

1862

Itawamba Co Near Tupelo Miss July the

Dear Sister

~~For~~ not because I write this letter, not because I think it will ever get to you but I think it is my duty to write and risk the desperate chances. There is but little news to write. You have heard all about the Richmond battle before now and it is useless for me to write any thing about it and there is but little else to write about. We have been having review all this week we first had a review of our Brigade then of The Division and last the army of the west. The first was by gen Maury the next by Gen Price and the last by Gen Bragg. As you know but little about it I will endeavor to describe the movements of an army on review. In the first place they get a large open place about 2 miles long and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile wide they then form by divisions & brigades of about 3,000 each

making a division one division behind  
an other each division reaching the  
the length of the parade ground. The  
Maj<sup>n</sup> Gen then <sup>gives</sup> the order rear open order  
march the rear rank stepping back  
4 paces. The Gen<sup>n</sup> reviewing  $\{$  sitting  
on his horse 150 paces in front of the  
center  $\}$  rides at a double quick to the  
right of the divis<sup>ion</sup> then passes in  
front, about 20 paces from the front rank  
The officers and men saluting as he  
passes, he then passes by the rear  
in the same manner as the front  
at a double quick until he gets back  
to the right passing around the right  
and back to the center again when  
he takes his position the command is  
then given by companies right wheel  
when all the companies wheel to the  
right at the same time the command  
is then given to march  $\{$  the artillery  
of each brigade marching in the  
rear of their respective Brigades  $\}$   
when all the ~~the~~ bands commence

playing the soldiers marching to the time  
until they pass the Gen. When each  
Brigade marches to their quarters.  
It is a very interesting view to a spec-  
tator though not so much so to a  
Soldier. The Reds have been bom-  
barding Vicksburg till they have  
nearly destroyed it though they  
are no nearer taking <sup>it</sup> than they  
were at first. Only a few days since  
the little G. N. ram Arkansas came  
through their Squadron of 30 gun boats  
sinking two of them as she was  
passing. She passed through one  
of the most terrific fires that was  
ever known though it did but  
little damage besides knocking off  
the stack chimney causing the crew  
to open one of their port holes to  
keep from smothering with the steam  
and smoke when a bomb entered  
the boat and exploded killing 6 and  
wounding 15 men though it done  
but little other damage. The

Citizens have left the City to get out of the way of the bombs.

I have not heard of but one person being killed and that was a benivolent old lady. She was killed by a shell exploding.

The Federal fleet is still lying before Mobile.

They & the Fed<sup>s</sup> have been defeated on every occasion this Spring & Summer and our Cavalry keep spoking it to them up in Tenn.

The Fed<sup>s</sup> have lost on the battle field and in their hospital from 250,000 to 300,000 men while we have lost from 100,000 to 100,250.

The health of any army was never better than that of the army of the West. My health was never better than it is now. So are all the rest of the Limestone boys. Loc P<sup>r</sup> is not strong yet though he is well and gaining strength.

I have not heard of John  
since he left.

Gay is up in Tenn with our  
cavalry force they have ~~heard~~  
killed <sup>and wounded a great many</sup> a good many  
prisoners.

I hear from him a few days  
since, he was well. I sent him  
my six shooter from Corinth  
by Griffin & Kenady.

When John gets back I am  
going to try to get a transfer  
to the Regt he <sup>is</sup> in.

I do not know when we will leave  
here nor do I have any idea which  
way we'll go through most like-  
ly we will go north. The general  
opinion three or four weeks ago was that  
France England and Spain would have an  
armed intervention but every one  
has given out the idea of intervention  
or even recognition by those governments.  
There is now no hope for peace until  
one or the other of the governments is

entirely exhausted in both ~~means~~<sup>men</sup> and  
means. The Fed's are raising 300,000 more  
men to carry on the war. So you may not  
expect peace soon or at least until  
three or four big battles are fought  
one or two of them will likely be fought  
The coming fall and winter the others  
next Spring. I intend to try to get a  
furlough this Winter, if I succeed I  
will come home if it's only to stay a week.

There is one great difficulty to be overcome  
before a peace can be brought about  
if the North would acknowledge the inde-  
pendance of the C. S. it is the boundary  
question for the North will always want  
Maryland Kentucky and Missouri and  
the South will never give them up.

Now I want you to write me a long letter  
when you get this if I have learned since  
I commenced writing that I can send it  
to Dallas by hand if and tell me all about  
what is going on at home what all the  
people are doing what new improvements  
have been made since I left and particu-  
-larly

about the things about home how the sheep  
horses and cows are getting on, how the farm  
looks what for crops of corn wheat oats rye and  
Hungarian grass. If Father has made any  
improvements write soon about every thing you  
can think of no matter how trifling it  
may be to you it will be of interest  
to me for there is nothing that comes from  
home that would not be of interest to me  
especially as I have not heard a word from  
home since the 8<sup>th</sup> of April.

Now I have nothing else to write about so I  
will have to close this letter. Tell Fannie  
Bettie ~~and~~ ~~and~~ Ellen and all the  
connection that because I do not write  
them it is no evidence that I have  
forgotten them. I cannot write to them  
all but I wish you would contrive so let  
them know where I am and how I am  
getting on and tell them to write to me.  
They cant imagine the pleasure it gives  
a soldier in camp to receive letters  
from friends at home.

I will now close Give my love to all

The family and all enquiring friends.

With this I remain your brother dear.

P. S. Tell Serena that I have found the  
needle case that she gave me to be very  
useful. Send word to Coe's people  
how he is getting on and tell them  
that he would have written but he  
has burnt his hands the other day  
and cannot write now

J B Love