

Chaffin's Bluff
August 3rd '62

My dear Pat -

Dick has arrived and brought me your welcome letter and the things you sent. Indeed they came at a very opportune time for we were suffering something rare to eat - they were consequently received with many thanks to the donors. The drawers came in very well - but I shall not want any more until towards winter. If the cloth is woven you can keep it for me. Tell Betsy that when papa eats the apples he will think of his little girl who put them in the bag for him. I was sorry to hear of the baby's sickness and wish I could have been with you to nurse her up again. Tell Willie he must come in every day and learn his book - that if papa should ever come home for good he wants him to know how to read. Mollie is a good girl. I hardly know what message to send her. Tell them all they must not forget their papa, who is away in the war, and, dear Pat, you must do the best you can for them as you are doing and leave consequences to a higher power. This contest has grown to such a magnitude that no man can be certain of coming out safe. The North, by its late defeat, has become mad and desperate, and we may expect by fall another more desperate attempt on Richmond. The blow has been stayed for a season - that is the "base of operations" have been changed to Pope instead of to McClellan and the next battle will be fought in the Piedmont country. I believe we shall be victorious but a vast deal of blood is to be shed yet unless some foreign influence is thrown in the scale. But who can read the doings of the Yankees under Pope without his blood running hot, and without being aroused to more desperate deeds of daring. In the next fight you may expect to hear of the Southern men fighting like demons.

Towards the fall if everything keeps quiet, I will get Dick to bring you over to Richmond and I will get a furlough to go there and meet you. This is the only chance I see of getting to see you.

I gave Dick 2 dollars to buy you some writing paper as he goes through Richmond and asked him to get the books for the chaps. I was not surprised that Cousin Jack did not come down to see me, as I know his aversion to being hauled about. And greatly delighted am I to hear that Cousin Pike has come out of the battle safe and sound.

And now, dear Pat, do the best you can in your family relations, and may Heaven bless and protect you and my little ones. My love - best love - to you and then - my thanks to Bett for the pants.

Yr. husband in truth

Jos. L. Pollard

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With love,
John D. Rockefeller

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