

I have just heard that all of Lee's  
Army is at Brandy Station, which is  
about seven or eight miles the other  
side of the Rappahannock. I do  
not know whether this is true or not,  
if it is, we shall very proba-  
bly have a fight before a month is  
gone. The country is a very good  
one for military operations & both  
sides would have about the same  
advantages. I think it more than  
likely however that Lee will fall  
back to his old position beyond the  
Rapidan when he would have a  
prodigious advantage. This is all spec-  
ulation, however, - So, I have man-  
aged to fill my sheet with nothing.  
At any rate, I have shown you  
that I am still alive and can  
tell you that I am in my usual  
health, and quite as much your  
lover as ever. Hoping to hear from  
you yet to night I must say good bye.  
Love to the little ones. Yours  
G. B. Men

Camp near Auburn Va  
Oct 28 1863

My dear Wife:

We have not moved  
since I last wrote. Howard's let-  
ter reached me day before yester-  
day. The paper he mentioned had  
not yet come to hand. We rec'd  
no mail yesterday. When we  
get another I hope to hear  
from you again.

If you should have a  
chance of sending to Washington  
I hope you will send me the  
three pairs of white flannel  
drawers which went to Dayton  
in the big box. These I have  
are giving way very fast and  
unless I get some soon I shall  
have to purchase new. To do which

there is no opportunity now as  
butlers are not allowed in camp.  
When they will be I do not  
know. They change enormously  
for every thing they have. The dif-  
ference, however, would not war-  
rant sending the drawers by ex-  
press. If you should send them,  
have an understanding with the  
person, that he shall write to  
me when he has left them so  
that I will know when to send  
for them. — We have heard  
distant artillery firing for the past  
two days, but do not know where  
it was. There has been some skin  
miking towards the Rappahannock  
but our corps has not been any  
where near the river. The guerrillas  
are troublesome about us & have

gobbled some mules & waggon. They  
are very enterprising fellows & need  
sharp watching. As they wear  
our overcoats over their gray uni-  
forms they are not easily detected.  
They are quite prudent too and  
only "go in" when there is a  
fair prospect of making some  
thing. It is probable that we  
shall remain in our present camp  
until the 1st proximo. The last day  
of the month is muster day and  
it is very desirable that we should  
have the troops in camp where  
they can be properly mustered and  
the muster and pay rolls ~~made~~  
out promptly. Every thing gives way  
however to military necessity and  
we may be ordered away right in  
the midst of muster. Nothing is cer-  
tain in our present mode of life but  
its hardships & inconveniences.