in addition, comes the report that Seward had had his throat cut also\_\_ then I didnt believe any of the story. Thursday, however a courier came from Tullahoma\_\_ & Mollie came from Woodbury. The story then ran that Lincoln & Mrs. L\_\_ went to the theater\_\_ Mr. L. was shot in the head in his box by Wilkes Booth son of Booth, the actor, & that he escaped on a fleet horse. The same evening Swards room was entered\_\_ his two sons were murdered & he himself had his throat cut from ear to ear. Andy Johnson & Gen. Grant were included in the conspiracy, but they escaped, & Andy was inaugurated next day\_\_ (Saturday,) Thus goes the rumor, & weve heard nothing more of any account. There was intense excitement in Nashville\_\_ some 10 men killed for rejoicing over Lincolns death. Gen. Milroy, at Tullahoma also had some of his soldiers shot for the same, it is said. We are told also that about 30 citizens in Nashville were arrested because they implicated Andy in the assassination of Honest Abe. Some persons in Murfreesboro took the crape from their doors, which had been placed there by military order\_\_ the houses were entered & the furniture destroyed or carried off. In town here many put morning on their doors\_\_ both parties, but no such order was issued. The soldiers however exerted themselves to draw citizens into some expression of joy over the tragedy\_\_ so that they would have a pretext for ill-using them. I feel that it is dreadful\_\_ a tragedy solemn even to awfulness.\_\_ \_\_ \_\_

Sunday May 14th 1865. Tried to finish off a calico dress for myself & one apiece for the children yesterday, but could not\_\_ having a bad sick headache. Took a bath & slept some last night, but still feel worn and my head & eyes are sore from the pain. Walter went into town with this Papa, to see Frank Scott, and as Puss was going to church I let her take Jessie & May to see Grandma Lyon. I gathered a beautiful bouquet for the old lady, for Jessie to take, & sent a bowl of fresh peaches by May. The little things were delighted to go\_\_ they go from home very seldom since the war, and as for myself, I never go at all.\_\_ But little has passed since I last wrote\_\_ and nothing has yet transpired as to the final settlement of our affairs. We understand that trade restrictions are being removed\_\_ and the Federal army is being reduced, by resignations of officers, mustering out of men, cutting down Quartermasters Departments etc. None of our Boys have yet returned from their regiments, some of Lees paroled soldiers who live up in the counties north of us have passed, but none of those belonging to this town or vicinity have as yet come in. Probably they will be in the 22nd of this month\_\_ which was the day they all started out in 1861. Poor fellows\_\_ four long years of service\_\_ hardship & suffering, & all for\_\_ what? And some are sleeping here in our crowded graveyard\_\_ and many will never even be so near even in death\_\_ they sleep among strangers in unknown graves, on dreary battlefields. Oh! for what? For what? Did God permit this war? Shall we ever find out why it was allowed?\_\_ I have had my plan matured\_\_ and talked it over with the Col. I feel since I could do something, but of course I will never be allowed the opportunity. It is perfect folly for us to sit down here and let circumstances grind on\_\_ unless we make new conditions with fortune, we will find ourselves ground exceeding small before many years. I think the Col. has too much of the Micawber dispo

sition in him. There is no use in waiting for things to turn up now\_\_ we ought to put our shoulders to the wheel & turn them up. I do not suppose I will ever learn to be patient\_\_ not being everlasting. I dont see how I can well afford to be so. Our time here will be short\_\_ what we do we ought now to be doing with our might\_\_ but I suppose we will sit here our time out & drop into the grave like thousands around us\_\_ having done no more\_\_ or being no better than they. Oh! for a nature like Russell Aubreys\_\_ Beulahs hero. But do such strong men live in reality\_\_ no, I expect they only exist in books. One thing I am fully certain of\_\_ we will never make anything here\_\_ and I want an independence. We have lost one here\_\_ but we will never make another. They are making a great to do about Petroleum here, but I dont imagine it will amount to much. At all events if the river run Petroleum\_\_ and it was saleable\_\_ our part of the river would be something else that wouldnt sell.\_\_ Two companies of sweet Lewis troops left town this morning, & the other co. is to go shortly we are told. Heaven send that when they do go it may be forever, as I know it will be for good. I dont think I should be half so Southern if it were not for these stupid troops. I begin sometimes to feel quite charitable towards the North but the moment I catch sight of these blue things I am full of resistance & rebellion. How I do hate them! And how I want to let em know it to the full! Sunday May I have just been looking over the above writing & smiling at it a little\_\_ it is so impatient. Well, I try to be patient Heaven knows\_\_ but I do not succeed in being so at all times. I got very angry once this week, insomuch that the Col. lectured me a little about it & told me I looked exceedingly ugly in that condition! Well, I was angry\_\_ & as I conceive not altogether without cause. I believe it was on Wednesday\_\_ I

Monday 26th June 1865. A very lovely day\_\_ cloudy in the morning with much appearance of rain\_\_ but cleared off about 10 o'clock with a pleasant breeze. Cleaned house up all over after breakfast\_\_ dressed\_\_ went down to see Mammy\_\_ came back & heard all the lessons, had dinner\_\_ cut out a pair of linen pants for the Col.\_\_ & now sit down to write a few lines.\_\_ During the past week wrote to Lide, & the Col. wrote her yesterday. On last Thursday I sent a political letter (private) to the Eds. Cinti. Enquirer, & on yesterday I wrote a long letter to Mrs. Armfield.\_\_ A day or two since I heard that Edwin Paschal (formerly of the Nashville Press) was about to enter upon the publication of an independent journal\_\_ the old Gazette & would take a very bold stand in favor of the South. If this is so\_\_ as I shall ascertain in a few days\_\_ Ill indite Mr. Paschal a long letter, and congratulate him upon the new wonder. Oh! I am so sick of the present Press of strong Unionism & feeble intellect! It is too much for my patience.\_\_ Mammy recovers very slowly indeed\_\_ sometimes I fear she will never fully recover at all\_\_ she has still so much trouble in her head. Yesterday she was quite ill\_\_ but seems better to-day. It was 5 weeks 2 days ago since she was taken\_\_ during that time Puss & I have done everything except that last Tuesday I had Ailsie to wash. I milk, and set table, make beds, clean & sometimes assist Puss in ironing. We have put up some blackberries\_\_ not many though. The Yanks are gathering them all. Mollie promised to gather for me all the season\_\_ but I guess it has passed from her mind. She rode in town yesterday morning & I have not seen her since. Very ugly reports are said to be in circulation in Nashville in regard to Maj. Chaffie\_\_ and Mr Walling told the Col. a few days ago that Maj. Reed of Wheelers staff whom he met very lately in Ala. assured him that Chaffie

at one time was concerned in a Bank robbery in Ohio, & fled South. I cannot tell anything about it\_\_ the Col. advised Mollie to inform Chaffie of it & discard him unless he saw fit to prove his innocence. I do not know what she will do. I feel sorry for her\_\_ she has with so much imprudence, paraded her love affairs before everybody, & all its details & a thousand more are in everybodys mouth. Even the negros talk it all over, and make their comments. I shall do my best to induce M. to leave here & go to Louisville\_\_ for many reasons\_\_ her health needs recruiting\_\_ she has friends there, and she runs about so much here that I am afraid her welcome with many of her friends is worn thread-bare.\_\_ Aunt Martha has written me lately that she desires very much to come to us this fall. I do not know how to say no\_\_ but really I am afraid to say yes. I have so much to do and no conveniences for doing anything. All our work has to be done in the hardest way possible, and we can barely carry it along Puss & I. I do not know how Auntie would like it\_\_ I fear not very well\_\_ so I am at a loss what to say to her. I want to sell out & leave here\_\_ and go to Huntsville, Ala. I am weary of this stupid place\_\_ I want to get where there is some progress, and some civilization. There is no life here\_\_ no vitality in anything.\_\_ I have just sent the thread to Mrs. Wilcher to be woven\_\_ 25 yds. of striped cotton for the servants. Bouse took it on Poke then the Col. would take the pony & poke over the river after some tallow to make candles. Star candles are selling in Nashville at 25 cts. Per lb. & here for 50.\_\_ & everything in proportion. I dont intend to buy anything I can possibly do without until the hard times loosen themselves in some manner.\_\_ Oh! I must stop writing\_\_ sitting down in this way makes me so sleepy & dull. I must stop & go off & do something.\_\_

