

Head-Quarters Seventeenth Army Corps,

DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,

Office Chief of Artillery,

Chatahoocchie River, Ga. July 7th 1864

Dear Sister Margaret

Some three days since I received a letter from you 5 weeks old, and thought it was a long time in reaching me I was so glad to hear from you. You will see by this that I am at Hd Quarters 17th A.C. and Chief of Artillery on Maj Gen F. P. Blair's Staff. My duties are not as hard here as at Division Hd Quarters. I have two clerks and an orderly, and the most writing that I have to do is to sign my name. During the Campaign I have enough to do I assure you, and for the last week have had to work especially hard, and have not been very well

though I am better now than I have been. I like
my new position very well as it is honorable, and
was given me over a May nearly a year my senior.
Charlie Stone is with me. I am very lonely much
of the time though Mary is with me, ever (almost)
with me, but it does seem to me that I must
see her soon again, thus I know that it is im-
possible. I often ask myself how can I go
home and not find Mary there? is it so? can
it be possible? and Mary seems to say I am
with you John. I have not yet seen her, but
am hoping to. The Rebels are now crossing
the River and so strongly have they fortified
to cover their retreat that it seems almost
impossible to pursue them much. A dem-
onstration is to be made at 4.30 this P.M.

with what success God only knows. We can see
the doomed city of Atlantis distinctly from
the top of a hill a short distance from our
Keele Quarters. A large fire has been raging
there since yesterday morning supposed to be
their foundry and machine shops. Royce is well
has just got a new saddle and fuls fine.
3 months ago tonight Mary's spirit left the form,
and Heaven gained an Angel. Grace will be
3 years old tomorrow. How I would love to see
her, but all these desires, hopes, longings, fears,
regrets and lamentations are what I must endure,
and am trying to do the best I can. I feel
almost sure that Sam is not dead. I pity his
wife, as no one who has not lost a companion
knows how to, but I hope all may yet be well with

him. Write me as often as possible and I will answer. Remember me to
all, and tell them all, that Royce & I are all right, and intend to come
home soon after John's Army is demobilized. Affly Dear
John P. Cheney

Sunday Morning July 10th.

Since writing the within. The Army of the Ohio (Maj Gen
Seoffield) have crossed the Chattahoochee, and the Rebels
have evacuated our front on the right and crossed the
River. Atlanta is in sight and I believe that within
two days we will be in possession of the City. I presume
that we will move today, but do not know. I will
be obliged to ride in the ambulance if we ride as I
have a very large Bird just when it might hurt
my saddle, should I ride horseback. I am very anxious
to hear from home, but do not know when that will be.
One train was burned on the 5th inst that had a
large mail on it, and it would be very lucky to have
letters on it. Jon & Katie have not sent photographs yet
Constantly, John

1864

John & Katie

John &