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2015.001.079 transcription

2015.001.079(1)

Head Quarters Dist. of the Etowah

Chattanooga November 27th 1864

My Dear Mother

My Dear Mother

How glad I was to hear from you again. Your letter of 21st Inst was received this morning – Sunday – just one week after it was written. Seldom I receive a letter so soon after written. I was glad to hear that you and all the rest of the now small family were enjoying good health, when surrounded by so much sickness, which alas! proves fatal in so many cases. Surely the all wise providence is with you, and shielding you from those dreaded maladies. I am happy to tell you that I still enjoy usually good health.

I infer from the way you write, that you had not received my last letter, which was unusually long – at the time of your writing me. My bright prospects (I am sorry to say) in the Christian faith, have received quite a reverse. I cannot look on the cross of Christ with

2015.001.079(2)

the same loving contemplation as I once thought I could, I say though, because I labored under a misunderstanding of the true condition of myself. And as I once before said I cannot, and will not be a hypocrite, professing to be a christian, and loving the Lord and Savior, as I should, and yet, not prove the truth of my profession, therefore dear Mother I find myself in a decidedly peculiar and uncertain condition. I know what my duty is to my God, yet I do not perform it, you know the obstacles that prevent a sinner from doing what the soul yields to, but the corruptible flesh having the predominance, holds the sway over the Soul thereby depriving it of which it would otherwise grasp, and cherish. Such Dear Mother is, in brief, my present condition, or at least, what my inexperience teaches me.

You would find in me no christian, to whom you could converse on the beautiful merits of Jesus, but in me you would find a zealous advocate to the Christian faith, and which I have not the least aversion to talk, but on the other hand would find, and realize much pleasure in

2015.001.079(3)

talking on such a subject, and particularly with my Dear Mother. So dear Ma, if I am not a christian now, is no reason I never will be one, and if one, I want to be one ever worthy the esteem and emulation of my mother, and also to those who make it their duty to make remarks of those who they unwisely think are hipocrites.

Nothing definite has been heard from Gen'l Sherman and his chivelrous army, who will no doubt make a mark on the roll of fame and fill the coming histories full, with the glorious achievements, in the rapid march in the interior of Georgia & perhaps N and S Carolinas. Neal is with the army no doubt. I hope he may stand the marches, for that army has been marching pretty hard since the evacuation of Atlanta. The army divided and one portion went for Augusta, & the other for Macon, both very important cities to the Confederates. The army has no doubt reached those two points by this time, as they will have but few obstacles to encounter in the shape of Rebels.

2015.001.079(4)

Well Mother I am at Head Quarters DE yet, and getting along fine.

I sent \$50- to Lebanon marked to to you which please take care for me. I sent ten dollars \$10- in a letter to Nome, with instructions to give you half. Andy said he paid you \$12- for me, I wish Andy would wake up for I have not had a letter from him for a long time, in fact but one since he went to Lancaster. Please remind him of his neglect.

Well mother I have written enough for this time. Give my love to Naomi George Horace, Respects to Frank Sherwood and believe me still

Your affectionate and Loving

Patrick

Write soon