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Camp 121st Ohio Vols
Whitehall Georgia
September 18th 1864

My Dear Belinda

Your very welcome letter of the 6th came to hand today.

I cannot see how mine of the 22nd met (?) – was so long a time on the way – but am very glad to learn that you received it – and presume that you have read one or two more from me ‘ere this –

I wrote you on Friday stating that I had resigned – and that my papers had passed the Brigade HQs (?) – I expect to be ordered to Town(?) today – for examination by the Division Medical director – and think it strange that I was not ordered there on yesterday – now that I have begun to think in earnest about going home I have become impatient to be off and shall be very much disappointed if my resignation should not be accepted – I am anxious to see myself in citizens clothes once more though I very much regret leaving the Regt – I have been with the boys so long in the field – and in Corps

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that as the day draws near for our separation – I cannot but dread it –

Tis not generally known in the Regt that I have tendered my resignation and occasionally some of the privates or officers drop in - saying that they have heard that I am talking of leaving them – and expressing regrets that I think it necessary to do so –

When such cases arise – I sometimes become so full that I can scarcely keep from shedding tears – while talking of them – when I explain to them my reasons – and recall to their memories the frequent and almost continual illness from which I have suffered during the spring & summer. They admit that I ought to resign – for my own safety – yet some of them would not care whether I went on duty one fourth of the time – so that I was with them – Tis of no use for me to say to them that I think it for the good of the service – for they do not care whether that be so or not – I still think that I will be as healthy as ever I was until I have been for a few months where

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I can take care of myself – taking experience when I feel disposed to and doing nothing from compulsion –

Our Regimental Surgeon says that I must not confine myself to the office – closely this winter – and I think I will not –

After I arrive at home – it will be with very great pleasure that I will take the place of Mr. Robb as your escort – so long as you remain in the office – but I hope that you will see fit to give up the office before there is a change in the administration which would require it.

If the copperheads think the strategy of Sherman cowardly – I wonder what they would think of a repetition of the Kennesaw affair – Are they such fools as to think we could whip the rebels by ramming our heads against their fortifications every time we reached them? Pretty work that would be indeed – How would they like a draft for the purpose of filling the ranks if that was Sherman's mode of warfare? This army can rout the Johnnies every time we meet them with equal numbers on a fair

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field, but one man behind good earthworks is equal to two or three in the open field – If the copperheads think it any amusement to attack such works as the rebels now erect I would be very glad to see them at it – and think the country would be well rid of a few of them in that event. After the receipt of this letter you need not address me at this place – unless you should hear from me to that effect –

I will write you as soon as I learn whether my resignation is accepted or not – and if I should not hear in a reasonable time, will write you at any rate.

P. M. – I have been to the Div. Surgeon for examination, and he says that I am not fit for service in the field – but that I am able to perform good service in the rear at some post – and that he would approve my resignation – with a recommendation to that effect – He says there is a late order to the effect that officers who have served two years and are unfit for field service shall be assigned to duty in the rear – if there is any that they can perform –

This I was not aware of – I think it a good position for those who have been disabled by reason of wounds – for they would be entitled to pensions – and would

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as a matter of conscience prefer to perform some service – rather than be a burden upon the government – and do nothing – but my case is different – I enlisted for the field – and have thus far endeavored to do my duty – to the best of my ability – and think that I should not be required to take a position in the rear among those who are generally looked upon as shirks – or have the reputation of being “modest” before the enemy –

In short I would consider it a disgrace – I do not wish to be a commissioned orderly – nor to command some prison or provost(?) guard – while my regiment is in the field – and as I feel now I let them dismiss me for disobedience of orders – rather than to take such a position –

However I may not be called upon to do that kind of duty – and will do all I can to prevent it.

The surgeon may not be fully informed as to the order -

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The Surgeons office is in the city and as I rode along I was surprised to see the injury that is permitted to be done to private property - A great many private residences have been torn down - by the soldiers merely because they wanted boards to lie on - or to build huts of - while there are a great many old buildings that might be used for that purpose -

Some of these buildings cost two three or five thousand dollars - almost any of them would be considered fine in our town - and there appears to be no questions asked about the political sympathies of the owners - the boys make a clean sweep - as far as they go -

I had intended writing more but have been interrupted - and tis almost time for the mail to be made up -

I am yours -

M. G. Lawrence