

Yorktown Oct 8th 1861

My dear brother

Here I am on a cold windy day in camps, seeing camp life in all its phases. When I left our boarding place up the river and came down it was warm and pleasant weather, but last night a wind with rain came upon us and made us a little uneasy at first but finding we could be made comfortable in a tent in windy weather we reconciled ourselves.

Thinking it would be too cold tonight for our babies (Isie is with me, sharing our tent) we procured an ambulance and started for the boat, to go to our boarding place up the river 18 miles – the boat had not come and there was no certainty when it would arrive, so we have landed back to the camps and will try to brave the wind and perhaps encourage some of our poor soldiers to endure uncomplainingly their many hardships. I see Buddy and Henry frequently. Christopher has been to see me once, yesterday. I have consulted him and Henry whether they would need the \$47 I owe you. Henry thinks \$25 will do them, so I gave them \$25 and will send you \$22 when I get home. Henry and Christopher look well and seem to be cheerful. Henry is a fine tempered boy. I admire him very much. I tried to inspire him, Buddy and Christopher with some ambition. I told them they must not be content with being common soldiers but take the Manuals and inform themselves. Not be content with being righted and faced about but learn for themselves all the duties and maneuvers of the well drilled soldier. This war might last seven years, present officers be killed and their places would be to be filled and if they would fit themselves they could be promoted. A man never rose to any degree of eminence without some exertion on his part and I did not want them to come here with no higher feelings than some of our landown wiregrass people, content to drill and draw their rations. They promised me they would study (Buddy could not promise) and fit themselves for the office of Capt, Col, or Brig Gen. Henry says Buddy wants to beat the bass-drum, but Buddy says he will not promise me to study because he may not keep his promise. The Regiment has not begun to provide winter quarters yet but will soon as it has been decided that they are to stay in Yorktown. Orders were first issued for the Regiment with two others were to move lower down on the Peninsular all three to be under Mr. Colquitts command, but the late arrival of a Brig Gen changed the order and the 6th Ga Reg and Howel Cobbs Reg will be left to make winter quarters in Yorktown. Mr. Colquitt still commander of the post and all of the other Regiment, one of [Coridor], two Ala and a Louisiana Reg and Cobb Legion all will move lower down. Mr. Colquitt was much disappointed at the change in the order, but I am gratified as they will fare much better here at the river where they can get fish and oysters. I think the men generally like to stay here. Now since it has been decided who is to go and stay, they will all set about to make them comfortable quarters for the winter. This cold, windy evening remind them keenly of the necessity of warmer lodgings. Buddy has fattened some. There are half of the Reg now unfit for duty. This part of the country at this season is a chill and fever country.

Mr. Colquitt has had two chills and Isie has had two or three since we came. A deserter from Newport-News came in to our lines a few days ago and from his statements I believe they put some reliance upon what he tells, especially as they know some things as to the position of the enemy to be true. He says Gen Wool expects to make his winter quarters in Yorktown. I believe they will be glad to see him attempt it. I have wished often Portia was here with me that she may know something of camp life and realize the

war. How is my much loved sister Catherine. Give my love to her and tell her I would like to receive a few lines from her. You must excuse this letter as it been written amidst all sorts of annoyances and on a plank floor which is limber and my stool sits on two planks of it and the constant tramping over it keeps one moving up and the other down all the time. Let me hear from you as often as possible. Love to all the children and to poor Mrs. Bass. I sympathize with her in her sickness. Take good care of yourself this winter. God bless you all.

Your Sister

Sarah Colquitt