

Chattanooga Tenn. Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 1863

Sister Mary

I just enjoyed the pleasure  
of a letter from you and from Libbie  
and I know of no more pleasant way of spending  
this Sabbath afternoon than gossiping with  
the loved ones at home whom I hope someday  
to meet again though just now our prospects  
look dark. Bragg has been driving our army back  
for two or three days. In yesterday's fight our  
loss in killed and wounded was over three thousand.  
The 18<sup>th</sup> has lost terribly. Two men in Co B were  
killed, David Carpenter of Swen & S. W. Chapman of  
McArthur. Both had their heads cut off with cannon  
shot. Several wounded. I was unharmed yesterday  
morning. To day the fight is raging with  
fury. The town of Artillery is incessant only about  
12 miles from here. I have been watching  
the long trains of ambulances filled with wounded  
to see if any friends are among them but so  
far have seen none. Oh it is a terrible scene at  
the Hospital, men mutilated in every conceivable  
form but enough of this. An order has just  
come for all the waggon's to be moved to the  
north side of the River. Many are despondent at  
this as they think Old Rarey is preparing to  
retreat. But I don't believe it. He is a very  
cautious man and he is only doing this as a  
precautionary movement as know one can tell

To a certainty, what the result of a great Battle  
like this will be. The advance of Gen <sup>from Vicksburg</sup> McPherson's  
Corps (the 17<sup>th</sup>) had just come in to reinforce us also  
are divisions from Burnside. In the meantime  
the Rebs are receiving heavy reinforcements from  
Lee. The fight yesterday was with Longstreet's Corps  
and they would have had our men tell them that they  
had something better than Bragg's Army to fight.  
I think they found that they had a different  
set of soldiers to contend with than the Army of the  
Potomac.

7 o'clock P.M. News from the Front indicates that we  
have had the worst of today's fight. No news direct  
from the 18<sup>th</sup>. Col Stanley is ~~severely~~ severely wounded  
in the shoulder. Gen Beatty is dead. Gen Marton  
shot through the hand. Three thousand wounded have  
been brought in already and still they come. Tomorrow  
will no doubt be the decisive day.

Sept 21<sup>st</sup> While penning the above the news came that  
I had a wounded brother in town and wished to  
see me immediately. I found W<sup>m</sup> as I had feared  
all day badly wounded. I stayed with him all  
night and until a few minutes since I left to write  
this. He is wounded with a Minié Ball entering  
his Right Breast below the shoulder and coming out  
on the left going square across the Breast and  
immediately under the Breast Bone. The Doctor says no  
vital part is injured. It does not hurt him to  
breathe or eat and I think with care will recover.

Do not imagine him any worse than I have  
described. He feels cheerful and does not complain  
His wound is quite painful when he attempts to move  
but when quiet he is free from pain.

I will write twice each week while Brewster near  
him. Do not think any of you of trying to come  
here. Even if you could get a pass - which is doubtful -  
we are 80 miles from any R. Road communication  
over which there is no way passing except to walk.

I just heard that Capt Brown of the 18<sup>th</sup>  
was killed yesterday and a great many others  
whose names I could not hear.

The loss of our Army has been fearfully great  
far exceeding the Stone River fight. I cannot  
hear of any fighting today. Both sides seem to be

resting and getting "a good ready" before  
putting in again. I asked Wm what I should  
write to Mother he said tell her I am comfortable and  
exactly how bad I am wounded and what I thought  
about it all of which I have done.

Do not direct any letters to him until I find out  
what his address will be. Direct to me and I will  
forward.

Your Brother

D.B.



Miss Mary S. Bartlett  
New Plymouth  
Clinton Co  
Ohio