

Pulaski, Tenn.
Nov. 7th /64.

Dear Cousin,

Your kind and welcome letter came to hand a few days since, and found me enjoying good health. At the time that I received your letter, I was at Chattanooga with orders to march in the morning. Since that time, I, with the whole Army Corps, have marched 150 miles and rode on Government cars about 90 miles, and are now at this place, Pulaski, Tenn. And fortifying against an attack, as they say Hood is coming with 30,000 men to take the place.

The weather is cold and rainy, and the roads wet and muddy, the health of the soldiers are generally good.

We got, while we were at Chattanooga, 200 recruits and drafted men for our Regt., and they stand it pretty well.

On our march from Athens to this place, the roads was very muddy, and the worst of mud, sticky slippery clay, where a man will slip back about as fast as go forward. On one day we made 18 miles on such roads, and I tell you it was no fun for me and others more able, to say nothing of new recruits.

I was pleased to hear you were doing well, and that your crops were fair, and thrashing was paying business this season. Ezra writes me that he is going to take the cares and anxieties with the Old Farm, off Father's mind, next year. And my health and life being spared me, to return, and wishes to know is I can assist him in the work. I reply that I hope I may, for I feel very much like getting the place temporarily in my hands. And I wish to see Ezra making some progress, and I know, if he wishes to farm for a livelihood, he cannot do better than stay where he is. Besides all this, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

I hope you will let me know all about the election, and how the town and county voted, who voted for Lincoln and who did not. We have not the privilege of giving our testimony, in the way of voting, yet our Regt. has voted by acclamation, just to know how they would go, were they permitted. And it stands thus – 231 for Lincoln, 101 for Mc.

When you write, and don't let it be long, direct to

Chattanooga, Tenn.
Give my love to all
While I have the honor to
Remain Yours as ever

E. L. Tabler

1998 Transcription by William E. Henry of a Civil War Letter
(all bold underlining added by transcriber)

**THE LETTER IS WRITTEN IN PENCIL, ON ONE 8"x10" SHEET OF BLUE-LINED
PAPER,
FOLDED TO 5"x 8" STATIONERY
THE FIRST PAGE HAS A PRINTED HEADING;
"THE U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION SENDS THIS SHEET AS A MESSENGER
BETWEEN
THE SOLDIER AND HIS HOME. LET IT HASTEN TO THOSE WHO WAIT FOR
TIDINGS."
A WHITE DOVE, CARRYING AN ENVELOPE, IS PRINTED BESIDE THE HEADING.**

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