

2 Florence Alabama. Friday 30th
Nov 1863 - we reached here last night
and camped west part of the city I was
nearly blind to death, not being very well
it went hard with me to march we march
ed 17 miles yesterday, many gone with
by the way side. It rained here last night

and it is cloudy here this morning, well
I am, while I was at Dr. R. & made an
application to the doctor for a dischar-
ge, he consulted with the head medical
direction & they tell me there is no chance
to be discharged at this time, but the
doctor gave me some encourage-
ment that I can get well this winter
as soon as we get to the fort winter
quarters - I gave as a reason that I had
served my country one year - and had
lost my health in that time and
having a broken shoulder before I
entered the army - thereby rendering
me unable to carry my load and
cartridge box so as to do any further
service any longer - the doctor with my
reasons refused a good one, but that it was
not a good time to make an appli-
cation for a discharge, enough of
that, I will I am this is a splendid
nice country down here we passed
over some of the nicest country from
East part here that I ever seen
and this is a nice town about as
large as Canton - I want you to
find out where your old Aunt lives
down here in Alabama and let
me know what they live, and what
all their names are I may meet with
some of them, I would be glad to see
some one of your folks down here
we cant be very far from them -
your mother told me where they live
but I have forgotten - Oct 31st 63
Mustard for pay to day, Thomas hard

I have in the afternoon of yesterday come
last night, clear again today,
you said in one of your letters
that you was glad that I had
come to the conclusion not to
desert, well I am I dont know
what to do but one thing I
do know if I was at home
again on Hurlough they
would never get me back
again if I could raise money
enough to get off with. I do
not say this to dishearten you,
these are my honest feelings
I would sooner be banished
from my native country
than to be ruled over by a
set of tyrants, that never had
anything until they got into
the army and got a little office
I dont believe that we can ever
conquer the South, and there
fore I dont want to fight
them, I intend to get home
in some way between this

I would respect Spring certain
that I am bound to do
anything even death at home
is preferable to staying here
in the army, where a man
has no chance to redress his
wrongful address. Nov 1st 1862

I am even yesterday with
to-day has now for about one month, I am
not very well to day but am gaining a
bit and still on duty, but I
don't feel better tomorrow I shall
have to go to the doctor to be
excused from duty, so as not
to have to work recruiting parti-
culars, well from there has been
several deaths in the Regiment
since I went to the front
the deaths among whom was
Benjamin Gardner, uncle Ben
you know they all called him
he died at Memphis since we
left there (of the association of the
Barrels,) when I commenced
the 1st I did not know any with our
now have my duty to my lot and
have a good time of it I have
the 1st day