

Friday 8th, 1865

The army of the Cumberland encamped in and around this place, resting itself after the last battle, and \_\_\_\_\_ having for another advance. The natural and artificial defenses of this city make it one of the strongest positions in the south and ~~has been~~ <sup>hasnt</sup> been defeated with the same spirit - in which attack was made, this would have been to us a second Fredricksburg. We left Nashville on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. and marched to the battleground in two days a distance of twenty-eight miles. In speaking of the battle I can only speak of what transpired within range of our guns as I did not leave \_\_\_\_\_ ~~the battery during the~~ \_\_\_\_\_ ~~to the second~~ \_\_\_\_\_ we were accordingly situated in the rear, and in the third line of battle. \_\_\_\_\_ Whom on the morning of the 31st. the enemy made an attack on one entire right wing driving us back onto our third line and capturing an oblique battery which occupied a position commanding the entire line! The battery was immediately? Man and turned upon us. we were eating our breakfast when all manner of shot and shell were thrown amongst us, we immediately turned our guns on the battery and in a few moments had the pleasure of ~~seeing~~ <sup>seeing</sup> them limber up, and \_\_\_\_\_ retire, and instantly get under motion and moved to the ground. late acknowledging the last battery At this time the cannoning and \_\_\_\_\_ terrible, our entire forces seemed to be on the retreat (Generals) of infantry and (parts) Artillery were hastening in the rear. Gen Rosecrans ret (near) center of our battery \_\_\_\_\_ to

2) All parts of the field, and with drawn sword urging the retreating soldiers to return and recover the lost ground, soon the great mass was formed in line and lay down so as to escape the shot of the enemy as much as possible, all the batteries but our own had retreated and we with our Support of two thousand men held the advance — this time we had used our guns but little for fear of hitting our own men, but now the rebel ranks were seen moving from the woods in our front, apparently as numberless as the leaves themselves, and their approach as silent and sure as the approach of night, we were laying on our faces at the sides of the guns, when the ranks were within musket range of us, each cannoner sprang to his post and six guns aimed by the best of gunners opened on the dark and solid lines. At each discharge long ~~practise~~ spaces would open in the ranks, only to be closed in \_\_\_\_\_, soon they came within canister range. and other batteries came to our support, soon the lines began to waver, the rear striving in vain to urge on the advance, then all joined in a disorganized retreat when the infantry with a deafening shout charged on them driving them with great slaughter back into the woods, Then came a pause in our front, the infantry returned their posts and we again held the advance. Soon we were opened on by three batteries, the first round killing three men and wounding two more, here the fire became terrific We fired so fast, as soon to disable two guns. some of the guns discharged six shots a minute but we succeeded in knocking one of the rebel batteries all to pieces and in driving the other two, greatly disabled from the field. Then came another lull in the storm of nearly an hour, during which the enemy were making an attack on our lines. Soon a Texas brigade made an advance on us with the intention of capturing our battery. Our support had themselves on either side and allowed.

3) The enemy to approach. within easy shot when we opened on them with shot and shell, here was our hardest fighting, never did men fight better than the rebels on this occasion, our shot would cut clear through them, yet they moved on to within pistol shot. when our support — a well directed fire into their front, and they were again driven across the fields into the woods, with the loss of a Col. and other officers prisoners while these troops were retreating we discovered a body of men approaching on a double quick bearing a white flag, the guns were turned on them but not fired, when it was perceived that they were without arms and suffering from the musketry of the enemy our fire was turned their persecutors and they came in under <sup>our</sup> guns and gave themselves up, the first word their leader said was "I was a rebel, and give myself up. I am tired of this d— foolishness and want to see it stop." During the day we were charged on three times by the Texas troops, once they came within fifty yards of our guns when we drove them back leaving the ground covered with their dead. After their last charge Gen. Rosecrans thanked us for saving his right wing. In that days fight we fired into the Rebel ranks nearly thirteen hundred rounds, and of lost? three cannons killed & seven wounded so as to be obliged to be taken from the field. That night we stood by our guns, early in the morning the enemy undertook to make a flank movement when we shelled them out of sight by this time they had learned to respect our guns and keep away from them. During that day the 12<sup>th</sup> inst we were obliged to lay on our faces to prevent being picked off by sharp shooters who were hidden in the woods. This day we succeeded in keeping the enemy at long range, and shelled them as often as they approached, we fired eight hundred rounds & lost one man, wounded slightly.

④ Long after dark and in a heavy rain storm we were relieved from duty and allowed to retire from the front, our cooks got us a good supper and we lay down in the weather to sleep. On the morning of the second our forces were again attacked and we again took the front but soon the enemy retired and even lumbered up & took a position in the woods. That evening our left was attacked by the forces under Gen. Breckenridge and driven back in disorder. Here we were again ordered to the front and worked our guns until after dark, during the fight we made an Artillery charge moving our guns almost into the enemies lines. And doing wonderful execution. As they retreated we followed them, fording the river and pushing them at every point. The infantry after the retreat fought well and the rebel dead lay ten to one of ours. This was the last & great lesson of the rebels, there commenced the retreat which has not ended and will not until the old — waves over our entire land. I have spoken of but little, save what I was engaged in for that was all I saw, circumstances so placed our little band as to force us to play an unfortunate part in the late battle. Each man did his duty. — we mourn the loss of our companions but a hill we bowed over the graves of our dead, our hearts beat proudly knowing that there was not one spot to near their bright soldier fame, we are attached to Gen. Rosecrans headquarters and expect to spend a few weeks in camp. A large number of our men are sick from exposure and fatigue. My health is good, I was struck on the head by the bursting of a shell and somewhat bruised but the wound is slight. Our loss is much less than that of the enemy and the army in better order for battle than before the fight. Gen. Bragg. — hardly make another stand in this state, his troops are discouraged and doubt their own strength. I have talked with prisoners and they report all tired of the war, & willing to lay down their arms. One more battle at Chattanooga and  
(over)

the great west will be free. I have undertaken to give you a  
hasty account of the part we took in the battle should you  
see a printed report - please to enclose in a letter and  
send it to me. Ever my love to my sisters and all  
friends. Let me hear from you as often as convenient?  
and believe me to be your friend, Direct to Nashville  
Chicago Board of Trade Battery care Capt. J. H. Stokes

CBT

Members January 3  
Friday 8th, 1865

The army of the Cumberland encamped in and around this place, resting itself after the last battle, and preparing having for another advance. The natural and artificial defenses of this city make it one of the strongest positions in the south and hasn't been defeated with the same spirit---in which attack was made, this would have been to us a second Fredicksburg. We left Nashville on the 26th inst. and marched to the battleground in two days a distance of twenty-eight miles. In speaking of the battle I can only speak of what transpired within range of our guns as I did not leave the battery during the entire engagement engaged us \_\_\_\_\_ to the second res\_\_\_\_\_g we were accordingly situated in the rear, and in the third line of battle. When on the morning of the 31st, the enemy made an attack on one entire right wing driving us back onto our third line and capturing an Ohio battery which occupied a position commanding the entire line. The battery was immediately maned and turned upon us. We were eating our breakfast when all manner of shot and shell were thrown amongst us, we immediately turned our guns on the battery and in a few moments had the pleasure of seeing them limber up and directly retire and instantly got under motion and moved to the ground lately occupied by the last battery. At this time the cannoneering and \_\_\_\_\_ was terific, our entire forces seemed to be on the retreat (Generals) of infantry and (parts) Artillery were hastening in the rear. Gen. Rosecrans sat in the center of our battery. \_\_\_\_\_ acting aids to all parts 2 of the field, and with drawn sword urging the retreating soldiers to return and recover the lost ground, soon the great mass was formed in line and lay down so as to escape the shot of the enemy as much as possible, all the batteries but our own had retreated and we with our support of two thousand men held the advance \_\_\_\_\_ this ime we had sued our guns but little for fear of hitting our own men, but now the rebel rands were seen moving from the woods in our front, apparently as numberless as the leaves themselves, and their approval as silent and sure as the approach of night, we were laying on our faces at the sides of the guns, when the ranks were within

musket range of us, each cannoneer sprang to his post and six guns aimed by the best of gunners opened on the dark and solid lines. At each discharge long spaces would open in the ranks, only to be closed in an instance, soon they came within cannister range. and other batteries came to our support, soon the lines began to waver, the rear striving in vain to urge on the advance, then all joined in a disorganized retreat when the infantry with a deafening shout charged on them driving them with great slaughter back into the woods, then came a pause in our front, the infantry returned their posts and we again held the advance. Soon we were opened on by three batteries, the first round killing three men and wounding two more, here the fire became terrific we fired so fast, as soon to disable two guns, some of the guns discharged six shots a minute but we succeeded in knocking one of the rebel batteries all to pieces and in driving the other two, greatly disabled from the field. Then came another lull in the storm of nearly an hour, during which the enemy were making an attack on our lives. Soon a Texas brigade made an advance on us with the intention of capturing our battery. Our support had themselves on either side and allowed the enemy to approach within easy shot when we opened on them with shot and shell, here was our hardest fighting, never did men fight better than the rebels on this occasion, our shot would cut clear through them, yet they moved on to within pistol shot when our support poured a well directed fire into their front, and they were again driven across the fields into the woods, with the loss of a Col. and other officers prisoners while those troops were retreating we discovered a body of men approaching on a double quick bearing a white flag, the guns were turned on them but not fired, when it was perceived that they were without arms and suffering from the musketry of the enemy our fire was turned on their persecutors and they came in under our guns and gave themselves up, the first word their leader said was "I was a rebel, and give myself up. I am tired of this damned foolishness and want to see it stop." During the day we were charged on three times by the Texas troops, once they came within fifty yards of our guns when we drove them back leaving the ground covered with their dead. After their last charge Gen. Rosecrans thanked us for saving his right wing. In that day's

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