

C.A. Halsey Letter

Head quarters of the Army of the Cumberland Camped on Stone [sic] River
Feb 18th 1863

Dear Friend Benj, [sic]

Yours of feb [sic] 5th was received a few days ago and was read with much pleasure I assure you I am still enjoying good helth [sic] To day I am on Camp guard I have just been releaved [sic] so I'll occupy the rest of the afternoon writing to you I have nothing of important news to write we still keep in our old camp have plenty of duty to do Standing Picket and going foragin [sic] I think we will make a forward movement before long Then you may expect to hear of another battle before long Old Bragg has his Army at Tullahoma twenty five miles from here He intends to make a Stand there He has got reinforcements from Richmond Johnson has command of the rebel Army he is from Richmond I think He will find a hard time of it to drive Old Rosecrans for he is a fighting son of a bitch from Kan-ka-kee- He said in the last battle he would fight them as long as a brigade would stick by him He told us to give them the bayonet that would bring them to terms The Army of the Cumberland thinks he is perfect and the best Genl. in the field If we had a few more like him in the field to handle our Army this war could not Stand long we have been reinforced by Genl [sic] Granger forty thousand our Army is now one hundred strong, men fit for duty we have been fortifying [sic] here have nearly finished the work It is large enough for our whole Army made very strong Thease [sic] brestworks [sic] was put up to protect our supplies and if we should have to fall back we will have a place to protect our Army but I hope it will never be our lot for when an Army haves [sic] to retreat they genrally [sic] meat [sic] with a sevear [sic] loss I am satisfied with fighting I have seen all that I care about There is but little pleasure in it som call it fun I can't see the knob of it It is very exciting work for ones [sic] nerves When he is in to it he dont [sic] think or have any feelings for those who fall after the first fier [sic], the first fier is the worst after that if a man tends to his bisness [sic] he don't see much what is going on all is excitement his feelings [sic] and thoughts are all gone have but little mercy on any body [sic] It is rough busnes [sic] I tell you when you look at it in the right light I hope this war will end this spring for I am tierd [sic] of it I shall never be sorry for what I have been through I hope I shall live to see the end of this cursed rebellion [sic] and peace restored to our beloved Country again If you could see what transpire here in the South in one week you would be satisfied That a free Country is the country to enjoy happiness Since the last conscript law has been past [sic] in the Southern Confeder [sic] all men from the age of sixteen to sixty is pressed into the Army evry [sic] day the refugees come in side of our Army for protection a great many of them have joined our Army Their families have to be protected by us you cant [sic] imagin [sic] how some of them have suffered their property has all been taken away from them and their houses have been burnt Well Old friend I suppose you are about this time thinking about dismissing scool [sic] I wish I was down there I would like to

shake you by your Old paw I often think about those happy days we spent together In that same Old School House little then did we realize the pleasure we enjoyed I often dream of those happy days evry [sic] thing comes up fresh in my mind I can see all those faces before me that use to meet there allmost [sic] hear their voices look back to the winter that Dickenson taught didnt [sic] we have fun then It allmost [sic] brings tears to my eyes to think of it life is nothing but a dream when I left Old Long Island nearly three years ago little then did I dream of traveling all over the West or ever going in to the land of Dixie I did not expect to be gone over six or eight months but their [sic] has been a great change in the United States during the three years a great many families [sic] circle has been broken were [sic] this thing will end God ownlys [sic] knows I must close for I think I have written all that you will want to read at one time Remember me to all enquiring friends give my best respects to your Cousin Mary Star and your folks I remain as ever your true friend

C. A. Halsey

P.S. write as often as you can Direct to Nashville Ten In Camp on Stone [sic] River Tenn [sic] Army of the Cumberland