A thing which I admire call others I despise.

The next day we crossed our line on Eem Hill's left. I threw up a line of works by the way. The Army of Northern Virginia have been quite a good set of dirt diggers, but I do not think there is any disgrace in using all slow fire means to prevent our lines from enough of gallant spirits have already fallen in this cruel war. What a noble fellow was Eem Chapin! His family have suffered! But whom God loves he chastises, he intends only their good to refine, their lives to consume.

Camp Stone wall, Dec. 5th, 1863

Dear Sister,

As we are again in our old camps the Yanks gone I suppose I can give you an account of our campaign yesterday week we marched down towards Eem marina. First I were about pursuing our line on the left of Eem Hill when firing commenced in our rear, Eem Johnston supposing it to be Yankee cavalry sent out the 2nd Regt. as skirmishers to hold them in check, but they were found out that instead of cavalry it was the 3rd Arming Corps commanded by Eem French, so our division about faced for med our line I advance.
We drove the line of skirmishers back upon their line of battle when the firing commenced on our right on the upland side as yet our line had joined very little, at this time our colors bearers were shot through both legs & the colors fell to the ground, I threw down my gun & took the colors. The line was re-formed & with a rebel yell we charged forward, but were met with such a terrible fire that we were compelled to halt, formed our line along a fence & held our ground untill dark when we withdrew, being under fire about 4 hours, I was complimented on the field by Gen. Walker's Adjutant Gen.

And Gen. Walker also took my name as you see I have endeavored to do my duty. Maj. Heng also since our return to Camp has commended me very highly. I now have a very honorable place though my service considered dangerous but I think that one place is as dangerous as another for God has appointed our day. I am perfectly safe unless that day comes. Whether I will continue to hold it or not I cannot say as the colors do not properly belong to our company. But enough about myself for your own think I can disburde too much to blow my own horn.
We lay quiet in our works expecting the Yankees to advance, but they were not disposed to do so. At an inquiring sign with drew across the Repulse, we then moved up to our old camps. As soon all is apparently quiet, some think that the campaign is not yet over, but unless they do something strong the weather will declare our advantage. How much I miss my lieutenants! (George Chapin) you have no idea what an attack meant to us. Two soldiers who in constant together. What a gentleman & a soldier. I wish I could add a profession.
Christian, but can we not still hope, as doubtless he was the object of many an earnest prayer? His life was such a moral one. (Though I do not place any confidence in mortality), still his life was so free from any gross sin that I still have hopes that he now rests in heaven. May God comfort the afflicted mother, sisters, and brother? I was so much hurt as to lose my knapsack, I am now wearing his clothes, but I may be able to send clothes from the O.M. They ought to punish him. I must, the shirts I get here are white, and get dirty very quickly, but I have already gotten too much from home. I will depend on the —
If you will send me Elihu's address I believe I will write to him through. I never had much influence with him perhaps I may induce him to endeavors to lead a better life.

All how much more real enjoyment I have now for my part I can not see how a wicked man can be a good soldier.

Give my love to Uncle James & Lucy No. 1 & also Uncle James & Lucy No. 2 & all friends. Your son

Jr.
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