Cazatee near Murfreesboro May 30th 1863

Friend Hattie,

Your kind and very welcome letter dated May 19th I read today at noon. I was thinking in the forenoon that I was late in writing a letter from you and the joy is better felt than described that was mine on receipt of said letter. My health I regret to tell has been poor. I took a bad cold and then chills and fever took me and for the last two weeks my health has been very bad. The general idea now and think that I shall be able to go with the Regt. I have through the kindness of many comrades been able to keep out of a hospital and I dread that above all things although there is in Murfreesboro some clean nice hospitals and have good surgeons but there is the lack of feeling for a man's comfort and welfare that helps those that are unable to help themselves as much and I dread to go to a hospital more than anything else. So I think we shall move in a few days and we have got standing orders to have five days ration ready and be ready to march at a moment's warning so I think we shall move in a two or three days and I am going there is clearer news from Vicksburg but we have not heard here to a certain that it taken should Grant succeed in
talking that place will be the most show the Rebels have got since the Rebellion existed, and I think the rebels see now that we can outlast them and this summer will end the war and the action that is being taken in the loyal states in regard to traitors encourages the soldiers here more than anything the Govt. had done before, it shows them that God is in earnest in putting down the Rebellion and that there is some hopes of getting done with this job and that is all we want and the two year portion of the soldiers will stay till the Govt. is restored if it should be five years all the soldiers want is to feel that God is in earnest. I am glad that you have got a school you like and should like to come and visit the school but I fear you'll be out and gone are I return to the home of my father. I had read the tidings of Sarah Foote's death. I always liked her the best of all her Father's family. She was far the smartest and the best disposition of the family. To a sad thing to die but the Grim reaper stalks forth at midday with his scythe to shorten the time of the sons of men and I don't see but that if he is busy there as well as here. Hattie is a sad thing to die but to die for one's country is the noblest cause that they can lose it in but I don't intend to die although
thousands of the best men in the country have
been offered a sacrifice on the altar of their country.
You wished to know about my promotion.
I am first duty Sergeant in our Company and am
acting Quartermaster’s Sergeant. It’s not much of
promotion, but I hope and trust that I have been
worthy of it. Col. Minty has not been promoted but
is acting Brig. Gen., and he will undoubtedly be
honored with a star soon. He has won a heap of them
and a braver man never lived. He is the pride
and the favorite of the Whole Brigade and I think
where he leads victory is sure.

Your opinion in regard to Mother I am very
thankful for. I have wanted to know how she
looked and did, and didn’t want to ask Ella about it.

Hattie I try for her sake my own and for
morality’s sake to conduct myself with as much
propriety as I ever did although many are
the sins I have got to answer for, but as for
principle if a man has any twill not forsake him
because he has signed a muster roll. It is a
fine thing for some of those nice moral and
religious people to play the part of the
Christians and too little for the
safety of the country. Excuse mistakes the boys
are killing a comrade. The incidents of the Battle of Murfau-
boro that has come up with the Regt that was left back sick.
For accounts of the people their interest was much and I think the movements in the Clark family was inexplicable. I think that Byron is opening out the brightest of any of our young associatis that have come upon the stage of action and do business for himself. Our Regt has made another descent on a rebel camp caught them nappping and took them in they got 300 of them I was sick and unable to go but shall go the next time.

I am glad that Lo and Amanda are so well pleased with their new place and have all confidence in his ability to pay for it.

I think Charley Richardson has done the best thing he could do for the good of the neighborhood in going away for if he had stayed he would have got in debt.

I spoke about the taking of Richmond. I have little faith in its being done for the army of the Potomac have not got the leader that we have here and if they get one congress would let them do anything.

Agro's health is good now he is cook in the Company and Ed Ding is a corporal his health is quite poor. Edly Chase is well and with your humble serv't we are all of the Gatesburg Boys left in this Regt. Hattie there has been much noise and confusion and I don't know as you can get much sense out of this unintelligible scrawl but please excuse mistakes I am practical in answering letters & I can be sometimes & can't be when I can in the saddle from four to ten. A night there is not much chance for writing. Haply this may find you enjoying yourself in health and associations I will bring this to a close years in friendship Ewing N. Bronson.