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2015.001.064 transcription

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Rooms General Court Martial

Chattanooga, Tennessee

July 4th, 1864, Evening

Dear Friend Lottie:

Your kind and ever welcome letter of June 21st was handed me just as I was leaving the Battery this evening, after taking supper. It's the only letter I have received for more than a week. As a general thing I average about 5 letters received each week. You can imagine how lonesome I felt when I did not get even one for more than a whole week. I had begun to think that all of my friends had (to use an army expression) "soured on me!" But your letter drove away all such unwelcome thoughts. Oh! how I do love to receive such good long letters! It seems like the one who penned them knew just what kind of a letter I most loved to receive and that she was willing to "contribute her mite" to the above ones welfare. I thank you for this one and ask for another equally as long. I wish my letters were more of an equivalent for such, but I never could write a letter that I thought worth reading. I am going to try and improve, and surely I should for I have a splendid

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lot of correspondents, not so much in number as in quality and I prize my friend Lottie's letter higher than any of the others. Why should I not? She seems to understand my motives for again answering my country's call for men, men, men. While others cannot, or will not, I know not which. Surely it was not for money. Had that been the case I should have enlisted in New York, where I could have got \$300 more than I did in Ohio. No, it was not for money. I felt that my country needed every able bodied young man, and I felt it my duty to go again, such being the case I enlisted. It made no difference where I went from or in what army I went with, only so that I was serving that noble old flag.

One cannot appreciate that Poetry entitled: "The Storming of Mission Ridge," until they have clambered up its rugged sides, and, after gaining the summit, examining the defences [sic] which the "Rebs" had. Then, indeed, one can see nearly what those brave boys encountered, had our army occupied that and "Lookout Mountain" the combined armies of the southern confederacy could not have driven them from the position.

Long ere you receive this the papers will tell you that General Sherman has occupied Atlanta, Georgia. On Friday, July 1st the Rebels had evacuated their stronghold on Kennesaw Mountain, said mountain being a distance of

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only about 7 miles from Atlanta. It is thought here that Sherman will get into Atlanta before Johnson does, thus cutting him (Johnson [sic] off from a strongly fortified place 9 miles south of Atlanta. Of course I know but very little about the operations of the army only what I hear from others.

Shall I tell you what Greeley's sir name [sic] is? I think you will say: "Yes if you can!" Well it is Baldwin. "How do I know?" would you like to know. Well for a wonder, I got a Mirror which had the number and names of the drafted men of McKean Co. in it. In the list from Otto township I saw the name of Greeley Baldwin.

Perhaps you would like to know how I passed the 4th. I will tell you. This morning I came in from out in the country where I had went yesterday, in quest of some butter. I purchased the butter this morning and brought it in while it was cool. I had an invitation to escort Gen. Steadman to a picnic on Lookout Mountain, but declined the honor, if such it may be called, and came to my room and read Shakespeares [sic] works. I also had an invitation to attend a dance this evening, about 7 miles out of town but could not see it, especially after receiving your letter. No, I had much rather answer that than to attend a dance.

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You speak of the weather being very sultry there. I have the same complaint to make regarding the state of the weather here. It is not only sultry but it is actually hot. I heard an expression used the other day in connection with this town which I thought very appropriate even if it was rough. I was talking with the Quartermaster of the Battery; the sub= [sic] of our conversation was the warm weather he spoke and said that "Chattanooga could rightly be termed the antechamber of H**l." The expression is rather uncouth but nevertheless I think there was more truth than poetry in it.

Then you would send me up to occupy your place would you? Well, I would not make any very serious objections if you would stay there too. In fact that would suit me. I would then attract your attention so much that you would not attend the rest of your scholars.

I am going to try and come home this winter, and stay long enough to "Kill two birds with one stone!"

Orpha has gone to Friendship has she not? You said in your other letter that she was intending to go and I have since heard that she had gone.

Don't think that the enclosed poetry is of my composition, as such is not the case. I clipped or rather copied it from the "Waverly(?) Magazine. I think it very nice Don't you,

[Written sideways on right margin in blue: G. L. Young, Chattanooga, Tennessee]

