

Andersonville, Ga., Aug. 10, 1864

My dearest Emma: This is the day preceding the one on which the examination commences. So long before you get this letter I shall have learned my fate -- at least I reckon -- such will be the case. But let me tell you now about it and you can judge for yourself. The examination begins tomorrow and is to continue through certain hours of the day -- each day till all are examined. There are as many as fifteen of us, and as the board will have other things to attend to during certain hours of the day, it will be several days before all are examined. Among those sent to this post my name came first. It is therefore probable that my next letter will inform you that I am received or rejected. If the latter, I shall be sent to Atlanta to the ditches and may write my next letter from Macon while awaiting transportation.

Yesterday we had here a very hard rain which washed down a portion of the stockade. The two signal guns were fired and all rushed to arms. Though many of the prisoners might have made their escape yet none made the attempt. After the rain somewhat abated I went down myself. The Yankees had their union flag floating and the big rain having washed their faces, it was really amusing to see so many turned in our direction.

I have been looking for a letter every day lately, and have been punctual at the office. Somehow I expected almost certainly to get one yesterday, but was disappointed. My reason for expecting one was that I heard letters were beginning to come through and several had been received from Tallahassee. But I shall go again this evening and keep inquiring till I get one.

Be sure to write me in your next how big the watermelon vines are.

About some thing to put our syrup in can you make any arrangement. If you cannot, let Wilson dig some troughs and make one of plank tops for them. I am afraid there will be no one to grind the cane this summer. Is Mr. Parker or Houghton at home?

Isn't it just three weeks today (Wednesday) since I left home? A long time it has been to me. When I get the opportunity of seeing you, ah! But I'm all right still and my situation isn't so bad as many. Besides this the length of time elapsed since I left home is short compared with many others. So I'll "suffer and be strong."

I want to hear about Jonny -- about his talking and walking. He has been trying to talk long enough to be able to say at least a few things, intelligibly.

I yesterday bought a dozen peaches and while eating them thought of you and the boys. I know that Percy would have enjoyed them a great deal -- maybe Jonny as much. Have you all had any watermelons this summer?

Things go on here as usual. We hear of no raids or any special news.

You must tell me the news from Va., how often Villa hears from Henry. How does Uncle [illegible] get on?

But I'll not say much for you to write. I have written hurriedly. You must excuse all, and believe me even [?] your own husband

J.H.H.