

Dear Brother

I have just received a letter from Sister relating a horrible & a worse than savage outrage perpetrated at her house a few days since by some rascally scoundrels sailing under the protection of the Federal flag, I will copy her letter & let you read the unvarnished story as it comes from her pen, we well know the feeling of indignation it will arouse in your breast,

"Dear Sister E. I have just time to drop you a few lines, was sorry to hear of your troubles with your enemies of our dear Southern home. Know you will be surprised to hear, the Train of Wagons along that passed your house came by the way of E. G. have been passing a week, also Old Hatch's men are coming up from Talahatchee, they have almost swept this country bare,

Last Friday night just after dark our house was visited by a band of Yankee Robbers 7 or 8 in number, they hallowed at the gate in a very familiar way, The Doct went to the door inquired their business, I suspected all was not right & immediately followed him, was there just in time to hear one of them say, your house is worth \$30,000 & we want five thousand, or we'll burn it & hang you besides, The Doct replied you will have to burn then sir I have not the money, he said it was useless to

2

talk in that way, they knew he did have it. Then
called on the men to tie him & hang him, two of
them gathered him, I told them they would have to
take me with them too, they said they didn't want
me, I say you shall take me & shall kill altogether
& called to Marnie she ran out & commenced beating
on one of them & I after another & there was two
whold of the "Doctor, one of them let him go & struck
Marnie over the head with the Rope, she called to
Bettie who came out prepared for the contest. The
fellow let Marnie go & made at her & struck her
over the head with the Rope, (it had a large knot
tied in it) no sooner done than she  in have
the contents of her Pistol, from that  it fled,
the one that was shot went half berserk the feelings
& got over somehow he scattered blood every step,

poor old Mother had been sick a week came rushing
down stairs screaming you never heard the like, though
they had killed me, Oh its terrible times these
In haste your Sister, Sir."

Brother? after reading the above I paced the room
for near an hour, something not unlike a caged
tigris, meditating will they force the women to
fight, if so we must prepare ourselves for the contest,
such deeds if not authorized by those in authority
we know the perpetrators are seldom or never punished
One honest man worthily remarks "The Federal
Army has disgraced the name of a Soldier"

Coler would have thought our quiet & gentle Bettie could
have acted so bravely? & Mammie too, "Heaven Bless the
Noble girls; Show the above letter ^{or send a copy} to our friends
of the 11th Miss to 13th & 35th Tenn & bid them strike an
extra blow for Mothers & Sisters at home, To Col Caughen
whose family has suffered with others, we cannot ask more
than he has ever accomplished, for his intrepid valor &
daring, has shone conspicuously forth, on every battle
field, But who of our Gallant boys have not acted
well their part? Their Noble deeds of bravery at
the battle of Chippmanga is the whispered theme of
praise upon every tongue, Proud are we of our
Southern Brothers, Surely the ancient Greek spirit
has descended ^{to} our stripling youths, & we
shall still earnestly pray, that the Spirit Bird
may perch ^{on} that dear Starry Cross & guide it
triumphantly ^{through} across our down trodden State again,

Ere this reaches you, you will perhaps have
heard of the brilliant little skirmish that Genls
Chalmers & Richardson had at Collierville on the 19th
They dashed on the Cavalry dispersed the ~~most of the~~
most of them, captured their tents thirty wagons &
Teams, The Infantry stationed there rushed into
their fortifications, a Train of Cars came up with
Gen. Sherman Staff & a "Reg" of Regulars They fought
them three hours ^{but five hundred boys killed} & captured one hundred & fifty
prisoners ^{near a hundred Yankees} All of Gen. Sherman's baggage One of his Staff
& his fire horses & ^{it's} much to be regretted they didn't
get him too, As their reinforcements were coming

[Page 1]

Dear Brother,

I have just received a letter from our Sister relating a horrible yea a worse than savage outrage perpetrated at her house a few days since by some dastardly scoundrel sailing under the protection of the Federal flag. I will copy her letter and let you read the unvarnished story as it comes from her pen. I well know the feeling of indignation it will arouse in our breast.

“Dear Sister E.,

I have just time to drop you a few lines. Was sorry to hear of your troubles with [missing] enemies of our dear Southern home. Know you [missing] surprised to hear, the Train of wagons [of Cav]alry that passed your house came by the way of E. G. [Early Grove] have been passing a week. Also old Hatch’s men are coming up from Talahatchee. They have almost swept this country bare. Last Friday night just after dark our house was visited by a band of Yankee Robbers 7 or 8 in number. They hallowed at the gate in a very familiar way. The “Doct “ went to the door, inquired their business. I suspected all was not right and immediately followed him. Was there just in time to hear one of them say your house is worth \$30,000 & we want five thousand or we’ll burn it and hang you besides. The ‘Doc’ replied you will have to burn then Sir I have not the money. He said it was useless to

[Page 2]

talk that way. They knew he did have it. Then called on the men to tie him and hang him. Two of them gathered him. I told them they would have to take me with them too. They said they didn’t want me. I say you shall take me & shall kill altogether & called to Nannie. She ran out & commenced beating one of them and I after another and there was two a hold of the “Doctor, one of them let him go and struck Nannie over the head with the rope. She called to Bettie who came out prepared for the contest. The fellow let Nannie go and made at her and struck her over the head with the rope. (It had a large knott tied in it). No sooner done than she [let h]im have the contents of her pistol. From the [house they a]ll fled. The one that was shot went half bent over the palings and got over somehow. He scattered blood every step.

Pool Old Brother had been sick a week came rushing down stairs screaming you never heard the like, thought they had killed me. Oh it's terrible times these. In haste, Your Sister S."

Brother, after reading the above I paced the room for near an hour, something not unlike a caged tigress, meditating will they force the women to fight. If so, we must prepare ourselves for the contest. Such deeds if not authorized by those in authority we know the perpetrators are seldom or never finished. One honest man hath truthfully remarked "The Federal Army has disgraced the name of a Soldier."

[Page 3]

Who would have thought our quiet and gentle Bettie could then have acted so bravely? and Nannie too. Heaven bless the noble girls. Show the above letter (or send a copy) to our friends of the 17th Miss 13th and 38th Tenn. and bid them strike an extra blow for Mothers and Sisters at home. To Col. Vaughn, whose family has suffered with others we cannot ask more than he has ever accomplished for his intrepid valor and daring has shone conspicuously forth on every battle field. But who of our gallant boys have not acted well their part? Their noble deeds of bravery at the Battle of Chickamauga in the whispered theme of praise upon every tongue. Proud are we of our Southern brothers! Surely the Ancient Greek spirit has descende[d upon] our stripling youths and we shall still [ear]nestly pray. Shall the Spirit Bird may perch [missing] that dear Starry Cross and guide it triumphantly through our down trodden State again.

Ere this reaches you, you will perhaps have heard of the brilliant little skirmish that Gen'ls Chalmers and Richardson had at Collierville on the 11th. They dashed on the Calvary dispersed the most of them, captured their tents thirty wagons and teams. The Infantry stationed there rushed into their fortifications, a train of cars came up with General Sherman Staff and a "Bag" of Regulars. They fought them three hours, captured one hundred and fifty prisoners. [Above line:] lost five soldiers, killed near a hundred Yankees and captured one hundred. All of General Sherman's baggage, one of his staff and his fine horses and it is much to be regretted they didn't get him too. As their reinforcements were coming

[Page 4]

up they picked up two or three citizens that were out on the road. When inquiry was made of General Sherman "what must be done with them?" he savagely replied, "Take them to the [illegible] block and make sausage meat out of them or starve them to death. It's immaterial with me." Gallant speech for a "Brig. Gen. Commander of a Division who had just made so narrow an escape from occupying a similar position. Then ordered a brigade to lay waste. Marshall Lt. Amias, which of course they ere in their peculiar style, being greater adept in thieving than honorably fighting.

Your

[The remainder is illegible.]