Dear Miss C.,

If I were ungrateful for the kind friendship you manifest for me, then I would assuredly merit your censure. But I aver solemnly and upon the honor of a gentleman to have sent within the past month at least three, and probably four, letters to your address. Why you have not recd. them I cannot divine. Upon the receipt of your letter yesterday, I immediately wrote an application for a leave of absence, which, I suppose, has passed Regimental Headquarters, but whether the exigencies of the service will allow it in the discretion of Gen. Lee, is to say the least hypothetical. It would afford me much pleasure to visit Georgia just now, especially as Sherman’s camp-fires are still smoking but the thought that Georgia had been desecrated, would be maddening enough. We are considering the propriety of taking no more prisoners, or at least of “losing” them. We will read them extracts from private letters detailing the barbarity of the enemy in Georgia, and condemn them to death upon the virtue of these extracts.

A wild rumor that President Davis was dead was prevalent a few days since. It was recd. with no manifestations of surprise as it is well known that he is sinking rapidly under the burden of heavy responsibilities. Tho’ the rumor was untrue, I fear that it was only a little too soon. He should, as a matter of justice to himself and because the country demands it, resign. His entire disregard of the principles of republican liberty, his unjust demands for unconstitutional power, and his ignoring Congressional legislation whenever it suits him, indicate that he is undertaking to seize the sceptre of the despot. How he would wield, after he had grasped it, they best know who are best acquainted with his fierce prejudices and morose temperament. The writ of habeas corpus must be suspended to allow him unlimited power over the persons of his subjects, and the right to impress whatever his agents may need, must be granted him that he may exercise control over the property as well as the persons. The Crown of England was never vested with such powers as this dictator demands, and the Czar of Russia, himself a despot, would not attempt their exercise. Fearful as it is, it is no less true, that the So. Confederacy is making rapid strides toward Military Despotism.

The Surgeon has just visited me & told me to be still. I forgot to tell you that I was quite ill, which you need not trouble yourself to inform a third party. But for this injunction of the Doctor, I might write you a long letter. The last three have been of unusual length. Don’t tell Mother or Aunt J. of my sickness. I’ll be well in a few days, I hope. Don’t I appreciate your letters to get up from a sick couch to reply? They are very good medicine for me.

Compliments to Mrs. H. & Family & to Mrs. Palmer
Goodbye
Yr Obdt Svt
Eugene S.M.