

Camp near Cassville Ga
May 21st 1864

Dear Mother

After ten days hard marching and fighting without any rest whatsoever we are allowed this day to wash and rest.

We have had fighting but not so bloody as a person might expect from the time we have been at it. Saturday & Sunday were the most hotly contested. Hooker and his Corps has reaped golden opinions from every one. The whole army here with the exception of a Division of the 23rd Corps which gave way repeatedly. The country over which we have fought is very hilly and covered with dense pine woods affording the enemy the greatest advantages over us, for as fast as we drove them from one position they fall back to another equally as strong. They invariably built rifle pits wherever they took up a position and we having to charge them I think our boys will exceed theirs considerably. After fighting with the utmost desperation and ferocity in which our third Division was terribly cut up all day on Sunday and until midnight the enemy evacuated the Battle Field of Resaca and started for Atlanta. We followed the next morning, and skirmished with the rear guard up to this place where Johns[t]on built extensive fortifications with the determination of giving us fight, but when we opened on him his men fled in the utmost disorder. From all the accounts of scouts and citizens the days of the Southern Confederacy are numbered.

We have just recieved orders from Hd Qrs to prepare for a twenty days march and to live or rather starve off the Country. We leave every thing wagons, stores etc etc behind so we may look for a hard time of it. I have one consolation & that is I can stand it if anyone can

I have not seen Will yet but heard that he was well from some of the men in his Co, I tried very hard to see him but we kept moving so constantly that it was impossible for me to leave for fear of being wounded.

The people of this part of Secessiondom are intensely bitter toward us. The women in this town turned out and assisted in building the fortifications and when the men ran away offered to fight in their places but they got barely over their courageous fit when our shells and minnies got to whistling around them. When we took possession of the town there was only one person in the town. All the rest had taken to the woods. They are coming back today in small squads and seem to think the cowardly Yanks not such bad fellows after all.

If we take Atlanta and Grant Richmond and I see nothing to prevent it, this Campaign will end this war without a doubt.

I don't think I will be able to send for my things for sometime but get along just as well without them as we carry nothing with us.

I must close this as the mail goes out immediately.

I sent word to Mr. Clark at Phillip House to send a pair of military pants that I had left in his care to Breenes for Steve to get. (If he has not got them I wish you would tell him to get them if you please. Remember me to all

Your Affectionate Son
Robert Patterson