

To the  
 Dear Mother,  
 I have  
 written  
 you  
 a  
 letter  
 which  
 I  
 hope  
 will  
 find  
 you  
 all  
 well  
 as  
 ever  
 I  
 am  
 ever  
 your  
 affectionate  
 son  
 J. W.

Dear Mother,  
 Your good letter, written last Sunday,  
 was received this morning. I cannot express the satisfaction  
 & pleasure which was afforded Gustavus & me  
 by the reading of your letter & her and mother's. It is not  
 so much the news contained therein, of what has trans-  
 pired, as the kindness with which the old familiar  
 faces of dear friends, & the scenes of home are  
 brought to mind, & this being full of "kind, affec-  
 tionate interest & an agreement," that constitutes  
 their chief interest & value.

You spoke of Thanksgiving Day, & of the great changes that  
 have taken place. I could but revolve in my mind  
 the pleasant memories of former Thanksgivings, when  
 our loved circle was undisturbed, & with glad & grate-  
 ful hearts, we participated in the time honored  
 customs & privileges of the day, including the gen-  
 eral dinner. We little anticipated, then, what impa-  
 rant & sad changes, the Father had in store, & which have  
 since been brought about. How natural, for us to feel a  
 tenderness about the heart, & a yearning desire to experience

again the warm sympathies & fond relations of a Father  
Mother, Brothers & Sisters, & the thousand & one endearments  
of home.

Hasten the time, when, better than ever  
preferred by separation, & the experience of some hardships,  
& discomfort, to appreciate the blessings of home, & the family  
associations, we may all be once more united; & more  
studious than ever, for the promotion of each others well be-  
ing & happiness.

It does not seem as if you  
were 40 years old; but so it is. Indeed time does speed prop-  
erly away. May Heaven bless you, dear Mother, in your remain-  
ing years, whether many or few, & may they be fraught with  
abundant happiness, & comfort & peace. May all your children  
ever honor & obey you, & prove themselves worthy of such  
a Mother. — And I am almost 21. Well, I certainly  
feel as old as that; & indeed, for a long time, it has seemed  
as if I was older than my years, in feeling, as well as in  
appearance. Of course, like all other young men, I have  
looked forward to the time when I should become "of age",  
as an important era, of my life; but I am sure that my  
reliance upon parental authority & advice, will not suf-  
fer any diminution whatever. I do not wish to feel  
that I am under any less obligations than heretofore to re-  
spect the wishes & counsel of my parents; nor do I wish to  
assume any extra independence, except so far as sub-  
stantiating myself by my own efforts, are concerned; &

ceasing to be a burden & expense to Father, (Monday)  
I also rec'd a letter from Eliza, the first in some time,  
I had written three to her, since receiving one in reply.

The Citizens also came to hand, as well as Harpers Weekly  
Frank Leslie, & H. G. Ledger, - the first installment of papers  
from Mr. Abbott. - And for a few days, we have been  
able to obtain N. Y. & Philada. papers, which is a great  
satisfaction. Sat. Friday, I sent you a long letter, written  
at Rappahannock Station, & from near Stafford Court House,  
Guntersville on Saturday, so that it only remains  
for me now to inform you of what has transpired  
the present week. - On Sat. night, we rec'd orders to be  
ready to march at 8 o'c. A.M. on Sunday. We broke camp  
in good order, & at the appointed hour, took up the line  
of march, with the rest of the Penitentiary. Our whole division  
moved at the same time. It was a pleasant day, though  
quite cool & very windy, especially towards night.

The marching was very good indeed, as the  
ground was pretty much dried up. We marched about  
four miles, in gaining a distance of 6, as one went out  
of our road a mile or two, by mistake. - We are now  
camped within a short distance of the R.R. (Aquino Creek &  
Greider's Station.) The cars commenced running a  
day or two after we came, & now, I believe they have  
all the bridges built & the road is complete running

order, dear to Frederickburg. - We did not expect to re-  
main here as long as we have. My God - has not been  
barricaded & taken, & our Army crossed the Rappahannock,  
on the way to Richmond, I can only account  
for, from the fact, that the R.R. by which supplies are to be  
forwarded, has not been repaired until now. The cam-  
paign is doubtless fraught with great & stirring  
events, which may perhaps decide the destiny of the  
Nation. May our Generals & our Armies prove fully ex-  
equal to the gigantic achievements which they are expect-  
ed to accomplish. - Since leaving the Rappahannock, we have come  
through the finest section of country, I have seen in war the land  
is apparently sterile & unthriving, & the people poor, ignorant, shiftless  
& destitute. - Capt. Roberts, with whom Col. Whipple arranged  
to bring a Co. into the Reg., arrived on Wed. with 28 men, including  
A drummer & fiddler. He was expected to bring from 80 to 100  
men. - He says he has mustered in 60, but a good many are  
sick, after receiving clothes & bounty. He left a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut.  
at Wm. I believe, who is expected to bring 12 or 15 more men.  
They will hardly get commissions, both of them, if they should,  
it would justify cause dissatisfaction to those in the Reg. who have  
earned, & deserve promotion. The Officers here, since coming  
here, built chimneys & fireplaces & sods, by which means  
our tents are comfortably warmed. - Yesterday we were re-  
viewed by Gen. Pillsbury, our Division Gen. - We have not yet  
been paid off, though we have heard that the Paymaster will soon  
be here. We have had to borrow some money, to get along,  
Gen. Fother sent us \$10, <sup>(by mail)</sup> & if we need it we can send for  
more. - A man who washed for me, fast two of my shirts,  
one a blue flannel shirt, so that I shall need another.  
Please send me my bag & gaiters, also 2 prs wool socks, & my  
fur gloves. - Gen. Fother has a pair of boots made for me at  
Mr. Mayers, get them be heavy Kief, double soled, & high