

Bridgeport Alabama
Nov. 14th 1863

Dear Father

Once more I
take my pen to write a few
^{words} to you to let you know
that I am still in good
health. I received a letter
from John a few days ago
I have not answered yet.
Col: McDougal come back
to the regiment yesterday
none of us were at all glad
to see him, we were in hopes
that he had left us for
good. Well Father we are
hearing first rate news from
the Potomac army for a
few days now we think
that Meade is doing the fair

thing out there. Things
are quiet about here. Genl
Sherman is moving his
command toward Lookout
mountain. Longstreet is
on a part of the mountain
with quite a large force
although he does not command
the river at any point.
There is only two roads that
lead off the mountain
where the rebs are. Hooker
occupies one of these roads
and Sherman is marching
toward the other. eight heavy
siege guns were put on
the steamboat yesterday
when these guns get there
and when Sherman takes
possession of that other
road then you will hear
of a battle Longstreet will

will either have to fight
or surrender or else starve
deserters say that come in
that they deal out rations
of corn on the mountain
on ear being a ration for a
day. I asked a rebel deserter
the other day what made
so many of their men
desert? he said we know
that our cause is hopeless
and our families are
starving to death we do not
want to make this war
last any longer and cause
our families and ourselves
to suffer any more. such
is the way they all talk.
Father I think the coming
winter will see the southern
army destroyed, what starvation
don't do I am confident. The

The union army will
 I think myself that this
 rebellion has about played
 out. and what is left will
 I am in hopes play out soon.
 Father tell John to send
 me a sheet of sandpaper
 he can send it in a
 news paper. Tell Philo that
 the boys are all well and
 that Dowd is at the time
 I am writing out with his
 gun hunting please

write soon from
 my love to all. your son
 Henry Welch

Henry



Mr Luther Welch
North Hebron
Washington Co.
N. Y.