

Base Hospital 10th A.C.
Jones' Landing Va.
Oct. 23^d 1864.

Dear Emmy.

It is a long time since I have written to you. I do not know what you will think of it, but perhaps it is better not to write at all than to write such letters as some. that have passed between us. Yours of the 16th inst. came Friday and I have not had an opportunity to answer it before. I am very sorry that you find so little to interest you while, I am away, but I do not know as there is anything that I can do or say more than I have done. to make your life pleasant. When I get a letter ^{like} this last, I cannot help feeling that it was very unfortunate for you, that we ever met. It is not very pleasant feeling, to believe as I am obliged to believe, that I have failed in the greatest object that I have in life. and to feel that you would be happier if you had never known me. I do not know how it is; whether I get the impression from your letters, or whether, it is from what you might have said when I was at home, but I feel that you do. blame me for leaving you and children to go into the army. And if you had any idea how I feel on this subject, you would know, that it has made the hardships of the past three years, seem a great deal harder. But I do not blame you in the least, for this. if you cannot think as I do, and cannot believe me capable of deciding, what is my duty to my country, it is to be considered rather a misfortune, than a fault.

But I did not intend to write anything this time that would add. to your unhappiness. but I fear that I have done so. But will send it as it is, for it may give you a better idea of how I feel on some things. And now I will begin where I intended to have begun this letter, and tell you something, that if you have not already heard of it, will be likely to please you more than what I have already written. Joseph, has made his escape from the rebels, at Andersonville Ga. and has got back to his Reg^t I have seen him., and found him looking finely. He has had a hard time, and if you hear him tell what he has seen and suffered, you will hear things that will exceed in horror, anything that you ever read of. But his time will be out in two weeks, so I will not spoil his story by my poor telling. Bushbee was taken at the same time, but died there. I have just received a letter from Mother, She has just heard of his escape. and you can judge how she feels about it. I must answer her letters so I shall have to close this sooner than I intended. I will not let so long a time pass [ag*] again, without writing to you, unless you think it best.

My things came last night, all right. You need not send anything that I left. as I do not need them, if there is anything that your father, or [Sim.*] would like let them have it, as they had better be doing some one some good.

Give my love to Hatties new baby. And to all the rest.

As ever

Yours truly

Leander