left Cartersville & in less than 48 hours had them soaked in flood. But I have footing it all the way & every day but one carried my load & now I would not take $500 for the recollections of it. I feel rather a pride in being here & in having done what has been done. Our Regt has not lost any men yet & struck with shell & moved the army first day in the truck but none killed a lot kicked & now getting to live now on fresh beef, salt & Coffee no bread stuff & no vegetables, rather tough but I guess I can stand it. When there goes a done of grape for some one. Here come a sixty four shell. I wish you could be here & see & smell & hear. There knows knew what excitement was until under fire the musketry sometime is such
that you cannot hear yourself think & the whiz & buzz of the bullets make you think of your lost relations. A shell sounds like a steam engine starting

convincing slow & gradually growing faster & faster & finally ends with a crash. A fifty-four sounds serene—what unpleasantness but the smaller ones are cheerful to that Blacky’s back & forth & with the Johnnies & have lots of fun but I must close this for I have about 1:00 to write before 4:00.

remember one to all friends & tell them I am OK.

with great love I am your off love Brother

Chat & Brower.

P.S. I do not expect to get back unless we have to make an assault & then I may write again before long.

off. yours, Charlie
My Dear Mother,

I see by your last letter that you are very anxious about my health now on as you say the weather does not affect one at all and in fact if done not told of it would not notice it at all. I have on boots, shirt and undershirt yet and only take off my drawers a day or two ago. I have got a pair of shoes too: wear them only once in a while my heavy boots & cotton socks being cool enough for about 3 hours in the clay & go without any clothes (Though no coat) and then am not at all uncomfortable with it on.

You asked about our Chaplain: he is a fine man by name Lewis H. Carle, he is a M.C. Elder and appears to be a man for the place: he can fill it at least as well and weigh less than 225 lbs: he is a handsome, prepossessing man & makes quite a column & am excellent prayer: the boys generally like him & the officers respect him. He has gone home now with money from the clerk's office & given 20 days from the 27th of May, he may return to Flint if he does you ask him about the "Adjutant Clerk" & he can tell you all about me. His text is most clear & 20 see a good deal of him.

Now you would be astonished to find the almost total ignorance of the people here. It only seems if they knew nothing beyond what they can see & hardly that. A great many of them learn a great deal of slang & it that a white man can hardly make out. I will give you a problem to send the form in your next & will give the incidents entire as it will also contain the problem. Major King to erect a fort.

"How many potatoes have you?" worthy Southern.
chivalry's reply, "Will you see I raised a heap and sold a pile and have got a right smart lift."

wanted to know the amount of potatoes on hand. That was the answer "verbatim" & generally their answers are as clear & as we say "clear as mud" you would be surprised to see the big Ladies (5) of the country chew tobacco like any old codger but it is more common than it is generally believed. On the cars from Nashville, Ole Me's was in one seat & Jack & I behind him. Ole turned & asked Jack for a chew & was handed it right behind as if a handsome woman draped in gray traveling suit & red hat & in fact appeared a perfect Lady. As the ole handed Jack the box she tapped Jack on the shoulder and asked "have you more tobacco than you want." Jack stood at her & she continued "mine is in my carpet bag & I cannot get at it & so." Jack badly knew whether to let her have the box or not for he said afterwards he expected she would throw it out of the window, but he passed it over & still watched her when she costly took & mouthful & handed it back to him. I would give $7 for Jack's photo at that moment & I had to laugh at him some, but we both found out it is uncommon among the women as the men. I ought to apologize for using this sheet & if I had noticed how it was stained before getting one side written would not it be U. S. property however & so don't make much "diff." Since we all the different "cliques" in town & how does your Har. Society prosper, what is the prospect for the summer & what is father doing preaching at Selma? Ask J. W. Birchmon left or does he intend not to. Remember me to Mrs. Birchmon & all the little Birchmon. Tell Mrs. Rehbein that her mother does dry peaches splendidly & also remember one to Mrs. E. H. Peters. & to see the good Ladies of Kirk & Stone's, Misses Etta & Ford, to do the same with the younger "fly" rely one as ever you are.
April 11th, 1864

My Dear Mother

I was unloading my knapsack today and found an unexpected article in my possession, but not the least welcome because unexpected. Really I am much obliged for it and will try to let it do me good. I shall read it and hope it may. The Photos in it are also most welcome. Ask Ella to send me one of hers as soon as she gets one.

I have enjoyed myself this trip and have fared much better than I expected. I looked for the worst fare and the worst lodgings but as far I have had enough to eat and good places to sleep and have no reason to complain. We have lots of fun and there is about 90 in my Barrack which is No. 11 and all are about full.
I have got acquainted with quite a few of the 10th Reg't boys who will be in Yank, and one of them has promised to find you out. The Bunkies next to me can tell you how we fare. We have lots of songs of all kinds, and in one end of the Bunkies you can hear some good Methodist songs, and in the other just the opposite. But I must close for we have general inspection to-day, and I must be ready, now don't fret but what I will get along O.K. and enjoy myself.

In haste,

Your aff. love,

Charl Brown

To Mother
Dear Mother,

I have not written to either you or Etta in a long time and now as matters are all settled I think I can afford to write a sort of family letter hoping hereafter to hear from you two oftener than I have lately. I have not been very well lately but am now getting along all right and will be entirely whole in a week or so I hope.

Col. Mc. Reports Father in a poor condition how is it does he convalesce at all I hope "6 weeks in the Confederacy" can't hurt him but he should never have come
down at all.

How are all of the folks
I hear enough of the "young fry"
but I mean the sister, matrons
of the L. A. S. & c. Mrs. Henderson,
Walker, Thompson, Crossman, & c & c
& c, also the Misses Parsons
Walker's (Helena & Anna) & all of that
class & dont keep posted on such
as much as I should, give my
best double & twisted regards to
Mrs. Pittee (old lady) and all good
souls like her, if you see Mrs.
Neludah R. Johnson tell her I am
well, and now would not have to
be caught off my guard to be "kicked"
I'll be shot if I have not forgotten
how to "puke" any lice to do it, will
it is all in three years.

I am rather confined to
business now as I have the whole
Adjut's duties (except the parade) to
do that is all the office work is on my plate, and I guess as our act Adjt said yesterday, — "you send Charlie off and this phony goes down." But who cares I will probably loose my place in a short time. I guess now I will add a little to "Etta that is Headake."

Dinner ever

your aff 2070

Charles Brown

Dear "Hadena."

I once more go in for some nonsense to you & am O.K. and pound on the goose question, dull as the dickens expecting an attack from Rev. Wheeler Daily + all the excitement don't amount to much, once in a while have a "big bug" up to see us Maj. Gen. Big 4th. I wish I could read in Prussian (I've forgotten all my German).
the greatest General I have seen yet, however, is General Oebury. and he is not to be angered at our hair, or I have an easy time, good furs (most of the time) and all the fruit or ve we can eat. I will give you an example about 3 weeks ago. Lieut. Coe ec reported a large peach orchard about 3 miles beyond our picket to the Muf. County. And these are the orders he gave instantly. "Sergeant Major," detail 8 men to report with guns tomorrow to go after Peaches. "Q. M. report a wagon here at 7. A.M., tomorrow with clean bed." The result was that we got about 25 bushels of peaches kept afternoon and when they were gone we got more. peaches, potatoes, watermelons, muskmelons, cucumbers, tomatoes etc., are almost all gone. will come down on the winter apples before long, we have had peach or apple pie every day for a long while, lots of turn, of all kinds, the heath of the "sunny seerth" is a humbug and wearing ducklings, and most froze every nights. More come, other time (perhaps) I am to goons till another's.

Charlie
My dear Sister,

I am going to write you a amus

letter this time as I expect to be busy all next week and
shall not have much time as all of the cars Rep.

Monthly returns will have to be made out and sent off as I don't expect any mail during the week. Since I last wrote we have moved camp that is we have spread ourselves the

Staff officers have moved above top of the hill under some

of the prison yet you can now and the tent are hardly made

by the sun which is a good note on me for I am a sort of

attache to the staff and spend any time among them and

the rest of the camp have spread themselves over nearly

three times the ground they used to occupy.

See that Father is a little scared about my

health but he may rest all at ease on that score for I am

O.K. and getting as black as an Indian but I don't

complain of that at all there has a party of the

officers gone up on the

Mrs. Among them the Adjutant so

that I am all alone in any glory. Have been out once

or twice but have excepted so far all right. I have changed

my quarters now and sleep in the Do office with the

Steward (a bully try with a glass eye) and still mix with

my commanding company. I am getting pretty well acquainted

with all of the officers and many of the non-commission

men I will not refer your note to any of

the officers but will try and box you with enough of my own writing to make amends for doing so. About the
handsome man in the Army is Chap. Eadle who is a large potty man larger than Father and looks as if he had not (as some other persons do) lived on "faith and trust" however I like him bully, he is clever and sociable and does not "rag on airs" as a good many do. Jack has started home & you will see him before the Bank #26 by how could have rent more but we will not be paid again for 4 months and as I thought I would keep it as I will want some to keep along with me. Jack can tell you all about this child and how I am fixed and anything you can ask him and all about the officers & men I how to deal with other any duties are and what I escape by being in this office & all and anything about the country and all the points of interest in this whole Stified country. You wrote just the kind of a letter two & 1/2 that of Con. Wts. bully for you keep on doing so. I got a letter from the C.S.C. E.P. L.S. in answer to mine full of "Vole soldiers" "our country" "patriotion" & c. c. from Mr. Knight she writes a good jest and I have a notion to answer it to pass away some how does the Old "Ladies aid Society" flourish (I suppose you discard the title of "old ladies & c.""). I did promise Mrs. Thayer a photo and intended to speak about it however it is all right has Helen Case written yetrip & as how is she & so to Frank & Ann Rose - an confirmed are they? Well it is none of my business, how does God continue to like the Bank & does he appreciate that C.G. of mine in Smith's for other various reasons. Smith wanted one back bad before I came away but I could not see it in the same light that is the reason he don't say anything, bds his bail note.

Ehren knows about that ball & what costume appeared & otherwise him, here is Mrs. Droston tell
she ought to permit me to write “as one engaged” you know all about it and in fact are made no secret of it so Charley Dunn is not the “happiest man in the world” this spring won’t feel for him but I can’t allow anyone to coach him please remember one to Charley when you are in the town and let me know how he is has Carman answered any letter yet if so please forward it I have written to him from here what is Ag Clara’s address if you write to her I have written all around once & am now writing answered and if they don’t want to write they can do the other thing just tell them so for one I don’t know how Ams S will take any note to her but hope just as Granma says this along I age astonish her or how is it.

Father writes rather unfavorably about the farm hope he will sell it before I get home for I don’t want to fool with the thing Lewis will be home in about a month until he can let him look out for the drugs when he does get home.

Have just had a “Riddle House” dinner the 1st course was pork fried bread & coffee the 2nd was coffee bread & fried pork the 3rd was coffee fried pork & for dessert on had to eat up the remainder of the bread coffee & pork so you see we have 3 courses & dessert by jove it is bully I am going to send a package of our potatoes home & let you see what they are the rice beans bacon potatoes with coffee rug & talk & hard tack or bread & salt pork are about all we get last week we had smoked shoulder this week one day of fresh beef but I like a good slice of salt pork as good as any do give hear Alex mentioned any others if so what is he doing & where is he & ask Hard to find out how Chat & Constip is let me know what has become of that kitten I wrote him a powerful letter & have not heard from
it get how do you like the war now bully for our ride got a letter from Charley O— he claims to wish he was down here the worst kind too why does he come they would be glad to see him & any of the officers would like to take him up on their ride can't just one though, he is glad that he stayed although he missed a chance that didn't go on any back, but I have the nearest little place & I intend to hold it at all hazards until I get a better. I am as Ada, said Adjt Clerk I am well how are you. I told W. Mike about you catching Ada, but he could not imagine how she knew (Oh! m. of course not) but it seemed to please Jack though, I guess the Col will come back to the Key in a week or so I hope as for I like Col O'me & Mc better than Lt. Col. of Bishop, although the Col. has always treated me like a gentleman to a tip tip today! But is not the man that Col M— is. was paid off as I said before I guess Jack took home 1800. with him from the boys & officers about her but I did not send much as I will want come but I must close for I wish to write a note to Father in a special I am afraid Father is putting himself to unnecessary trouble about my pay, for if he had simply sent me the receipt endorsed by Warren I would have drawn it on my pay day. But let her trip he cannot draw it without my order or transfer, but he may or so All right if only I can put some money away that is all but I must quit but I will write as soon as I can after the rush of Reports returns etc is made up & shipped.

Believe me as ever

for all both

Charlie

P.S. Please Address C.S.B. Adj't Office 21st Miss Jeffreys Chalmers
Chattanooga, Tenn., May 20, 1864

My dearly beloved "Hadapai!

I received your kinds welcome note last evening and had almost given up all hope of hearing from you at all, as I had written to all of you and had not heard from any of the family and if I had not been posted from other quarters should have been tempted to have assigned and come home, but thanks (not to you) I heard of you once in a long while.

So, Aunt Eliza is with you, is she, bully for her! (don’t let her see this) I would like to see her tip-top, and a "web" cog. from down this way, smash him if the butternut sticks out at all. I have
A peculiar antipathy to Butternutts for the other day came within an ace of being "gobbled" by a lot of them was out about 5 miles from our lines with another boy foraging through the country and about 20 got between us and camp as on had to go it after dark, [censored] too git here for they would make fun of us but managed to get to camp O.K. all the forage we got was all the Lectuice [censored] or could carry and our canteens full of new warm milk and at one house made them get us some supper and had warm biscuits and butter, and at first Buttermilk and were made them get sweet milk and milk tell you what we ate for supper, 9 biscuits, 6 tumblers sweet milk, 1 of Buttermilk, and a plate of butter, oh another house 2 glasses sour milk, you go to any house here and ask for a drink of milk and they will always bring either Buttermilk or sour milk, you ought to be here to see some of the fish yesterday two boys brought a
catfish into camp with a stick through its gills and it dragged on the ground with the pole on their shoulders. It weighed only 68 pounds, and in its mouth you could put a small crash tub.

We have a dance most every night and have lots of fun generally. Was over in town yesterday with Jack Mc and had a lot of fun. Have met two splendid boys that I know of, and one or two that I know now. It don't take much to get acquainted down here.

The thermometer is at about 95 now and averages nearly 90 all the while, have had since I have been here. Splendid bathing privileges were.

Jack, will probably start for home in a day or two. He will telegraph all how I am. You said I did not tell you what I was doing. I am detailed as Adjt. Clerk, a place about equal to the Cap. Engr. or Asst. Engr. and I have about 5 minutes to 2 hours work a day except about a week the 1st of every month when I am as busy as I want to be.
and hereafter direct to me at
Adj't Office 21st Mich Infy. Chatt
焐ceso & see Col. W. most every day,
he is in con of the Brigade and is at
just imagine me in my tent at the table
writing with my pen on the desk (see Ford's
diagram of my tent) and Jack, fast asleep
on the bed and every body trying to keep cool
by wearing the least clothing possible and
you have it, the Adj't is a tip top boy and so
are all of them that I have found yet.

I am a going to send you some
of our potatoes with our recipe for cooking
them and see how you like them but
I guess you would prefer the regular
Pride to them. At least I should and I
guess anybody else wish you could see a
regular dinner of any getting up but in
about 3 years I will show you how to get up
a good dinner of cooking. Now behold not
say anything about the southern females but
I guess I will not marry any of them for
I do not admire tobacco chewers or snuff dipers
enough for that we see some fine specimen
I can tell you when I know but the other day we
went into a splendid plantation house and the
lady of the house (a large splendided looking woman)
entertained us and all the times had her mouth
full of tobacco which she could exhale as scientifically
and in haste I saw your turnip.

C.Brown
April 28th, 1864

My dear Sister,

I arrived at this camp last night just after dark and was received by the Col. in good style—He seemed glad to see me and so did Jack—he assigned me to quarters and invited me up to Head Quarters after I had got any necessary Herbert I am in Co. The

After I had supper I went up and found Jack in the Commissary tent instead of going to see Col. M—visited Jack and had a good old family visit. I was introduced to

4/23/64
the Corn— & 20 & 5 Cafes &

Plants while there Col. Mc— came in & ordered one to espesh to him in the A. Or. & he would ret one to work & I did as he—ret— the work you could put in your eye & on the back that organ one minute probably one week in a month & I shall be busy but not over that I met the Col. in Nashville & was coming through & he took one off from the car the squad was in into the Passenger Car & desired to pack Mrs. put through with him & Jack & then I spent two weeks to look after my baggage & we got left at Shreveport, Louisiana & laid over two days & were kept in the Corror & slept camp about 3/4 of a mile from the town & there I got the job of soldiering we got to camp about 12 A. M. & had to stand on the ground
in the A.M. Draw rations of bread coffee & sugar & pork & had no way to cook it & so breakfasted on bread & sugar about noon it began to rain & we made a fire on the tents & got (in some) two layers deep the next day one got under way in the A.M. & got here the same day. I was glad enough to see Jack he appeared to be to see one it was some time before either could straighten our face & the grief he gave one I shall remember.

You if you ever get a chance to ride over the road from Louisville Ky to Chattanooga don't you fail to do it for it is worth a small sum to see in the rocks & precipices. hills & mountains & ev'y one you never saw the like in some places the rocks would rise in a perpendicular smooth face so high that you could not see the tops
without almost breaking your back looking up & along the face of Eeek碗 Mt. it is in some places about 60 or 70 feet high, the Camp of the 21st is almost opposite the Mt. or the end of it for it to come 8 or 10 miles long & the end terminates at the Yuma River, the top as far as you can see is girdled by a sheer precipice from 20 to 40 times that heights & the end is a rock that looms high above the tree, on it are some large game & they look as though all the forces in the U.S. could not be at them, one or are about the same distance from Missionary Ridge which is a long ridge reaching as far as you can see & about the center are the Houses used as Gen. Bage Head Qr. the Yuma River is about as wide as two of the Elmits is right at our feet the 21st are building a bridge over it & it is quite an affair it will be about 40 feet from the river which ends something like the distance from the court house to the bridge in taste your off Rock
Charlies
My Dear Mother,

I received your note and was glad to hear from you at last so you are all well are you. how does Aunt E. like things as well as Aunt Amelia did, does Cog Will. take among the boys and what sort of a fellow is he what did he say about that coat and hand pattern has he got them all straight, does the coat fit him, has Father heard yet others that coat pattern of his come from ha ha ha Saginaw hey, that was a good joke on him. hope he acknowledged it in the Sag. paper did he and tell me all the newsgore can think of.

how do you all prosper does /ord like his place as well as he thought he would and how does Lu feel about the graduating question if Father wrote that cash of anime tell him to use it and
Welcome, for if I make my wages pay any way it is about as much as I expect to do. You have no idea of the prices of the sutlers. But they almost equal anything Drummer used to tell of what do you think of $10. for a pair of shoes and other things in proportion but I must close and please write soon and often and don't wait 10 days or 2 weeks before you answer for it takes just 6 days or a week to get here. Pay day is in a day or two. I do not expect to be paid this time but if I am I shall send part home by Jack. He starts in a day or two. I guess I will write a note to Aunt E. and enclose it does she spend the summer with you or no?

In haste your affectionately,

Chas. S. Brown

"W.O."

[Signature]
May 29th 1864

My dear little sister,

I have just this moment finished reading your note & was mighty glad to get it at all. You seem to be in mighty fine spirits and so does everybody else that I hear from you. I spoke of seeing such & such men & women. I hope your dear now & I will give you some that pass mine, a big donkey of the I. Ws. the sign. That makes orderly C. H. Lt. Col. Bishop, Lt. lace, Hcl. Dr. orderly, Capt. Stevenson, the 5th's donkey. Lt. W. Rgt. Capt. Barr & Lt. Eaton, Lt. Horse & Lyon. We've now which is the most important game. I mine now & I had rather all your string whether you had mine or not.
as Aunt Ed. Likes this does she well
I am glad of it for I would be glad to
have her make a pleasant visit, as Fred
last Jack did he well & fell for him poor
joke on the dog, but not as bad as Ford
you said they had gone to W. Leicester.
Who is that, so Mother take care into
Eve in those Kittens does she well &
would also if I was at home. I will tell
you how I hose clean dust off the desk and
table and shake my blankets & wash
the (ground) flour up in one & raise the
corner of the hose & shave it over &
have no stove or piano or fife to move
or any comports to shake or windows to
wash now "who wouldn't be a coldin"
you speak better of C.B. Bill, than
Ford does what is the matter with
him & Ford do they not agree or
what, as Whiting Evans Jenny Henderson
does he, don't admire his taste one bit
but every one to their motion, so you
think that the T.S.A.S. is running
our do you. I don't know who or which of our surgeons wrote the Acknowledgment of that box but will describe them all.

Surgeon Avery is a middle-aged man. He has his case to order to get up any thing very brilliant. Surgeon Blake, is an older man a man who wears long hair and smokes an immense Maurchaum which with the papers he is a very well read man. Surgeon Goodall, is a man that used to live up by Mr. Grey's mill with a small country practice and does amount to much. Now you have all three and you can judge which it is.

Our Chaplain started for Mich. a day or two ago. he is a large heavy man sociable & c & is a good man (as far as heard from) he lives in Sonia & is all right on the gove. is a Mr. E. elder, and the boys like him. His tent is next to mine & so I shall see a good deal of him when he gets back. you may see or hear of him.
How do every body quit every body, have the Pearson's found any new inseparable friends yet.

I've told your brother to go to the office instead of the Telegraph Office. I am both your brother & friend.

Is Jack Brown in town yet? I have heard that he is. He is to go to the office instead of your brother.

Please write to me as soon as you can. I am expecting you.

Will you proceed to your 'business' Maj. For just told one to remember him to me. I am yours.

[Signature]
To O. J. St. Wich.
Bookout Mkt. June 20th

My Dear Etta (that is Hadassa)

I really don't know who
I owe a letter to you or Mother but
as it is "all in the family" it will
not make a great difference.

You see we have moved our
camp upward as we are now on
the summit of the far famed
Bookout and while I am writing
am in the clouds and the air
above, below and all around as it
looks funny. This old mountain
has some grand scenery you can
well believe from the point you can
see parts of points in 7 different
states all from Virginia to Alabama
K. y. Ten. Georgia & both Carolinas
now can you deny but what that
is "some" some of the cliffs will go
as high as 800 feet, or at least
there is one down at "Rock City"
that is 800 feet and in most any
direction you will find them from
20 to 100 in heights.

Two of the boys & I went
down to Rock City a day or two ago.
The city is a collection of immense
rocks on the surface of the ground
some larger than all the rocks in
Flint put together and ranging
from 20 to 60 feet high between
these own regular streets or lanes
of all sizes one we passed through
about 18 to 24 inches wide and as
long as from our house to H. M.'s hind
-rooms with a smooth size of rocks
on both sides nearly 40 feet, and
in some places closed at the top 20
forming a tunnel. In others the
streets would be 15 or 20 feet wide.
in some places the rocks looked as though they had been arranged as on purpose and in others as if they had been shook up shaken up a time or in all shapes and sizes in for places are found caves or grottos about 20 to 60 feet long. 4 of all sizes and hights are clambered on top and got ourselves full of Whistleberries and visited the Elephant (a big stone on legs) or the rock called so. went out on the precipices the one that was highest (300) was something in this shape or was of two sets of falls another about 125 feet was in this and to get on the point it was a rather dizzy looking place (see me on the point ahem!) 1 will if I can get some "photos" of the points the falls & lake send them home to you the point is about 80 feet high
and is a most magnificent plan to view the world, there is a cave in the side of the mountain that has been explored for over 2 miles and we intend to go as far as possible in it, probably before I write again. I can describe that to you as Spencer (the head new) and Dawson (ordered of 60) have agreed to go with me, and we have got a lantern and a lot of candles all ready to go. I will send you a drawing of our new camp, and it is the best one gets to mess with the Corps Maj., and Reg. orderly, and sleep in my own tent (a new one) with good bed and all. On the goose question, we are camped only about 60 rods from the 18th Mt., and on the other side is Bov. 86, the 18 have a splendid Band, who play Bully and discourse with music daily and every evening Sunday they play most of the day and it sounds nice. I can tell you we have an occasional saloon here and all is lovely and the goose hangs high.
Dec 18th 1864

Ford

Enclosed I send $1,000, please credit me with that amount, and send me tobacco for ½ half & take the rest for your commission why the devil don't that tobacco come.

tell Mother have got 2 in stockings & one shirt, all well rather hat & shelling as like the dace.

In haste

your aff broth

CSB
Camp of 21st M. O. I.
In the trenches before
Savannah, Dec 16th 1864

Mother & Etta, 
I “any other man”
I am all square on the
game & alive! I intend to keep so has
had the biggest time since last you
heard from me as Cartersville we
started for Atlanta & were given
8 days to make that point (49 miles)
on the 8th day about 11 A. M. we
“mopped” into Atlanta (15½ of Apr)
we lay there that afternoon & that
night the town was burned & such
as sight I never saw, a place as
large as Dayton Ohio laid in
ashes before 4 A.M. we started
the 16th for somewhere we reached
Millidgwill on the 27th making
147 miles in 11 days, so then took the right flank of the army & made south & north marched & countermarched made a feint on Augusta & finally fought the last 30 or 40 miles of our army down here, now lay in the ditch before Savannah in a swamp supporting 2 batteries of 10 1/2 Parrots on right opposite within 30 rods a 64 1/2 Calibre the "hunk our holes" they give us a few shots or a shell every day, I mets with the Color guards & slept in the Major's room proof a day or two ago while laying in the trench under the flag a small 64 1/2 shell burst over our head & shattered our flag all to the "dickens" enclosed are some pieces of the flag I picked up my clothes and air from the shell knocked two of us flat 9 in 8 inches more a small 5 or 6 1/2 piece of shell wound
have "smuffed out" L. S. B. they
make us lay uncomfortably low
some times & between Shot, Shell,
Grape & Cannon & Sharpshooters
are have all our wants to do to avoid
them, but we hardly mind them
now, have got to be an old story;
Tell Etta as soon as the
mail gets fully established & have
some selections of Rebel Music
to send her & got them from a
house, about 18 miles above Savannah
(while the Reds was skirmishing and
they moved off & had to leg it to get
to them again then was considerable
more but I brought a good selection
& she shall have the first book
lot, also some jewelry from the
house of Reb. Jno. Edwin, his house
was plundered from ground to window
& barns & rick & could be for a
day out of the smoke of burning
Houses & "rich like" we have left to
Black strake behind us about 50 mile.

We only had 4 days rations issued to us in the whole march & I have lived better than ever before. Sweet potatoe, chickens, turkeys, fresh pork & beef and Muttons, turnips, flour meal, preserves, pickles, wines, beer, & every thing that a rich planter's place could afford.

We always camped near some such & always delectated it before we left in some place as much as 2000 bushels of sweet potatoe would be consumed in one night. I will tell you what for a supper one had in Hildigeville. He had 5 chickens, 1 turkey (the largest & ever saw) the hind quarter of mutton, a ham, about 2.5 lb. of Cape honey, 2 gal. of syrup, all the pan cakes or could eat, warm biscuits & every thing in proportion, & cannot now tell you all & but if I was have chance to write again & will give you more particulars. I have been tough all through, got those stockings (Mother sends the dolly)
Camp of the 21st M. V. I.

In the trenches before
Savannah Dec 16th/64

Mother & Etta, & “any other man”

I am all square on the goose and alive and intend to keep so has had the biggest time since last you heard from me at Cartersville we started for Atlanta & were given 3 days to make that point (49 miles) on the 3rd day about 11 A.M we “moged” into Atlanta (15th of Nov) we lay there that afternoon & such a sight I never saw. a place as large as Dayton Ohio laid in ashes before 4 A.M. we started the 16th for somewhere we reached Milledgeville on the 27th making 147. miles in 11 days. we then took the right flank of the army & made south & north marched & countermarched made a feint on Augusta & finally fought the last 80 or 40 miles of our way down here. we now lay in the ditches before Savannah in a swamp supporting 2 batteries of 10 lb Parrots & right opposite within 40 rods a Reb. Gun of 64 lb Calibre it makes us “hunt our holes” they give us a few shots or shell each day. I mess with the Color Guards & sleep in the Majors bomb-proof. a day or two ago while laying in the trench under the flag, a small 64 lb shell burst over head & shattered our flag all to the ______ “dickens”. [Blank lines in original, obviously intended to denote a profanity or obscenity.] enclosed are some pieces of the flag I picked of my clothes the air from the shell knocked two of us flat & in 3 inches more a small 5 or 6 lb piece of shell would have “snuffed out” C.S.B. they make us lay uncomfortably low some times & between Shot, Shell, Grape & Canister & Sharp-Shooters we have all we want to do to avoid them, but we hardly mind them now, have got to be an old story.

Tell Etta as soon as the mails gets fully established I have some selections of Rebel music to send her I got them from a house about 18 miles above Savannah while the Regt was skirmishing and they moved off & I had to leg it to get to them again there was considerable more but I brought a good selection & she shall have the first best lot. also some jewelry from the house of Reb. Gen. Irwin. his house was plundered from ground to Shingles & burnt I wish I could be for a day out of the smoke of burning Houses and “sich like” we have left a black streak behind us about 50 miles wide. we only had 4 days rations issued to us in the whole march & I have lived better than ever before Sweet potatoes, chickens, turkeys, fresh port, & beef, and mutton, turnips flour meal preserves, pickles wines, beer & every thing that a rich planters place could afford we always camped near some such & always desolated it before we left In some places as much as 3,000, bushels of sweet potatoes would be consumed in one night. I will tell you what for a supper we had in Milledgeville we had 5 chickens, 1 turkey (the largest I ever saw), the hind quarter of mutton a ham, about 25 lbs of cap honey ½ gal. Of Syrup, all the pan cakes we could eat, warm busicuit & every thing in proportion. I cannot now tell you all but if I ever have chance to write again I will give you more particulars I have been tough all through. got those Stockings Mother sent the day we [sentence not completed]

write as soon as possible direct to the 21st M. V. I. 2nd Brig 1st Div 14th A.C. we have been transferred from the 1st Brig to the 2nd & so please change accordingly I will [sic, have] not heard from you in 4 weeks

Charles

Source: Charles to Mother & Etta, 16 Dec 64, ALS, Charles S. Brown Papers, Special Collections, Perkins Library, Duke University. Brown was an enlisted soldier in the 21 Michigan Volunteer Infantry.
Dear Father,

My affairs are in the same state you last heard from me. That is, I remain as I always was a private, and hold the same position of Adj'tt. clerk. I have just got through perhaps as hard a march or more as an army ever made, of nearly 500 miles in less than a month. I am glad to say that I am tough and will have stood the tramp as well as the majority of them, have done the whole on foot (very foot of it), and carried my load all but one half day. If you ever saw a soldier with his whole load you can imagine me, that commission is now in possession of the Major (I am confident) and probably all that come to him will be stopped in the same manner. I am confident it is no personal feeling, which prompts him to hold...
it back, but the jealousy in the Regt as I am a "new Recruit", or "$600 man."
I do now the least hesitation, for I am confident that I have the good opinion not only of him, but of all of the officers of the Regt & the men as far as I am acquainted, but as I said being a new recruit, they do not see the justice of appointing me over all the old boys. To tell the truth even if I am more or better prepared to take it than they, it is not justice to them.

I would give more to day to take a 2nd Lieutcy. in the 39th or any of the new Regts then that position in this, not but what I like the Regts, if in any time expired when theirs does, I would willingly remain in any present position, the remaining 9 months (or till August) but the idea of being removed from due, to some old veteran Regt, as an enlisted man & a new Recruit would most effectually put a quietus upon all of my hopes for promotion, if that commission does not come before long (or before May),
I would make some efforts for a new Regt, there is not much hope in this for any such good luck.

In haste your aff. son. Charlie
Dear Mother, Etta, Ew, Ford, & all the rest

Why the deuce don't you write to me? I have not heard from you, nor have I heard from other boys, as Ed & Alta & ac.

You must have heard from me before now. Don't know if you are afraid to address any new rank - also why on earth have you not forwarded 24 ac. to me? I know in about a week if my sword & felo do not come to hand, will be obliged to buy another. I have waited now longer than I ought to, without one. Also the coat I am in private clothes out at the elbow & the other end, also all out of money & it is costing me some 7 or 10 dollars a week to live. You see what I mean, & why don't you forward, also 24 ac. which or when all of my correspended die, for I have heard from only 3 or 4 since I was a small boy & I can neither buy horse or food in half the time a week & money is hard to raise here worth 20% when you can get it. I have now some $236 25 due me & not a cents in my pockets. My notice out for a good 150 & big interest. I wish down to church this AM.
wishes to St. John's, the 3rd in size in the City. This evening propose to go to Christ Church the big church of the place built in 1700. something the St. John's is an exact duplicate of the St. Paul's church except no side galleries the house is of brown house stone. the spire is not at all tall as the St. Paul's but it has a larger organ & you can imagine how funny it sounded to hear female singers some very pretty girls in church & soloists & organist. I call them & sons & end of other 'leper stars.' Our expect to leave for S. Carolina in about 3 weeks & don't care three traps the worst kind besides I doubt know what I can do without a horse or how I can get one (without money) would give a month's wages to be in Detroit one how bounce $50 in pocket, but I don't propose to write much more as you don't see fit to write to me, so good bye till next time

Your's
Chas. S. Brown.

Of course pretty busy with camp duty once in a while 3 or 5 days picked or work on parade I imagine me on cork parade out at the clover with the air fluttering the left flank of that long skirt of olive make & commanding 'Front' 'About Face!' and the skirt describe a ½ circle at half mast pleasant by pray
Your's ever Z. Brother
Chas. Brown
but as Col. M. told some of the boys a day or two ago, (we have orders not to cut any tree or shrub on the ground) the boys were making up a "tool house" for the Q. M. and a small tree was in the way the Col. saw how it was and said "Well boys you aren't cut that tree down but there is the place for the house and you don't want the tree in the house, you must cut it down..."

and walked off amid the shouts of the boys so you see are much not forage for it is against orders, as we were told by a "strip the other day" boys there is a hens over there yonder but you don't want to go near it.

of course one took the hint and didn't (over the left) but it is all in a life time or as we say "it comes in degrees," I get the papers more regular now, and am much obliged for the same.

in haste your off both.

Charlie

P.S. Direct as before. 21st Mich. Eng

Brig. Chattanooga.
We have good spring天气 here plenty
to eat & not much to do. for dinner I had
Pork (fried) Bread, flaky cake (that will rival
yore) coffee & piece of "Apple pie" (extra)
no draw rations of Pork, Bread, Beans, Rice,
coffee, sugar, potatoes, hard tack, Beef, with
occasionally extra as you see & from as well
as I shout we generally get 3 days rations Fried Bread & 3
Hard tack, 5 of coffee & sugar 2 of potatoes 3 of Rice
3 of Beans. 5 of pork 2 of fresh meat or draw
very 5 days in those proportions. if we can
draw some chickens (by their legs) or get
some onions, Radishes or the like (by the tops) or
draw some new potatoes (with a hoe) or if one
happen to steal a small piece of coke and
a "roast" come along with it, or if one find
a cow and she gives us some milk, there are
extras, now down in the list.

But I can say that soldiers never
do steal, they "draw" or "find" or "stumble"
or "pick up" or "get treated for it" or
"borrow" etc... but it has to be all
by on the groove for it is against orders
1. the bridge is a 1-story building extending down to ground
2. 33 rooms quarters in double rows with streets between any 9 double rows
3. the blacksmith shop
4. stable for officers + team horses
5. stables
6. munitions and
7. color tents
8. colors
9. colors - tent - (when 8000 .25)
10. Colors
11. Surgeon
12. Dr. Mc
13. Corin
14. store house
15. island in river
16. ferry river
17. mine kiln
18. bluffs about 60 feet high clear from water
19. 70 feet
20. house on hill back of camp

This is not in proportion but as good as I can do
the town is full of camps. we are up this side of the river. Stop R. R. under
look over, this is in the face of a bluff about 60 or 70 feet high.
at the end is the depot- Uncle S- is building for 11 large
machine shops the town is a big thing (if you could
see it) & a but you ought to be here to see & know
all about it. I guess Charlie C- could have got the position
of Capt. if he had come as I have heard the colon
pay as much & that he was very sorry he didn't come.
I don't know where now. Jack will stay for a month
or two & I shall be acquainted by that time.

remember me to all the girls & boys & to come in
particular Jack wishes also to be reminded of some few
"if no more" the colts is over in town has Comt- of the
brigade but is over here most every day

remember me if you ever go up there
to all & oblige your book Charlie
Red Grins 21 st. approx. 174
Lookout Mountain. July 21 1864

My Dearest Sister "Mama".

I have a small business transaction with you and if you will

from time to time give me a half hour you

can do it without much trouble & want

you to get a piece of Ladies Cloth or

some plain (not starched) flannel of a plain

color (brown) enough for a pair of Shirts

(gso. plain English Shirts) and shrink it

5 or 6 times before you make it up. then

make as follows. size: big enough for

Burr Pierson. Length: long enough for

A. C. Eddy. Flows: " "

a long armed ape, (that's me) and big enough
for pants legs. The wrist band, a small one about 1/2 inches wide. Also, the same as a white shirt, one single pleat or tuck down the center and make the boozem lap over at least 2 or 3 inches, the reason I state all this is that you remember how big you made those for me last winter (will I cannot get them around my neck and have a string in to make them longer and the arms have almost so that from half way to the elbow up to my shoulder it is as if it had been put in splints, so short and small around, now these I shall ask marks for at least two months yet. And send with them also one or two pair of good worn in rocks (as good as I have if you can) and line the toes and heels I would put up a shirt and pair of rocks and mail, at separate times, in about 2 months so you will have time to get them up there I have an whole yet but are going like
I will give you credit for being just old poison, on the half, and please consider me as your Whistleberry, for the same, also for that fruit by Father it was bully, those rocks you sent by I will not do me here I have heavy boots and have to wear thick rocks but Aunt E. must have "been on a march" to have hit so nicely on a tea pot. It is just the thing on a march and I have laid it by, oh have now our big coffee pot and tea pot, you know the size of that "tea cup" you sent, will our cups hold that just 5 times full and we drink them. Once and a half times full cozy meal, A.M. coffee, warm, Ool Tea. (Atronomed) P.M. good tea) so it makes that little cup 2 2/3 times full what would Mother say to 7 1/2 cups of coffee or tea at a meal when she used to be astonished at 8 or 4. "Who wouldent be a soldier."

Our Adjutant has gone home on furlough to resign will not probably be back again to the Regt. Col. McCurry...
will resign this fall and then C. S. will have to mind his Ps & Q's or "how are you, 700, man", as they call all new recruits. But "let those laugh who can", I mean to make Father hear one time, Valise of his and some traps, he has in his possession will trade him any knapsack for the valise don't know where he is heard from him Sunday said he should have to leave Chatt., don't know as he has or how will have to go down in day or so for stores, boy, and will find out as will probably have to evacuate the Mts. in 4 or 5 weeks and may turn up at Marietta or down in that region, hope we will be out there in time of laying about this way all on do is eat, drink, kurah, sleep, smoke and amuse ourselves, the Regt. is kept on work rather constantly, however I don't how come in that lie my work is with my head & pen, just get a note from Father he is OK. and plenty of work. Has not heard from home yet, will probably only in a couple of weeks get, Capt. Damon, Stewart and Adjt. Charles Wuma, 2nd Mich. Gt.TRY over up and spent the day on last Sunday was mighty glad to see him. Can tell you Damon is in black and chorley fat and flank. As an Indian, own back on detached semi. Will probably return to the post on this week Wednesday that was.
Lookout Mountain, July 13th

My Dear, beloved Esther that is Madaera,

How are you & how is your "Mugger"

Father came up yesterday afternoon & spent the day with
one went down again this A.M. had a pleasant time but had to
laugh at your glass & tea cup why didn't you send a clean
shoe also. But I guess I can break both of them before we break
up camp. Aunt E made a nice thing of that "tea cup" (the tin one)
it is admitted to be just what is wanted on a march, here however
on have our tea pots & coffee pots as well as you do at home, and
I guess Father will tell you that we do not live in bad style at all.
I made him take my bunk last night, so he can tell you the whole
thing, having ate, drank & slept with one as I do. But I gave him
the first Whiskey pie he had this year, the Lt. was glad to see
him and we had a sociable visit from and with him he found
an Ambulance for Father to ride down in, and was cool.

Bully for Gov. Garfield I will vote for him and I made
one vote in the state convention for him as we send a delegate
to it from the Regt. and I just made H. V. - to be a loud, rather
subdued angel VC & Capt. said before he left he was going to go for
Keep H. V. what is J. J. Brown A. B. D. D. S. L.
open (alias Cal. as get) J. J. Y. doing snow or where is he
did he graduate ve and tell him I feel for all "University Rascal"
like him ve. will he take a course of theology or the other thing
has Aunt E— gone yet and is Geo. wounded much, Bill Bepole or rather Lt. Wm. A. Bepole G— W— is doing as well as could be expected Father doesn't up to see the child and found him sitting up in bed writing he is O.K. and all it wants is time to heal in "who wouldn't be a soldier" why the old boy don't some if you write I heard from Ford the 2nd of June the last time from you about 3 weeks ago and the other an indefinite period back but since the reign of "Chas. the Fat" earned a letter from Miss Bickerton and she has probably owed the war before this time I learn the news from her she is a valued correspondent for she seems to be poetized in our affairs and you just tell her if I ever get back I really don't know but I would let her know one for any another"

Remember one (you know how) my double & twisted regards to Mrs Judd also to Mrs Smith (of course they both embrace their husbands) also to all the New Store boys. Oh! I thank you to send down 3 or 3 of my "photos" I thank one for Adjt. Morse and one of the boys, the Adjt. has resigned and I am mad as a wet hen about it and get as good a boy as an honest fellow to the Adjt's office right off also I want to Ford for some "photos" I have in your album but he has ne'er send in the order at all and never sends them either will you please do or send Mollie D— Curtiss & Care of Mollie B— I hear one you may have that one, you want an endless supply of hose by truth all to thin remodel the thing, ordered by mail a pack of paper envelopes &c. but Ford each day by express will not make much on that bundle as it will cost only $1. 30 a pound by express and $2 a pound by mail a small package like that by 25c or cost as much as a top weighing 50 to 50" however will learn Ford something before the 8 yrs are out & will be glad enough to get the paper as I have mine our butter is cups and the D. W. has not record the quantities supply get also envelopes like this only cost 50 c. or live cheap down here, Al 20 c. a cup, butter 75 c. and one Whortleberry only 20 c. a gallon black berries 1. 50 c. & everything is lovely

Tell everybody "I am their Whortleberry" and one to all the young unmarried ladies in town especially the good looking ones and those "in the senior"

Yours &c.

Charlie
My Dear Mother & Sister Eliza,

I received a good letter from you & Etta collectively, and it was just what I needed, about those shirts tell Etta to pattern after one of my linen coats were about the faro making and if we don't take such down here it has no more effect than it so much exerted water besides that is not the matter. I have served my six months of "quickstep" prescribed by the Army regulations" but as to day is one of my busy days and I think to go up to Summertown this P.M. I much go for a short time letter this time, Col. Mckee has gone, resigned the 14th leaves Monday Tuesday, AM. The gale is expected his wife today or
tomorrow when he will return home. I am O.K. & don't want any medicine. am getting fatter & heartier & am going to keep on doing so. Will B-- is improving still but is awful low yet & not safe by six weeks yet he is the most of a "living skeleton." Poor aew.

Dr. has to yet believe one you off son & brother.

C.J. Brown

P.S. I have to much to do so you must take a chaw note till Father Pavill write as soon as the "shofarín" comes.

Brown

Mother or Elter

Or Fred.
Camps of 21st Mich. O. P.
Dalton, Georgia, October

Dear Father

We have orders to move to Rome and join the 4th Division 2nd Brigade 14th A. C. & expect to move in a day or two. If we do go much odds puts much dependence upon hearing from me in some time, there is a little business & want you to do for one. My commission has been miscarried strangely enough for all the rest have come through. I either wish you to go to Detroit & see about getting another issued or see that one is sent anyway
Call on Joel for the needful to carry you to Detroit &c &c. you see all the time. I am buying out of my Commission. I love about $3. 50 a day, & my horse & oxen will cost all 400 more, to besides $140. bounty which I will have to refund to Uncle Samuel, if we are going to be in the service two or three years & I would not care, but as it is only for 10 months, I can hardly afford to let it come. I suppose that the 4th of July Sph. the Regt. will be broken up & of course if Dan Adams does that time I will be disbanded also.

Now Father I wish you to tell me what the farmers bought you & how taxes are going to be met & I shall insist upon your using what cash I have at home & also on your letting me know if you
want more any pay as 1/8th will be about $1.10, or 1/12 dollars a month. Any xpress will be about 35, or 40.
a month besides my outfit which now ever I can get on time, so that after I am mustered in, if you wish I can do as you have 25, 30 or 35 dollars a month, or an paid way 2, 4 or 6 months at those times I can forward to you the amount, but do not forget the commission you had better see Col. M. Le — and get from him a letter to either the Adj. Genl., or. Gov. stating that the Army has our arms and all such stuff.

I have not heard from you directly in a long time, but suppose that you keep posted on all my affairs from the letters to the 31st. On the last raid we moved about 487 or 500 miles in less than 25 days, lived 11 days on
Three days rations 2 days 1/2 half of rain, lived four days on marched corn and one on 
"Faith & Brave" got near enough to 
hear the shells explode & the cattle 
were of the jefe but not near enough 
to fire a gun except as unlucky pigs 
Sheep Cattle poultry, make some deal 
Rebs, attacked in a fence corner 
9 of our men from the 2 1/2 miles 
already heard somebody the gun 
boats on the river but could not get 
into the army & finally returned with 
colors flying corrected (not with 
glory) but much, direk. Please 
dick like Fake as the officers 
are retiring I much close this 
& do likewise.

Believe me

Your aff. son

Char S. Brown

PS. If I do not write to you as 
often as the red it is because they 
have more claim to the adrift act 
they write of times to one but more crank 
bored as well as the sick Brown
Camp of 21st M. I. Drift, near foot of Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct 16th, 1864.

My Dear Folks,

So you see by the above that I am again at home after four weeks at hard work, so rank to see every often I wrote to you & don't remember. Then told we were started & a big thing we have done since have been some 450 or 500 miles in the meantime. I will give you the place & you may trace the work on on any military map you can get your.
Chattanooga, Bridgeport, Steborn
Sept 28 1/2 Cowan Anderson Decatur
Fullahoma, 29 1/2 Lay still, 20. Dickson
8 1/2 Fullahoma, Munfreesboro,
Nashville, 1 1/2 Franklin 2 2/3
Columbus, 3 2/3 Lawrenceburg.
4 1/2 on Road 5 1/2 Florence 6 1/2
beyond it, 1 1/2 further, 8 1/2 More
20, 9 1/2 back park 10 1/2 Harpers Creek
11 1/2 Florence 13 1/2 started 18 1/2
Athens, 14 1/2 Stevenson 15 1/2
Chattanooga at 11 o'clock P.M.
were washed around some, were
only 9 days without rations &
lived on the country which is the
best kind of living sometimes
we would have in our one so
fresh Beef & Pork & Mutton &
Chickens, Turkeys etc. Sausage
and Irish Potatoes, beets, onions,
preserves, pickles, Honey, Syrup,
Butter, Johnny Cake, corn, peaches,
applees, Nuts, Mollons, with China
poor (4) hours asleep, when we got into camp this A. M. we got about 16
Bushells of Mail & goods Eleven (11)
Letters & no end of Papers & telegrams
they & the raw Pork & hard tack did
go down good together, for four
days are lived on Parched corn &
got rather hungry.

Bad, about Will, Begole &
I suppose they will be home with the
body before this reaches you &
I feel sorry for Poor Mrs B. & wish
I could accompany her home. She is one
of the best women I ever saw.

We are assigned to the 14th A. C.
though which is all we know or process
direct until you hear as before
to follow Best, we expect marching orders
very moment by the time you get this
may be in Spain or Egypt, poor
place to write in & crease deck on 41 of
another & all "Hurly Burly" around one
Make this do for all and do not
stop writing because you do not hear
from one for 9 am as fixed that I cannot
write even if 3 hours time.

in haste, yours ever, Capt. C. L. B.
My Dear Mother & Sister & all Browns.

How do you like the above, big joke on the Ex-Engr. Big. How do you like the 2nd Brigade 2nd Division 14th Army, Iowa, biggest joke of the season, orders occurred at 8 o’clock P.M. of the 8/2nd & our broke camp & started on the 8/3rd at 8 o’clock A.M., you ought to hear the “yearlings” (new men for one year) “rapehaps” which fun our hair had, started in the rain & trained ever since and now only a few 1/16th in, deep, fair “head tack” pork & coffee, means of travel—poration ponies (Mrs. Shank’s) out of Travel common time, march, will now how are you bound for the front.

Well now for the facts, let you have not written for a long time, that is not fair play. I feel like one forsaken since the lot has gone. 4½ my papers are allow. 5½ my cash is low, 6½ my tobacco is almost gone 7½ cents get paper & envelop 8½ my post age at stamps are all gone. 9½ I sleep on “Terry Flannel” 10½.
My boots are over in the A.M. when I get up, 11½ congegibly pull on hand. 12½ A knapsack is heavy 13½ A knapsack is heavy. 14½ any Contwine is minion 15½ Mud is delightfull to march in, 16½ ditto Rain. 17½ cans forage 18½ I am tough at a customer. 19½ the boys feel "pretty muchly". 20½ ore dont know when we will stop. 21½ ore dont know when we shall stop. 22½ Lastly, the Engr, Brig, reived orders relieving us from duty and ordering all tools & working materials to be turned over to the A. Q. M. and for us to move ours near the "other end" of Lookout Mtn and do picket duty while awaiting arms & ammunition for recruits, we are here now but apprect to move in a day or two "towards the front." The report (not official) is that we are assigned to the 2nd Brigade 2nd Division, 14½ Army Corps (under Jeff. L. Davis) and the report is generally credited here, the old boys asks for it and the "supers & gearlings" of this fall, are army "emphatic" over it, if the above is true (14½ Corps) who will get under a good fighting man and one who does not hesitate to go into the little "mile" himself.

I have been up every day to see Will Beyote until flesh & bones mighty long to leave the boy. Mrs Beyote is well & in good spirits or was on the 21½ I was in hopes I could call around once in a while for I know Mrs P. — feels like a cat in a strange garden. Will was about the same, tell Mr Beyote if you see him that I am sorry General Thomas could not let me do as he wished about going
To Will & Co.fabs that the Big Moth is not moved
gross & that I still am there, now one thing is not
fair for you, they can do things that is more like me
to write to the whole tribe, as often as you write to one of me.
I am against none, don't you see, there is nothing fair about it.
the latest news & all is from Mrs B. & I just believe she is a — a — a — hang it, a "Polly boy" with a glass
"I don't know how to come at it, but she is "just
an old peaches" (assembles any mother) and I believe I could have agreed to have spent 8 hours a day with Will, for
no other reason than to have a talk with his Ma, let alone any interest for him, but that is played our crow
and all the above you may tell Mr B. — for "he news
do zo again" (notably)

I enclose to Etta the "pick" of Gen Sheridan's
or "Little Phil" he used to be our division's com'd.,
& guest to go to Grant's, Sherman's & Thomas's
and perhaps one or two more "Big Boys" if she would
like them, but I will have to be careful when tearing off
the signatures of a St Harper generally destroys the value
but will see what can be done, "now about my
enlist write, write, write, write, write & write & the do it again
address the same as before "to follow the Rep."
and I
cannot help getting you, our Big, is heavy I can tell
you, the 13th has over 1060, & I believe ours enough
to fill up 950. Probably larger (either way) than any
brigade at the front, we are picketing about
for 4 miles in front of us (I mean) and room
expects to be all armed &c &c and in Marching order about three shillings of mine rent them along where done one at a time by mail and don't buy but two cents on ounce postage as that is all that they charge for such articles do it up good & strong & lead our all "Paracord" and put in a skin of Bfl, Lin, thread & a paper of Pine (good aged)

as it now is in the 4 or small hours & sleepy I will turn in, so don't forget to write and the papers get regular are a "big thing" but here closed

Yours aff. Son & Broth

Charles S Brown

O.S. Tell father that my "sheepkins" have come up yet but are expected daily or soon. I shall mark cash to try with probably 8160 or 8135, ask him to send me an all of any "Aundril" very eager

Yours aff

Charles S Brown

O.S.S. this is "more as you dream" but hope in the future to say the other way and this may have to do for six months, or shorter periods it depends on where we go & how & when.
Dear Father,

We have just returned from a picket expedition of two days all round & I made my debut an I should have done long ago, but all is well. I hope you have heard those articles I sent for for I was out on the front & I had to borrow word Coak & all but I got through with it all right, & now have a day or two probably in camp. we have orders to be ready for another campaign as soon as possible & as expected to start soon.

You heard that Major Hep had sent for my commission but the fact is Seward for it myself in his name without his knowledge or consent, & now he forwarded a petition from all the officers of the Regt. to you Blair to have the Commission recalled, I was surprised when the last one came, as he had not heard from the Govt. about the other communications, he handed it to me, & I must to work & got myself "mustared in" before he hardly knew it, & the best joke I mustured back to Act 65% under his army name, but this I wrote him to show the feeling in the Regt. & if there is a chance for a 1/2 Lt. I Adrift or a 1/2 Lt. in another Regt I would accept it gladlly I am so far as I now hold, but think as it may I now hold the place & all the 21 1/2 Regt can't bluff me out of it, but it is in very annoying & unpleasant, my musturing back to Act will give me one year for Nov & Dec or about $20, & if $15, a month, & there will all the
Good. Bounty be shipped against me + Clothing. I have drawn on all about $140. 2/3, clothing $30. 1/3 = 15. 1/3, $39. 2/3 which will leave only $81. 1/3 due me on the 1st. If Lamy, I will have to buy horse saddle or $150. 2/3 clothing $100. 2/3 or both costs me $90. 2/3 a month. Don't have 8 months pay cut 110. 2/3 or total $880. 2/3 board will cost $150. 2/3 clothing (between $100. 2/3) $50 or total $750. 0/3 incidentally 20. 2/3 a month or $760. 0/3 around 10 month $80. 0/3 or about $770. 0/3 for the 8 months. Reg. you are 12 or 13 years of age in authority but horse to come in doing something on the end of the time. If not I will bring it home but it will cost me much of an effort to be a Rebs, as far as pay is concerned. If I could stay a year or two so as to make up for "outfit," it would be a different thing. I now have some little cash at home. How much I don't know but guess it is all right. Elton said something about the Home Flag, go for it if you can catch it. I dislike the whistle of bullets for I lay in the trenches and saw the fire of shell & shrapnel bursters just to hear the ball whiz - but the shot in the Rebs is no unpleasant; but they don't know that I notice them or they don't go as long as I stay here. My old colors in the woods troubles me some. Riding here will be all right in a day or 2. I meant to send some of the Rech Flag which was torn out by the explosion of a shell while passing through it. The smaller pieces I picked off my hat (as some under it) or another near behind the "Git Bearin'" the shell was about 15 feet over us & knocked two boys down with the air but no one hurts, go in for the Home Rech. or any new one to be organized under the new 300,000, call in great haste. Dormain as ever your affec

P.S. It will be paid probably before me from which will not be by a week, so if you have any these things go writing 12 days for them to get them before...
was allowing a guard to tie a rope around his neck he made some funny moves to stand on it & tried hard to get a foot hold upon air, but finally gave up trying.

I must close as the mail goes in 3 1/2 seconds

Your aff. Son & Brother

Charles S. Brown

P.S. If we have another chance for mail I will write C.S.B.

Source: Charles S. Brown to All Browns [Mother and Etta], 8 Feb 65, ALS, Charles S. Brown Papers, Special Collections, Perkins Library, Duke University. Brown had written his Mother and Etta from near Savannah on 16 Dec 64, mentioning his theft of the jewelry and some sheet music from another house, which he intended mailing to his sister Etta. This letter is somewhat unique, as one of the relatively few letters in which a soldier admitted his personal participation in looting, as opposed to looting by others, which was freely discussed. In all probability, many letters admitting personal participation simply were destroyed or not donated to archives. This is the first mention I have found of the execution of a suspected bushwhacker near Springfield, Georgia.

Head Quarters 21st Skin [?] Crackers
In or near the celebrated & important
town of Goldsboro North Carolina
U. S. A. western hemisphere North Carolina

My Dear Folks, Moth, Etta, Fath, J. L., F. P., or any one else

I wrote you a few hasty affectionate, intelligent, enlightening, edifying, words some years since, in the parts [?] I should have informed you. I have been on duty every day I have been to Kingston [Kinston] and all over the famous, romantic, rustic, gay old sand plains of N. C. in search of [blank in original] not like Samuel Slick in search of a y__ f____ [blanks in original], but in quest of our little Hard Bread & c & c Goldsboro N. C. U. S. A. is a little 7 X 9 sort of a hole about as large as Fentonville [probably present-day Fenton, Michigan] was once, it contains several buildings and is and is constituted principally of Houses and other Buildings laid out in nearly regular order, among which is a Female Seminary (or I should say a seminary for Females) about as large as the City Hotell of Flint, Gen. [Genesee] Co. [County] Mich. which is by far the largest Building in the place & is used by we-uns-all for the 14th A. C. Hosps I have often visited it & find it built similar to other buildings the city of Fayetteville N.C.U.S.A. knocks the socks all off from it [Goldsboro] Fayetteville aforesaid is a "gold durned" handsome town to be in this poverty stricken place. about the march all I can say is that a few rode others walked most all "fit," & some got whipped (your most obedient for one, but they neither demoralized nor scattered me) I came out alive others did not & some only half way so. & my horse ___ with all due respect to the Rebels, as unconcerned as most of them I was awfully scarib [scared] but I will be hanged if I was going to show it & I did not Jove ____ they pitched Lead & Iron is to us sorta of a [in parenthesis he drew a triangle] three cornered ____ [entire line faded and not decipherable, but from the context a description of the fighting at Bentonville] the less said about it the better as it was a regular Bull the whole ___ And only showed the bravery of the men for nothing We (the 21st) lost heavily & the rest about in the same proportion our total foots [?] 81 out of 325 & 5 officers out 13 we were beaten & driven about 3/4 of a mile & the Div lost 3 guns in all (we however showed to the Rebs as well as our side some of the best running ever did I brought all my traps home others did not I was lucky & others not so I personaly have no reason to complain. I suppose we leave here in about 3 [?] weeks or less for, you tell where. I hope Galveston Texas. we have not been paid since Sept 1/64 & I have not recived any money or box by express & dont expect to I dont care I can forage enough to eat & steal enough to ___ ear & so I am O.K. Dont send a blessed thing except ___ to me untill you hear from me to do it. All the Tobacco Fired [?] has sent has been stolen or miscarried. I have only recd one paper tell him also to "dry up"

Major Fox is here now. gets the troops much obliged bully for Etta. Also for the letters in them. that is the ____ in ___ I only get them once in 3 months. Also tell her as I have [?] ____

Charley – J a-ah! [Meaning totally unclear] she dont know him as I do

Tell the Bejole [?] tribe not to be afraid to write to me. I am not afraid to read & answer all letters from ____ ______ I wish was [?] an interesting young widow, or had a sister around. ___ as young as she is _____ I dont care what you will say but Mrs. J. W. Bejole is just – Bully!!
Sarah Pierson played out is she. I feel for her in her great trouble. But how did Lucius Avery screw up his _________ really he does know which side he ________ on _______ is a Brick.

I see you have a wrong impression that I have only five months to serve. you are greatly mistaken I have 2 years from Mar 28th 1865. the Regt. it is true does not last longer than _______, but there will be 1,001 places for a Lt. on duty, besides in a Regt. I do not expect to get clear of it for a long time yet, nor to tell the truth do I want to much, if I can get some “soft place” after the Regt plays out I am O.K. I can earn my $105.00 a month as easy by being exposed to lead once in a while as I can any other way.

Lt Col. is soon expected to be with us & to assume Comd of the Regt. he is an easy fellow does not like to push himself out of the way, & a rather smart fellow after all hope on this campaign to be lead by Gentlemen.

I was as comfortable as could be expected on the S.C., raid had something to eat all the time more than most can say lived on parched corn & nice coffee about 10 days & you can imagine what the men did. some swear that all they lived upon was “fine gum” for 2 weeks. We lived for 65 days on 5 days rations or 13 days on one days rations & were obliged to steal the rest or go without & you never heard of a more desolate country I do not believe you can find food enough in S.C. to keep a dozen chickens over winter, or shelter enough to cover them I saw property destroyed until I was perfectly sick of it, & that for me to say in S.C. is considerable.

I have considerable duty to do besides all any back Reports &c so that I have written no letters yet and as we leave in a short time I will be obliged to make up some general kind of a letter for all hands & make it in the form of a circular & send forward for their mutual benefit this A.M. At 8 we are reviewed by our new Division Gen./Walcott Buell our Brigadier is a regular mutton head & is cordially hated through the Brig. we all liked our old Div. Comd. & he was as cool a man in a fight as I ever saw, he was right beside of me in the mus (on the night of the 21st) [at Bentonville] & was a[s] cool as ice, when the Rebs got around us so as to fire into our rear & he turned to the boys “No use boys,” & started back the Regt followed & was the last to leave of the 2 Brigades, running across the swamp Carlin got down & I saw two boys use him as a stepping stone to cross dry shoal. But he was proud of the 21st & they of him and he remarked to one of his staff, “If I had known what a fighting Regt the 21st was I never would have punished them for stealing hard tack” referring to a scrape we got into in Georgia. my affairs are rather mixed all that I have is on my back no sword &c nor dont want any I have been notified that there is a “valuable R Pge” in the Ex. office at Savannah & are desired to “call for it immediately” guess I will go & get it (in a horn) so you see that is safe in Savannah & I have nothing said about a “Money Pack” if Father has the Receipts for that let him hold to it until I get the cash that I no not much expect to see the box I guess I will some time.

I have now got to fix up a little & get ready for to see Gen Wolcott. So more next time perhaps! & consider me your Aff Son & Broth

Chas. S. Brown

P.S. we are in the same Brig. & Div. & probably will stay in the same until fall, direct to 14th A.C., 1st Div. 2nd Brig. I will get it if we are in China.

Brown

Source: Charles S. Brown to Dear Folks, ca Apr 65, ALS. Charles S. Brown Papers, Special Collections, Perkins Library, Duke University. Brown was a lieutenant in the 21 Michigan Volunteers. Parts of the letters are badly faded and difficult to decipher. Buell is George Pearson Buell, an Indiana volunteer colonel who was promoted Brevet Brigadier General 12 Jan 1865, and commanded the First Brigade, First Division, 14th Army Corps. Carlin was William Passmore Carlin, an 1850 graduate of West Point, promoted Brigadier General USV 29 Nov 1862, and commanded the First Division of the 14th Corps. Walcott was Charles Carroll Walcutt, an Ohio volunteer officer who was wounded at Griswoldville in November 1864, commanding the Second Brigade, First Division, 15th Army Corps. After a period of recuperation, he returned to his old brigade, then became division commander on 4 April, which dates this letter after 4 Apr.
My Dear Folks, Mrs. beta, Alpha, F. R. & P., or any one else,
I wrote you a few handy affectionate
intelligent, enlightening, edifying, words--some verses, lines in the press--
should have informed you. I have seen an old acquaintance, and--

Ingenious, romantic, media, gay old sods, please if I can
in search of--an incident. Stick it in search if you. But in quest of
our little Wood, green, verdant, woodland of Iowa, is a little 200 miles
of a hole about an acre in Streetsville near our. I contain several buildings
and be constituted principal of horses & other buildings late or in nearby nginx
order, among which is a French beehive (I should say a Jenny cake for female)
about as long as the City Hotel of Firth. 'Nough said, which is to say the
large building in the place, and used by one was--all for the 4th of July, people.
I have often visited it, and find it tells similar to other buildings, the City of Streetsville
of all, tell, amache the work of them. Streetsville apparently is a
'get downed' handsome town. It is in the city director's place, about the
which all I can say is that a few rate others might meet all 'july' some good
which (you mark the date, for me, two step neither elements & nor best of all)
I came out such others did not--some only halfway, by this time I was
and all due respects is the tablet. So uncommon, no mind of them. I was
awfully scared but I led to thought if I am going to show it, I didn't care
for how they finished. God bless you, it's worth much of a (1) than command
(1) than command.
To the one above to the letter as it was a regular letter to write and
and only showed the strain of the water of rushing over the rocks
out of 325, or 5 officers out 32
men bearing down and about 1 of a mile to the 2 to 10 of 3 glasses
in all one hour 1 came in the river as well as our side river
of the tide running in did I brought all my troops home other
did not if men loading other not as I personally have no reason
a complaint I suppose the news now in about 8 months or
life for you will know. I hope to get on Texas and hope
not been paid since right for I have with received any
money or B as by wrong I don't expect to be paid. Care I
can forego enough to eat & start enough to wear and I
not. Don't send a hand thing enough that your
middle face hear from me to me all the trouble or hope
and death the little beloved miscarried. Then only need
one paper tell him also to buy up
Walter D. if he can now, get the first chance publish
happy for Ella, also for the letter in them, that it is the mind
I only wish them once in 3 months. Also tell her as I was
sick of Chriss but 2 a h she don't know him as I do
Tell the Tisdales and not to be importer to write a man, I am not
afraid to read or write all letters from Ada B. to the same
whish was an interesting young widow, or had a letter about their
as young as she is I told. I don't care what you will do
but whether he departs is just — Billy

Sarah Runion played out is who. I feel for her in her great trouble. But how did Glennis along across the line
for up to the head shore he done know which side his brother
in battalion one for Stora is a wish.
I am just closing in your new information that I have been from home a week, and you are greatly mistaken. I have 7 years from 1865, in the field, it is now done with back disease. Now, there's where but there is another place, the place for a soldier. All is well in a camp. I am not sufficient to get clear of the sea for a long time yet, and in the tents, it's not enough to stand, but I can get some relief. I am O.K., I can earn my 300, a month as easy as they used to fire once in a while as I can any other way.

But, Philip is more expected to be around now to assume command of the camp. Here any easy fellow can go like to put himself out of the way, and a rather smart fellow after all help on the campaign to be lead by Apantzer.

I feel as comfortable as could be reckoned on to know, friend had something to eat and have enough to eat, man can say minds on parochial love. It's not any better about 10 days in a week, you can imagine what the men did eat, and were that will they lead upon was "first go" for 300, are hard for 60 days or 30 days nations or 15 days on one day's nations.

I was obliged to steal the rich or go without a few heard of a good slate country, I do not believe you can find food enough in S. C. to keep a dozen chickens over winter, or shelter enough to cover them. I saw property destroyed until I was perfectly sick of it, and that's for one to say in S. C. is considerable.

I have considerable duty to do besides all, any back Reports as soon as I have written no letters yet, and as we have a short time I will be obliged to make up some general kinds of a letter for all friends, to make it in the form of a circular and forward for their mutual benefit.
Our Brigade is a regular fighting head — is cordially hated through the Rg, we all liked old F. C. Cond. — he was a cool man in a fight and I saw, he was right behind of me in the musk (on the right of the 21st) and was a cool at ice, when the Rgds got around we did as fine into our own if he turned the boys’ “No use boys” or started back the Rg followed me the back to hear of the Brigade, running across the swamp. Carline got down & I crossed two boys are him as a stepping stone to rock dry shed, only he went proud of the 21st & they of him and he remarked to one of his staff. “If I had known what a fighting Rgd he was I would have punished them for stealing and back” referring to a cargo and got into the swamp, my letters are rather ungrammatical letters they have to on my back as scared to “wont want any I have — written nothing that there is a a “valuable Rgd” in the 2d Rgds of Sumner, & am directed to “call for it immediately” gale. I will look for it in a way so you see that he is safe in Sumner or I am not afraid about a “Money Back” if F. C. Cond. has the receipt for that I hold to the until I get the cash that I do not much expect to see the rest I gale. I will write some time. I have got a tip of a little & get ready for the two weeks or more next time. I have no news off your brother.

Chas. S. Brown.

You will get it if we are in Chinese Brown.
Camp of Detatch, of 31st Mich O. P.,

Lehattanovea Tenn Oct 25th 1864

My Dear Father, Mother & Etta

You see by the above that I am

with the Regiment, the fact is after our famous

“South Potato Raid” we were ordered back home 

lay her two days & the Regt. were ordered to garrison

Dalton, & started I was ordered to remain with a

detachment & finish my Enroute & Return, which

was one & one half months behind besides all

the quarterly were in all quite an array of them

so I have been quite busy but now am done all

but one, & have been ordered up on Sunday or

Monday if transportation can be had.

We just now them had fun on the raid.

on lived eleven days on threes days rations 

forage, of all the varieties of meals we had them

the second day out come one stove & drew one

haversack (a bully one the U.S. & co. one) 

with all my rations & dichel so it left me to

forage & eat with my Jack knife (one Ford gun

one back Christmas) you would have laughted to

see one eat chicken soup or fish pie with my
knife, &c. & made it up for 9 now have a Necessity
of cup, spoon, ration, &c. & did not pay for them
for four days & lived on corn, parched, & grated
into meal, in our one of 7, you could see 4 tons
of mill stones, i.e. half a canton nailed on a box
& holes punched grater fashion, then we had much
& hoe cake, oat meal baked without salt or grace
& c. c. at other time our table would show enough
to suit any epicures, crooks pig, chickens, turkeys,
Mutton, veal, beef, in the break line, burr potato
Onions, turnips, beets, bearnespe, Irish potatoes, were
in the "vegetable" Water & much melons, apples
peaches, grapes, were in the fruit. Hickory,
walnut, butter nut, pea nut, & persimone (a sort
of wild plum) in the line. Honey, syrup.
Wines, Liquors, cider were in that line, & posom
the mock fun to all the boys (to help them) cradle into
such a supper, I tell you it beat all thanksgiving
or Christmas dinners I ever saw, & by the time they
got up from a table (the ground,) they would be
Honey, syrup, gravy, & grease, our hands, feet
I need say about tight shoes &c. but they clumsy.
I grew fat on our short rations, we went every
day but one or two & averaged 30 miles a day &
generally was up at 8 a.m. to start again.
One day or more from Florence to within
from miles of Athens, only 4 1/2 miles it was
more than hard on the boards, it hurt any foot like the old tug, but it was hanging on or fall back.
and I could not see the fall back. Morgen's Division (or our own) were on foot & I'm one day fell dead from overmarching, as you see what my expect when we return to our Division, it did look tough to see Artillery Horses fall dead in their track & all the good the whole said did occur to kill about a dozen Rebs & 4 or 5 of ours; one 2d Lt. of the 1/11th Illinois, Capt. Strother, the Rebs were "planted" in our camp & our boys went back to Florence & their homes.

When we got back here I learned that Will Beford was dead, well it did not surprise one at all, and I wonder he did not go long before, poor boy, he suffered more than I can tell you, or more than you could imagine possible. I helped more than once to drip his wounds & sore, & I never want to undergo the torture of the if, I feel sorry for Mrs. Beford, and if I had not been expecting my commission & the rest on the move I would have tried to have accompanied her home, she is in my opinion the model of a woman, perhaps because I saw her more as she is, than I have of others, but I now crave a more tender & attentive nurse, about a sick bed of mine than Will Beford's another, she is all that could be asked of me a mother, & that all will ever all, I was very sorry, very sorry, to leave them when I did, but each so the all important orders, of course I must obey.

We are looking for a hard wintert campaign of it & I dread it, muchly, but such is life & let it come & can feel warm under a fire on my blanket.
as well as the rest of them. Patriot & 3 days rain without a dry thread on me & no rubber (nine more stolen) & slept in the rain on the ground as sound as we ever did & did not take the least cold, or make an attempt at a change, tough I tell you, gets all in all, it just cutes me & I hope it quits it. I guess if you could live in corn or go in that shape day in & day outs you would consider yourself luck iron, when you get this I shall be in Dalton or elsewhere, bus still driving to 31½ Mich, Deps Chattanooga, "to follow Raw", the 29 ½ Mich is somewhere here & can't find out a how. Charley Munn & Col. Dunham of the 4½, Charley & O. Hush one good day together wish it had been a week, he is a smart working fellow, the officers in town waiting for transportation organized themselves into a Brigade & started to march through, Charley was chosen Brig. Commissary, they were compelled to do some such army board only 25 a day in town & between 8,000, 14,000, officers waiting to get through.

But I must make up my bunk & turn in. It is colder than Greenland nights & sometimes we smash prize, cook, smoke, & blankets more & so. I am glad Ford did not go in the 29 ½ this life would just sick him back & deeth think he ought to come through. I cannot say the same of J. B. & wrote Ford an awful letter about the hardships & to all the truth feels a little to him & much more of the next letter & goes he refused to come anyway dear & can glad it had the desired effects & hope he will remain other side. I struck the word fort, poor quantities & if he thought my own in some bad peg, bus I am but singly think ought to be in the service, I hope he will keep it in the same light let him go as a private & did mim feath & one 9th though doch prefer to remain one long.
Camp 2 at Mich Tol Rpts

Halfway to Augusta, at Sitter Ferry, stuck in the swamps, in the sand, knee-deep, cold as a dog over an inch of water. The 8th Day in the Month of October.

All Brownia and any other man.

How are you, does it make you feel so cross grained to have the mail come in and get a letter as it does one, will be will give you credit finally, for two (2) short letters one from Father i.s. Hadaraa & one from Mother familiar both of which were eagerly devoured (3) I was glad to learn the Darse, received her trap safe by mail & I suppose is now crossing Mrs. Maj. Gen. RE Brownie's jewelry or some of the Whips Maj. Gen. for it was stolen, foraged, grabbed, found, crampet, jayhawked, or whatever you call it from the House of Rebel Maj. Gen. Brown, the music I found in a house about 18 miles from Savannah came within one ace of being grabbed while grabbing it. I suppose any trap by Copies ain't in Savannah or Beaufort & am away
off here in the mud & are one of the boys in the 69th O. (in this Brig) shot a big alligator about 40 rods from his tent & one in the 39th Brig shot one some 14 or 15 feet long. The Surg. of the 69th has a little one about 18 inches long for a plaything, any affairs are all "in status quo," (ain't that it) our Major went left in Savannah with the "Belovia Tremendous" same army, for he leave a — foot of a cuff in command of the Rev. Col. Crowell is in Nashville & our child in Bridgeport.

One funny incident don't relate, as we came up from Savannah to Springfield our army halted about 10 A.M., & invited to see some fights in the P.M. a man of the species Bushwhack, genius Rhet. undertook to stand on nothing about 30 feet from the ground, & the only precaution he took to avoid a fall was allowing a guard to tie a rope around his neck he made some funny moves to stand on it & tried hard to get a foothold upon air, but finally gave up trying.

Donald close on the mail goes in 3 1/2 seconds.

Yours off Sen. Brother

P.S. If we have another chance for mail device write C.S.
Camp 21st Mich Vol Inft
Half way to Augusta at Sisters
Ferry, stuck in the swamps, in
the sand knee deep, cold as a dog
wet as the dickens, on poor rations,
& in the Month of Febry the 8th Day

All Brown’s & “any other man”,

How are you, does it make you feel so cross grained to have a mail come in & not get a letter as it does me? well I will give you credit finaly for two (2) short letters one from Esther i.e. Hadassa & one from Mater familiar both of which were earlgy devoured(?) [I have no idea why he ended this sentence with a question mark in parenthesis, but it is clear in the text.] I was glad to learn the Dass received her traps safe by mail & I suppose is now wearing [He refers to jewelry which he had looted from the home of Gen. Irwin in Georgia and was going to mail to his sister Etta when mail service was established in December. I speculate “Dass” was a nickname for Etta.] Mrs Maj. Gen. Reb. Irwin’s jewelry or some of the Misses Maj. Gen. for it was stolen, foraged, gobbled, found, cramped, jay hawked, or whatever you call it from the house of Maj. Gen. Irwin. the music I found in a house about 18 miles from Savannah & came within an ace of being gobbled while gobbling it. I suppose any traps by Express are in Savannah or Beaufort & I am way off here in the mud & c one of the boys in the 69th O [Ohio Volunteers] (in this Brig) shot a big Alligator about 40 rods from his tent & one of the 3rd Brig shot one some 14 or 15 feet long, the Surg. Of the 69th has a little one about 18 inches long for a play thing. My affairs are all “in statue [status] quo” (aint that it) our Major was left in Savannah with the “Delerius Tremendous” I was sorry, for it leaves a ___ [blank in original, probably “darned” was implied] fool of a Capt in commd. Of the Regt Col Crowell is in Nashville & our Lt. Col. in Bridgeport [Ala.]

One funny incident I must relate. As we came up from Savann to Springfield we were halted about 10 A.M. & invited to see some sport & in the P. M. a man, of the species Bushwhack, genius Reb, Undertook to stand on nothing, about 20 feet from the ground, & the only precaution he took to avoid a fall was allowing a guard to tie a rope around his neck he made some funny moves to stand on it & tried hard to get a foot hold upon air, but finally gave up trying.

I must close as the mail goes in 3 ½ seconds

Your aff Son & Brother
Charles S. Brown

P.S. If we have another chance for mail I will write C.S.B.

Source: Charles S. Brown to All Browns [Mother and Etta], 8 Feb 65, ALS, Charles S. Brown Papers, Special Collections, Perkins Library, Duke University. Brown had written his Mother and Etta from near Savannah on 16 Dec 64, mentioning his theft of the jewelry and some sheet music from another house, which he intended mailing to his sister Etta. This letter is somewhat unique, as one of the relatively few letters in which a soldier admitted his personal participation in looting, as opposed to looting by others, which was freely discussed. In all probabiltiy, many letters admitting personal participation simply were destroyed or not donated to archives. This is the first mention I have found of the execution of a suspected bushwhacker near Springfield, Georgia.
Near Haywood A. C. April 18th 1865

Mother & Etta

As I have not heard or written in some time & a mail leaves in the A.M. (the 1st on this march) I thought I ought to tell you some we have had an awful time from soldiers up marching like thunder & hard work for two days had to be sort of train guards & help them along & the morning of the 14th we got up at 1 A.M., & started for Raleigh, which I got in about 9 A.M. after marching so that the horses almost trotted or break any body into town & our 1st-big had the pleasure of hoisting the Stars & stripes 1st over the surrendered city an old Gov'tance, surrendered not only the city but the whole state, bully for Vance. We heard the announcement of Lee's surrender at 9 with field & it was given to the whole Division at the same time you can imagine the noise made by 15 Regts giving
three times three + a tiger will that was just
old jason" + the hate went up some also at
Goldsbors N.C. while on review the fall of Richmond
gave us a chance to exfuse breath, by jove
I never thought men had such lungs / box the yell
with which we charged as Bentonville all to nothing

Th' by the way I doubt remember an

ever gave you a very lucid account of that fight
or of the one on the 16th the one on the 16th we were not
much engaged was mostly the 24th Cutt & the 2nd Pa 14th A.C.
they made the johnnies climb that day the 2nd Pa is only lost
about 100. we then took the advance & started for Goldsboro
on the 19th the 2nd Pa's, had a stiff skirmish with them on the
arm. of the 19th we took the advance & the 1st Big & our advance
& I was Carlin (our Big, Sandy) told the "Bummers" if they ran on
to the Rebels too strong for them to report in about 3 hours they
were checked + report the enemy in force & entrenched some
thoughts there might be at least 3,000 of them there but
Jeff Davis laughed as the largest of the estimate & ordered
Gen Carlin to charge with a Brigade / it 2d then "work for
them" + took their 1st line we were ordered up to join on
their right & did so we were not protected by any works as
they were, our skirmishers were advanced in the woods +
reported a second line of rather formorable appearance
no men ordered to charge immediately which are did
the Rebs, held their fire until we were within 3 rods of
the works when they opened fire from all sides & gave us
an awful volley one work for them with a yell & got within
5 pieces of their works & if we did not now some lead
into them & were mistaken, once finally were ordered to fall
back which was done until the 1/2 Brig gained their works
we halted & began to fortify still in ignorance of our
rear position or totally without supports in about 3/4 of an hour
the skirmishers were driven back & the Rebs came for us,
we lay behind our incomplete works & gave them fits, we
checked them & held them to it until they turned the left
of the 1/2 Brig & of course that was forced to retreat: they
fell back in good order a rush at a time as they were
compelled to & of course our Brig had to follow suit
as was the best thing we ever did for falling back
we made a line of Rebs marching straight for our rear
in 15 minutes more we would have been between two
lines of the buffets we fell back on our supports (the
2d Art.) which had come up by this time & the Artillery
made for them there were 8 full batteries going for them
as both they knew how & they would average 2 shots a
minute to the gun as thus Rebs charged on the batteries
they began to fill up the guns with boxes of Cartridges
which made to much for Mr. Reb. the 2nd Div in the mean time had fortified to the right of our Division so the Reb's charged only 7 times in the course of 31/2 hours. 14th Mich charged once & gets the Reb works when the Reb's came back & took our (the 14th Mich.) works as Mr. 14th Mich had to charge back to get their own works. The Reb's was ready for the 14th to assualter while in that fire the 14th told them to "go to hell" & charged then & took. About 1/2 of them Prisoners or lay under fire for 3 days till the 25th at the 17th A.P. took there in the rear they had to get out of being all of our wounded Prisoners & most of them badly wounded there & went on to Goldsboro & lay untill the 10th of April. 11th A.P. took there in the rear they had to get out of being all of our wounded Prisoners & most of them badly wounded there & went on to Goldsboro & lay untill the 10th of April.

We have just heard of the death of Lincoln.

May the Lord have mercy upon the country, we passed through, & the Rebs, we catch if we go any further upon this campaign, Indians saw a more repugnated act of men than the Army. honestly the Army had rather experienced another Bull Run affair than a war had that happen few men will forget from committing any outrage or crime they may choose to. Sherman & Johnson are to see Miss Beall from me hope they soon come to terms by yours I would like the 1st A.P. to turn his army loose over what is left of the S. E. by yours I would not give much an acre for it after a corps or two had gone over it, this is the rumor now we have een heard yet. I hope Andrew Johnson will put down the lower tights by thunder the army will contain him is he hungs very man or burns every house in the whole South.

I must close this we do have some work to do. consider me as ever your affectionate Brother,

Charlie
Head Quarters 21st. N.C. Inf.
Martins Bridge A.C. April 26th

My Dear Etta,

I hardly consider myself inclined to write a letter, but I will write a few lines for lack of something else to do, you know and, Flatter yourself that it is from any overflow of brotherly affection for that always extends itself or above fear but partly because I feel like it partly to practice and I said before because I lack other amusements. First come a little adventure of yesterday and then some old ones.

Finally some nonsense, an attempt at poor will and finally the end. So here goes.

Chapter 1st on the 25th of April A.D. 1865 Capt. Weaver Lt. Sarge Brights & Brown procured leave to be absent from camp for the day (they had agreed to go to the town of Haywood A.C. about 10 miles out of our lines) all mounted at about 8:30 A.M. We started over the Cape Fear River in an old flat boat a started rode & rode a ridden & finally came upon an old plantation & learned we were entirely out of the way. Imposed a negro & made him show us the way to Haywood & took him along for a hostage for himself arrived at a place some bodies dismounted took dinner had butter, milk & pickles, picked up teeth & started on crossed the "deep river" some citizen told us there were 8 & a day or so mounted snow in town &
he could not say whether they were Reb. or Fed. so we much for them like thunder rode into town or one fellow rode off like—(our skill) ours just for him (st. super brown) & ran him down in about 2 3 miles & found him to be an old citizen a go who lived in the region O.K., gave him some sage advice & let him go & started back to see who else was more joined a. L. M. of new hardie staff & a surgeon of the 5th N. Y. seated smoking & chatting with Capt. Mr. Bell Bright one of course halted got off introduced to Capt.'s grandson & surgeon Senford, eab remarked the calmness of peace finally, left to track some of our friends which down to see Wm. H. Furman had lots of fun I'd seen a Union in there homely daughter two good looking daughters the cutest little cock you ever saw had a good time made an impression promised to come again (thought expected to see them) reverses finally had to leave went back to the other boys & our "corn fed" friends they proposed to ride to camp with us & as of course most glad to have them (by the way the Capt. wants to trade a roasting elf for my buggy) on had lots of fun the Surgeon was most accomodated to a saddle to ask on his blanket were under him or we started round horse, all the way home came like a thousand of Buck part division the Drs. brought our friends into camp where they still are, being bonified & c.e. wish I was a paroled by Capt. Parson riding through the Confed lines. "We end the 1st Lesson"

Chapter III. On or About the 17th of April 1865, the 21st N. Y. was called upon to furnish our boys, and all the mounted men in camp to go foraging
The above night they returned to stated they had struck a town near the Cape Fear River named Haywood & all were ordered out again of the 21st M.E. Co. as a guard. Stanton about 4 A.M. reached Haywood about 9 A.M. occupied the town & captured the ferry & Bridge & after got them established I took the liberty to ride along & finally rode out of a house with Capt. Woodmanor dismounted & asked me was to dine, stayed had a medium dinner mounted rode back & at the REpR on our orderly met us & told me supper was waiting & at Capt. Bryan's in town rode down & found a splendid dinner waiting us. Roast Turkey &c &c & 8 pretty gals. Of the female persuasion to foot. I don't mean that my friend him by & by one of my boys brought me a small box with the remark: 'As I have a set of Chew men & found for you.' I accepted Capt. Bryan found board & soon was more in. Capt. Bryan's were finally left about 8 PM. & crossed the river got all the mounted men (about 400). The REpR. over about 9 AM. So it made from 4 AM. to 2 PM. no lay down on the bank in the AM. Started for camp got in 5 PM. took time at the dinner with 57 horses & horses 8000 pounds of Bacon & ham about 3 chickens & 20 pounds of flour to a man. 

On the day we took Newport a few, some of the "hammers." From the north of the town & then in their usual style "work for." The town they were on & Mr. one of the Yankee had a barrel of Whiskey stood on end & the head knocked in with a good in his hand. Turned to break the whole 14 1/2 a c. on another one head &
large box of tobacco which he would throw a plug to any one who called for one & it literally named tobacco upon our column. Another had a lot of Broke piled up on the side walk & would throw them to whoever asked & care such scenes more enacted in every town we entered in the E. & only more & worse near of the towns (all in S. East) was either visible by the flames or smoke & for over two Months sheer was out of sight of burning property of some kind - "Bich is life" - Nor in deed the 30th Letter Chapt 11th or the March through S. Can beside the road was a turpentine factory or on either side of the road once piled barrels of Raisin three barrels high & about 5 deep & more than 10 rods long the largest pile of barrels I ever saw & one man set fire to them & a more magnificent sight I ever saw you can imagine the flame reaching about 40 or 50 feet above ground forming an arch of flame & the smoke was more like a rising hurricane storm the turf rosin melting formed a river of fire more like a stream of lava than anything else which ran out into the River 20 or 30 ft & set fire to the bridge 30 40 rods below & 8 or 10 ft above the water which stopped the whole column until the fire burnt out 20 or to be stopped & often war would pass by factories where there would be Raisin water but a large depression in the ground perhaps 5 or 6 ft deep & cover 8 or 4 acre the boys used to delight to fire them "just to see the smoke" he the horrors of war may never be farsend from them (we) in how excellent the 4th Chapter
Chapter the IV.

In this my clearly beloved I shall try to give you some idea of "Shermans Bummers." An order comes for a detail of a Com. Off. and 30 men (all mounted) to go foraging up daylight next A.M. Some time in the night the detail is made immediately, they all proceed to the camp, picked flock to be ready to start in advance at 3 1/2 or 4. They show out (each right by itself) come to a house deploy out & go for it drive the Rebs out (if they are in) & load all the provisions on the animals & leave & go for the next one & so on. By the time they have been to 3 or 4 houses Mr. Eason, Officers have been 30 or 40 men with him the men are 'simmig' on their own hook & a sorry way they have some horses I have seen without a whole article in it in South Carolina you might see all sorts of scree boys pounding piano keys with their hatchets to see who could make the most noise or pile up a pile of plates & "order arms" on them to see who could break the most or try & see who could shoot the most Cows or hogs, or see who could dress themselves in the best suit of woman's clothes & then make the lady of the house play for them to have a Cotillion & if the music did not suit slash their hatchets through the top of the piano to improve the time. You may not believe me but such scence have occurred time after time & worse our boys to go on two more such campaigns would be the hardest fate this world ever produced. We have men in our own ranks in all others that would stand...
I have a woman kneel to them & beg for God's sake to leave enough for her children in the house, turn from them with battle & take the last morsel of food.

One old woman I saw with perhaps a peck of potatoes, the last morsel of food in the world, to which she was trying to save for her children, be ordered by a man to hand them over & be forced with a cocked revolver to do the same. I said I saw this. I did not see nor heard of the good authority. No I never saw such, they generally do not points pistol at men or women when I am around, or if they do the full back mighty sudden, South Carolina may have been the cause of this awful thing. But she has had an awful punishment. I have been thankful ever since I have been in the army that the war was fought, you never can imagine a pillaged house, never unless an army rages through your town. If this thing had been in the North I would have broken each, until every man was either dead or drow. If such a scene should be enacted through North, I would never live as long as one of the invading army did. I do not blame the south at all, yet if they do go to guerrilla warfare, but in North Carolina they have been but little if none of such the men seem by instinct to avoid it as well as possible. In Raleigh the people told us that Wheeler's Cavalry done them 8 times as much harm as our men did. One of Wheeler's men told as our advance came in stood & fired upon them. In them one of them caught him & brought him before Kilpatrick who asked him if he done as he acknowledged. He killed, turned around to his four boys & pointing to one of the large handsome oak trees of the town.
Remarked "Boys, do you see that ship," was answered "yes," "Aye-Aye," "Of course," I added "Well then, setting him up," I went on about his business. The hour fell in less than 10 minutes was going seaward. This is enough of such matter & grief, men have needeth the 3rd Chapter in "Tinio."

2nd of Humm 1st Edition: page 1st

This is to be compared as the proceeding one of and much of anything & what then is if it cost amounts to much.

That Smith, Newman, Drifting gown, fatigue dress not as it has been called now only receive 1 or 2 of those two or three applications for such as the lower stories the upper & wings I mean for my own use as yet however it is all in any one possession, the other one which has been "billed" "reveried" times is down now to a hospital. Drifting gown length but honestly it will be splendid on horseback, good as a sheepskin or a saddle, no vanity however. I did intend a week ago to be home to go to a 4th of July Ball but now hardly think I will or how have orders to shore ahead & go for Johnson which I hoped would be in article be much for us on the 19th of March but a bad go it was for the old 21 ½ but the did heavy credit, gained a bully reputation all through the Corps as the Fighting Ricks, all did well I know our men in Booth Brigade stood as long as man could stand when that was no longer a possibility.
we like theOnce and found and afterwards
that they were the best thing one could do that whole
day by far. It looked hard to see intimate friends
blown to pieces before your eyes, but such is life. I
tell you, it was a tight place as charged in this fashion

and charged directly forward upon this line
of works which extended 2 or 3 miles and was held by

69th
25th May

New Heights works
12th May

or ours whole army or we are charged they believe to have
the whole benefit of their whole line besides a flank from
from the left of the 69th. This, with shell grapeshot came
up as that one nestled each other with spoons, shells and
shells of minantry arm finally compelled to pull back. I did
not intend to close mention that they again, but you
probably think or even when we ought. Now here no
mortal could have done better than our men did. They
were praised on the field from Gen. Conner, Gen. Costin, Gen. William Lord, 12th A.C. and stillpatrick
our Division commander was just proud of the 21st
and 25th. He was in the immediate man of our
right all the time. I could have laid my hands upon
him most of the time. But the coolness now, there was
in the unfulfilled affair but enough of that.
I have now already written you a good
motherly sort of a letter. I propose to continue
not longer. If you do not answer it in a
'Comr. Ship,' await I shall give you the next to that.
trible in a contra dance when I get home if
I can do, guess I will go into the 88 Business when
I get there & if I can't speculate in the light of the
world, I don't think I shall do much more lounging I
am now getting to be old enough (nearly 33 years old) to see
what & where I can hold out to the best advantage &
believe I shall try to get Gov. Craft to change me into one
of those new Regts an Adjutant place in an easy one in any
place I get look in once, on Division Drill was left in
Command of the Regt. because Maj. & Capt. & it was send off
to chase off some Rats who showed themselves I got along
all right however but don't want to try again,
But as take here something I must close this & send
our lights
I am as I used to be (only tougher)
your off Brother
Charly S. Brown
P. S. I thought I was writing to -- to -- & send
when I signed this. -- in a hour
Brown

P. S. S. S. Tell the Mrs How D. E. Brown saw
her most dutiful love & on of the best good
pair of woolen socks, etc. etc.
Dr. Goodale an af
sends if this Regt will be at home about as soon as this
reaches you he is in pocket about the Regt. myself as
well as anyone I was away when he left is the
reason I send no message by him
Brown
I will send a detail to help you read this of one "land office" before long I hope.
My Dear Etta:

... Chapter III. On the day we took Fayetteville N.C. some of the “Bummers Drove the rebs out of the town & then in their usual style “went for” the town when our advance went in a Happy set they were one [sic, on] one corner one big 6 foot 2 ½ yankee had a barrel of whiskey stood on end & the head knocked in with a gourd in his hand. Bound to treat the whole 14th A.C. on another one had a large box of tobacco which he would throw a plug to any one who called for one & it literallly stained tobacco upon our column. Another had a lot of Books piled up on the side walk & would throw them to whoever asked &c such scenes were enacted in every town we entered in the C.S. only more & worse most of the towns (all in S. Car) were either visible by the flames or smoke & for over two months I never was out of sight of burning property of some kind – “sich is life” – Here endeth the 3rd Lesson

Chapter the IV. On the march through S. Car beside the road was a turpentine factory & on either side of the road was piled barrels of Rosin three barrells high & about 5 deep & more than 10 rods long the largest pile of barrelles I ever saw & our men set fire to them & a more magnificent sight I never saw you can imagine the flame meeting about 40 or 50 feet above ground forming an arch of flame & the smoke was more like a rising thunder storm the rosin melting formed a river of fire more like a stream of Lava than anything else which ran on to the River so as to set fire to the bridge 3 or 4 rods below & 8 or 10 feet above the water which stopped the whole column until the fire burnt out so as to be stopped & often we would pass by factories where there would be Rosin run into a large depression in the ground perhaps 5 or 6 feet deep & over 3 or 4 acres the boys used to delight to fire them “just to see the smoke” Oh! the horrors of war. may you be preserved from them (bah) – here endeth the 4th Chapter

Chapter the V. In this my dearly beloved I shall try to give you some idea of “Sherman’s Bummers” an order comes for a detail of a Com. Off & 30 men (all mounted) to go foraging at daylight next A.M. some time in the night the detail is made immediately & they all proceed to the extreme picket post to be ready to start in advance at 3 ½ or 4. they shove out (each Regt’s by itself) come to a house deploy out & go for it drive the Rebs out (if they are in) & load all the provisions on their animals & leave & go for the next & so on. by the time they have been to 3 or 4 houses Mr Com. Officer has but 3 or 4 men with him the rest are “Bumming” on their own hook & a sorry way they have some houses I have seen without a whole article in it in South Carolina you might see all sorts of scenes boys pounding Piano keys with their hatchets to see who could make the most noise or pile up a pile of plates & “order arms” to see who could break the most or try & see who could shoot the most cows or hogs. or see who could dress themselves in the best suit of womens clothes & then make the lady of the house play for them to have a cotillion & if the music did not suit slash their hatchet through the top of the piano to improve the tune. you may not believe me but such scenes have occurred time & again & worse our to goon [go on] two more two more such campaigns would be the hardest pets this world ever produced we have men in our own Regt & in all others that would stand & have a woman kneel to them & beg for Gods sake to leave enough for her children in the house. turn from them with oaths & take the last morsel of food one old woman I saw with perhaps ½ a peck of potatoes the last morsel of food in the world, & which she was trying to save for her children be ordered by a man to hand them over & be forced with a cocked revolver to do the same. I said I saw this. I did not see but heard of from good authority. no I never saw such, they generally do not point pistols at men or women when I am around, or if they do the [they] pull back might sudden. South Carolina may have been the cause of this whole thing but she had an awful punishment I have been thankful ever since I have been in the army that this war was south. You never can imagine a pillaged house, never – unless an army passes through your town & if this thing had been in the North I would Bushwhack until every man was either dead or I was. If such scenes should be enacted through Mich. I would never live as long as one of the invading army did I do not blame the south & shall not if they do go to Guerrilla warfare. but in North Carolina there has been but little if none of such the men seem by instinct to treat N.C. as well as possible. in Raleigh the people told us that Wheeler’s Cavalry done them 3 times as much harm as our men did one of Wheeler’s men as our advance came in stood & fired upon them & then ran they caught him & brought him before Kilpatrick who asked him if he done so he acknowledged it. Kill. turned around to his boys & pointing to one of the large handsome shade trees of the town then asked “Boys: do you see that limb.” Was answered “yes” “Aye-Aye” “of course” &c &c &c &c &c &c added “well then; string him up” & rode on about his business the poor fellow in less than 5 minutes was going heavenward: this is enough of such matter & gossip. – here endeth the 5th Chapter.
2nd Volume, 1st Edition: page 1st

"Finis"

this is to be composed as the preceeding one of not much of any thing & what then is of it not amount to much.

That Strict, Shernee [?], Dressing gown, fatigue dress, as if has been called was duly received I am your most obedient Servt. it is as gay as a Pea not shop evry body wants an a one or two & I have had two or three applications for rent of the lower stories the upper & wings I reserv for my own use as yet however it is all in my own possession. The other one which has been “biled” “several” times is down now to a Hospital Dressing gown length but honestly think it will be splendid on horseback good as a sheep skin on a saddle. No levy however. I did intend a week ago to be home to go to a 4th of July Ball but now hardly think I will we have had orders to shove ahead & go for Johnson [Joseph E. Johnston] which I hoped would be useless he went for us on the 19th of March & a bad go it was for the old 21st but she did herself credit & gained a bully reputation all through the Corps as the Fighting Regt. all did well ....

Your aff. Brother
Charles S. Brown

Source: Charles S. Brown to Etta, 26 Apr 65, ALS, Charles S. Brown Papers, Special Collections, Perkins Library, Duke University. Brown is in all probability incorrect in placing the scene of the burning turpentine distilleries in South Carolina. Although the army encountered a handful of them in the march between Orangeburg and Columbia, that was on the right wing, while the 21 MICH was in the left wing. The description seems to be of events in North Carolina which occurred about March 10, west of Fayetteville, along the headwaters of the Lumber River.
No. 1, 1st St., Wash., 1st, May, 1865

Dear Folks,

We are all well here in the national capital but I don't see much of it, as we are busy in the old bag. We expect to see Michigan in about two weeks. We have to work day and night making up old half papers. We have had Fred gone to N.Y. and I wish I had that place he has got when I am discharged hope I will be kept in the service for I really don't know what to do when I get out. Que I will go to Mepiens what do you say to that? But must go to work and stop this. I don't write much for I have such time. All my correspondents out of the family, have played out on me. And that is the reason I am out of practice but 'such is life' as ever your son and friend.

Charlie

Expect me home in about 8 weeks or the 1st of July, 1865.
Camp S/  M. D. Draft
Savannah Ga Jan 14 88

Dear Ette,

I am in an awful hurry
as soon as I get the enclosed flowers
in my books perhaps you would like them
so forwarded they were picked in Atlanta
while it was in Savannah on Nov 15th some
I picked off the ground my tent stood on if
you do not want them throw them away
not heard from you yet probably will not
my sword got a coat that cheap cloth bag
for $5 & 7/10 today all poor articles but had
to be had such is life.

good by for how long I don’t
know.

P.S. the 8th Mich is reported in town will see

C. L. Brown
June 14, 1865

My dear Mrs. Brown,

I have not heard from home since we left Gettysburg. Have you all gone back on me? All of my other correspondents played out on me long ago. I have every reason to believe you have also left. I shall be at home in about a week to tell you about it.

God bless you and Mrs. Brown. Saw Dr. Wilson, very good. We were here, though I did not come home first as I thought I would. If I could only go for a walk in the evening and not work. The sky is clear and I can see the stars. I am writing at the dining room table. I hope to be with you soon.
with impure upon her we looked bulky wanted to get her flippers in my paw looked as if I would like to squeak in "i.e." something like old times young Craft & Mr Robertson corn of the party only spoke to Robertson & Dr. Hinkle to many bigger boys around.

By jove you take a lot of fellows like us & send us through a city where there are women & I'll be hanged if you are one who is not pretty. They sort of look so clean & nice, so different from us "Indians" but I do honestly believe a really homely girl could put herself off for good looking. Because we would not know better.

What has become of Letters Dustin tell her I will be at home for the 4th of July dance (if they have one) She was the last person I danced with or have since long ago.
The capital of the U.S. yew. amen, it is a big thing, all their newspapers are on Review + while passing through town. I now my horse is played out, I am up a stump, we are about 8 miles from town + busy as can be making + fixing our reports &c.

I doubt belles we will all get any pay here + if we do I will show you style if not I will show you how one of Shermans Bummers looked. I have just 51 cents in my pocket. It is all I have had since we left Raleigh. I owe about $50.00 but what does any body care. What do I care. What does any body care, but it is much awful annoying to look as bare + to see good clothes etc. etc. + then go on. I never felt as mad in all my life as I did one day in Richmond to see anything.
P.S. I have the blues, some sick man you ever on, no Rations at all but
wheres you fell falks, especially when it can be helped, but I am a soldier
be a dog, what I feel has. Before once & safe home as I do now, I feel half
inheld, I are a gentleman only—one day of trouble on earth or any
and, my God, if may come any trouble the army's country.

Tell your missy, how in heaven's name

J. B. H. 

I don't know whether to go for that Mexican exhibition or not each day

Army
1. Porch
2. Hall
3. Col. Chaplain Room
5. Adjt's Room
6. Eating Room
7. Q. M. Room
8. Adj's Tent (mine)
9. S. Maj. & orderly
10. Orr Cook Tent
11. Dr. Dev. & Strang
12. Store Room
13. Army's quarters

Camp of Resi.