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2015.001.008 transcription

2015.001.008.a

Camp near Atlanta, GA
October 2 1864

Dear Mother,

I have not received a letter from you for between two and three weeks and suppose that I will not receive any more unless there should be one at the Regiment for me.

On Wednesday last I went to the Medical Directors and my papers had not arrived. I then went to the Department Adjutant Generals Office- but they were not there and on my return I found them at General Davis' Head Qs [quarters]- having been returned to General Morgan on the 26th for his signature, which had been omitted by mistake and again forwarded by Morgan on the 27th still(?). On yesterday morning I again went to the Medical Directors and my papers having arrived I was examined by the Board and I think that my resignation was approved- although they said nothing to me revealing (?) what action they would take. I was informed by one of the assistant admirals(?) that no furlough, leaves of absence, or resignations would be granted for some days in consequence of the trouble in our rear and the fact that all transportation between here and Chattanooga was needed for other purposes. So I do not know how long I will be obliged to stay here but presume not longer than a week or ten days.

On last Wednesday our whole Division had orders to be ready to move at a moment's notice- with four days rations- and on Thursday about lunch time (?) they took the cars and started toward Chattanooga since which time we have heard nothing from them. Rumor says they went to Rome but I think it more probable that they have gone to Bridgeport Ala. or to Murfreesboro Tenn.

I was left in Camp when they started and tis one of the dullest places that ever I saw.

My health is improving but I am, and for a long time have been troubled with indigestion which is very unpleasant.

On Friday and all day yesterday I suffered with the headache which has now got to be more of a neuralgia than a headache.

I hope to recover from these little ailments when I get home and am so situated that I can take care of myself.

John L. Porter is in Camp, in charge of the property belonging to the Company. He is in good health. His health has been better this summer than ever I knew it to be. A few days since he heard by the way of (??) that one of his children was quite sick and is somewhat uneasy and anxious to hear from home which there is but little prospect of his doing for a few days- for our mails are either taken by the Regiment or they are not coming this side of Nashville at the present time.

I hope this is about the last time that I will write you from this place. Having made up my mind to go home- I am anxious to be off- though I know I shall be lonesome for a while after I reach there.

Sherman has been making a partial exchange with Hood and a member of officers and men of this army who were captured during the last Campaign have returned. They report that the Rebels are very much discouraged and that there is a strong desire for peace on the part of both civilians and soldiers.

I hope that tis so for we have lost a great many lives in trying to subdue them and I do not want to see anymore blood shed if it can be avoided- yet- rather than acknowledge their independence I would have this war go on till every mothers son of them was under the sod.

I do not know whether mails are going forth now-or not- but suppose they will soon at any rate- You need not look for me until you see me.

Your Son,
M.G. Lawrence

2015.001.008.b

Mrs Rosannah Lawrence
Maryville
Union Co
Ohio

[there is a red stamp in the upper right hand corner which reads "United States Three Cents" and appears to have a bust of George Washington in the center, and the words make an oval around the bust]