

Atlanta Georgia  
November 8th 1864

Dear Mother,

As we leave tomorrow for some unknown point, (probably Savannah) and as it supposed we will be entirely isolated, I thought I would scribble you a note before I started. Although I must confess that I do not receive any great amount of encouragement to write home, as I have written a great many times, but have not received a line from them since the first of August.

I suppose Will is at home now. It looks very much as if Sherman intended to abandon this place as every thing of value has been sent to the rear. Express Office, sutlers etc. etc. have also gone and all public buildings have been mined and I suppose will be blown as high as Hamen (?) when we do evacuate.

Sherman says "War is Cruelty" and he seems determined to make the Johnnys feel that it is so in every sense of the words.

I suppose his intention is now to open a line of communication with the seaboard at Savannah and Mobile and abandon the long line of railroad that it has been necessary to keep up.

We anticipate a pleasant trip as the weather is mild and pleasant so much so that the yards in the city that are enclosed yet (they are precious few) are perfectly filled with beautiful roses and flowers in full bloom. We do not expect to meet any enemy at least no very large force and are expected to live off the country through which we pass.

We only take a supply of coffee sugar and salt. It would astonish you to see the sweet potatoes that grow here. I should be afraid to tell you how large they get but they are very large after they cooked as dry as flow. They will suffer for the soldiers have a great hankering after any kind of vegetables.

The Paymaster paid us off today but as there is no way to send it home safely I only took part of mine and his receipt for the balance.

Commissaries are so high that it costs a great deal to live and very poor living at that. Beef at 1\_ cts per pound Bacon 22 & 25 coffee 64 sugar 26 cts and bread at 8 cts soon runs up a very respectable figure. My bill for four months was eighty-five dollars and I did not have much to eat either. These substitutes that are coming out now are getting more bounty than any officer can save; and many of them are enlisted for only one year.

We held our election today and had a close race with the Copperheads for a majority. There were a number of hospital (bummers as the boys call them) loafers who never go into a fight voted at our polls and of course they are all McClellan men. It seems a strange thing that a soldier would vote for that party. I think there is no doubt but what Mr. Lincoln will be elected at least I hope so.

The last train from here north leaves at daylight in the morning so I must close this in order to mail it tonight. I hope my next will be from Savannah. Please remember me to all. Y o u r affectionate son R Patterson Capt 61st Ohio 20th Army Corps Dept of the Cumberland

P.S. The Col has not got back yet I am sorry we have to go without him.