My dear Miss L,

Once more upon Va. soil, I shall renew with infinite pleasure a correspondence which a brief and eventful campaign in the enemy's country had suspended. Of that campaign the public prints have informed you; its details are before the world and the wails of mourning and sorrow are heard once more through the land. The fatiguing marches, the ravages of almost famine and the suffering from a lack of clothing of the rebel army, are all forgotten in the bloody drama, which terminated the campaign at Gettysburg. Lee was forced to retire by reason of his communication being cut off, rendering his supplies uncertain and throwing his numerous wounded an easy prey into the enemy's hands. Suddenly the army retired. The march was made during a season of stormy weather. Here the endurance and fortitude of the men were subjected to the severest tests. All were poorly clad—many were barefooted, and the road was traced in blood. Having recrossed to the
South bank of the Potomac, the men were enlisted, and many thanks to Him who calleth, were fervently uttered. I am happy to state that the condition of the Army is much improved, having almost entirely refilled its thinned ranks by returning members. Proud and defiant, the rebels are still confident of victory and prepared for battle. We quietly await the approach of the enemy, who is reported in force at Manassas, and we know that the Canons, the mendacious Yankees have wove around Mendenhall's brow, will wither in the scorching sirocco of death that will sweep the cowardly abolition ranks.

Our losses in Virginia were heavy, and Georgia in particular mourns the loss of many gallant sons, whose seals with their lives, blood, their devotion to the most glorious cause, ever lies to the arbitrament of the sword. Our aggregate loss will reach 15,000, by far the heaviest ever before sustained by this army in a single
engagement. In the first two days’ fights the Yankee loss was at least 15 to one. Their loss in officers was alarming. As we held the battlefields of July 1st and 2nd we had an opportunity of judging the relative losses sustained. A foolish charge upon the strong position the enemy had assumed on the Third day, which was attributable to the drunkenness of General officers, resulted in the vain sacrifice of many lives. But for this charge our loss would not amount to one-fifth of what it was. The errors of the past (if indeed they were errors) must be forgotten, and everybody must be prepared for the dreadful future. Now in the hour of our trial, through this ordeal, and all is safe. A train of disasters has overtaken us, but we are not worthy of freedom if we are not willing to endure all. We are not to be conquered by Fredericksburg and Port Hudsons. The gallant defense of these places will fill bright pages in a History that must live forever, and
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