

Winchester Tenn.

June 18th 1863.

My love.

I was all "out o' sorts" to day. The news from the east is enough to sicken the heart of any soldier. More bad generalship! wonder if Hooker is "covered" yet? The whole business is out o' joint, the war set back again, I am getting out of all patience with "old Abe" - been assaying with the draft all spring and let the "rebs" into Pennsylvania, where to us poor short sighted mortals down here, it looks as though he might have had his conscription act carried out, and enough troops in the field to have checked Lee's movements at Winchester. Instead of that however all mercy is driven out and forced to cut his way through and retire with heavy loss! when will the government officials learn any — O, I shaw! I feel quite uneasy about Broke, Leland and Frank. As soon as you hear anything of them let me know dearest. I hope for the best but fear the worst. Poor Ma Ma will be in great trouble like she hears, would she; poor old creature! I neglected to answer your inquiry about Mrs. Foster, her father is an old man by the name of I shawton, he was with us all last winter sleeping for Foster, that is all I know of him. It was kind of her to speak to my darling thus feelingly, and of the act also to be kind and not intrude their sympathies upon you by becoming

an annoyance to you when your mind was troubled and wished
to be left to its own reflections. I have not yet been able to
get you the book I promised you, was up to day but they were
all sold, will be another supply soon, I got photographs of Genl.
Crittenden, Wood and Garfield, I will send you one at a time,
Crittenden's first, it has ^{his} autograph, I called in at his head qrs,
on purpose to get it, he intimated that he would like to have
all his field officers, so I just gave him mine that I brought
with me, he wants all his field officers that fought with him at
Stone river, this is the first acquaintance I had had with him, he
looks just as you see him in his picture, very much like an
Indian - a very dusky hue - almost dingy, low narrow forehead
with long straight black hair combed behind his ears, when
I called to day however his wife had cut his locks off, and they
were talking and laughing about it, she had evidently come
Odilak over him, his wife is a good wholesome looking lady
very talkative, not very handsome, In brief Genl. Crittenden
is as straight as an arrow, slender, about by height, reserved
in his manner, has not much to say generally, but speaks to the
point and is a perfect gentleman, his eyes dark and penetrating,
with an expression very difficult to describe, when in his presence
he is as mild and gentle as a lady, He is ^a very fine horseman -
sits perfectly erect, his battle is quick to decide and cool to endure
and execute, It is getting to be better understood now that his left-
wing saved the day at Stone river, They tell a story about

him occasionally - One is that after the battle was over, he was sitting down on a rail musing to himself, after while he turned to one of his staff and said "Suppose you were going to eat a chicken now, what part would you take, I should prefer the "left wing"" He was ordered to Washington City soon after the battle, when he arrived there he was asked what command he would like to have? He very coolly remarked "I don't want any except the one I now have, I can take my little left wing and whip any equal number of rebels that can be brought to bear against me." As I saw part Gen. Garfield's

head quarters this morning, and sat on my horse talking to Farrar Garfield stepped out to the door and looked at me through his field glasses, and remarked "you look pretty well," He gave me his photograph upon my solicitation, the others, I have to buy at 50th apiece, Farrar showed ^{me} an escrutoir made of cedar taken from the battle field, it is very nice, - it will cost some seven, or eight dollars to get it made, but - would you like to have one?

It is becoming distressingly warm down here, drilling is getting to be heavy work, Lane is trying to learn to drive some, our regiment is about the best drilled in our brigade,

I have been killing time a little playing chess lately, I haven't found any body yet that can beat me,

The Major and Chaplain are over their little brash,

Now my dear wife, it is so hot I must quit writing for today. I hope you are receiving my letters regularly, hope Lizzy is well by this time, My love to all, Much love to your own dear self
from your own
Milton