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A CONFEDERATE AIDE-DE-CAMP'S LETTERS FROM THE CHATTANOOGA AREA, 1863

CHARLES A. EARP*

THREE EXTANT LETTERS WERE WRITTEN BY HENRY C. DAY TO his father during the Chattanooga campaign of 1863. They were found in the Sidney Lanier Papers (Ms. 7) in the Milton S. Eisenhower Library's Special Collections Department at the Johns Hopkins University. As far as is known they have never been published before. The letters describe Day's joining the Army of Tennessee just prior to the battle of Chattanooga, one of the great battles in the Civil War's western theater, his participation in the fighting, and the events immediately following the Union victory.

Day, a Georgian, was in his early twenties when he presented himself to Confederate General John C. Breckinridge at Chattanooga in November 1863. Breckinridge, a corps commander, was a former vice president of the United States, a presidential candidate in the election of 1860, a prominent citizen-soldier, and a future secretary of war of the Confederacy.¹ Day had come to him with a letter of recommendation with the hope of securing a commissioned position on the general's staff.

Not much information has survived about Day. He was from Macon, Georgia, where his father, Charles Day, was a well-known businessman and landowner with interests in insurance, cotton, and river and rail transportation. His sister, Mary, married Sidney Lanier, the prominent postwar Southern literary figure, which accounts for the presence of the letters in the Lanier Papers. Day mentions Mary several times in the letters.²

Some facts about Day can be inferred from the letters themselves. He seems to have come to the army under the sponsorship of Captain George Little, chief ordnance officer of Breckinridge's Corps, who figures prominently in the letters. They became acquainted while Little was assigned to Macon.³ Day s and after the ba exact status in t of his service end business he opwhen he wishe service.⁴

After the war and became an in his forties le daughter, Mary, law. He is buried

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Captain George Non-regimental I Index to the Ro Regional Library regimental Enlis Infantry, Georgia regiment in Nov-Georgia Departm United States Co Licenses (Henry Regional Library Appraisements, Records, Brunsw Library.

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Captain George L Confederate Offic

The author did undergraduate and postgraduate work in history at the Johns Hopkins University and is a member of the Baltimore Civil War Round Table.

Mark M. Boatner III, The Civil War Dictionary (New York, 1959), 82-83, 183; Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Gray (Baton Rouge, 1959), 34-35.
 United States Construction (2010) 1990.

² United States Census, 1850, Bibb County, Georgia; obituary of Charles Day, Macon Telegraph and Messenger, June 2, 1885; Ida Young, Julius Gholson, and Clara Nell Hargrove, History of Macon, Georgia (Macon, 1950), 76, 121; General Index of Marriages, Bibb County, Georgia (Mary Day and Sidney Lanier, December 19, 1867), Middle Georgia Regional Library, Macon.

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was assigned to the Confederate government's ordnance laboratory in Macon.³ Day served as volunteer aide-de-camp to Breckinridge during and after the battle, but did not get the desired commission, and his exact status in the military is somewhat of a puzzle. There is no record of his service either as an officer or an enlisted man. He refers to a salt business he operated in Georgia and says he could leave the army when he wished so it is possible that he was exempt from military service.⁴

After the war Day moved to Brunswick, Georgia, where he married and became an agent for the Macon and Brunswick Railroad. He died in his forties leaving a second wife and three children, including a daughter, Mary, and a son, Sidney, named for his sister and brother-inlaw. He is buried in the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Brunswick.⁵

A curious postscript is the fact that Captain Little, Lieutenant Clay, and Lieutenant Breckinridge, with whom Day served on General Breckinridge's staff, were all taken as prisoners of war in Macon, Georgia, at the close of the war.⁶

E-CAMP'S LETTERS DGA AREA, 1863

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³ Captain George Little, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Officers and Non-regimental Enlisted Men, Roll 158, M331, National Archives, Washington.

⁴ Index to the Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia, Middle Georgia Regional Library; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Officers and Nonregimental Enlisted Men. The Henry Day (no middle initial), 1st Confederate Infantry, Georgia Volunteers, who was also from Macon, was present with his regiment in November and December 1863. Compiled Military Service Record, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.

⁵ United States Census, 1850, Glynn County, Georgia; Glynn County Marriage Licenses (Henry C. Day and Lilla B. Bryant, January 22, 1880), Middle Georgia Regional Library; will of Henry Coit Day, Glynn County Wills, Inventories and Appraisements, Book G (1858-1916), 491-92, ibid.; Oak Grove Cemetery Records, Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia, ibid. and in Brunswick Public Library.

⁶ Captain George Little, Lieutenant James B. Clay Jr., Compiled Service Records of Confederate Officers and Non-regimental Enlisted Men, Rolls 57, 158.

timore Civil War Round Table. ry (New York, 1959), 82-83, 183;

Hdqrs Genl Breckinridge's Corps Novr 20th 1863

Dear Father

I wrote to you yesterday announcing my arrival & comfortable location—

Last night Capt Little took me to Genl B's tent which is perhaps 20 ft in front of ours and finding him at leisure introduced me-I presented my letter and was received very kindly, and he asked after Mr. Clay with much cordiality⁷-after some conversation he told me very frankly that he was so placed that he feared he would not be able to procure me a commission that nearly all the Corps staff were assigned to it, and that for the two or three offices on his gift, that they were filled-and moreover that in the course of 2 years campaigning he was so placed as to have many who had claims on him-I told him that I supposed such to be the case and that my expectation or hope was rather that at some time in the future if convenient & an opening occurred I might thro' being on the ground and by becoming acquainted with officers stand some chance for a position-that I knew he must have many who had claim on his consideration etc and I endeavored to let him see that I did not wish to push myself on him. He asked my preference and I gave it for the Adjt Genls Department. We then chatted on different subjects.

On leaving he invited me to Breakfast with him this mg and he came to Little's tent for me himself. Nothing further passed on the subject of course I have no desire to be a source of inconvenience to Genl B. and shall not look for anything in that quarter. He was very kind and candid in his bearing, and has so much uniform politeness of manner that it must be pleasant to be associated with him—He told me that he had been obliged to dispense with volunteer aids (intimating he would have offered me that post)—having had eight, but he had neither transportations nor sufficient allowances for them—

I understand that the office of Volunteer Aid is held in no esteem in the army & was advised by L not to take such a place that Genl B was too well aware of its lack of standing to offer it—They are not allowed forage by a late order and all have left. Confederate Generate Generate a volunteer aide of *Collections*.

I have present to Col Madows Cumming in a present position Today I boug the amount \$4

> Brigadier Ger Hardee's Corr Army of Ten Gray, 66; Ca Officers and N

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⁷ The implication from Day's letter is that the letter he presented to General Breckinridge was from Mr. Clay. The author believes he was James B. Clay Sr., a resident of Montreal in 1863, whose son was on the general's staff. He was probably a friend of Day's father, who had important business associates, one of whom, George A. Trenholm, became secretary of the treasury in the Confederate government. Obituary of Charles Day; Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 847.

HISTORY

Genl Breckinridge's Corps Novr 20<u>th</u> 1863

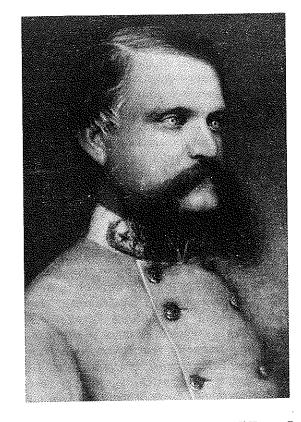
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Confederate General John C. Breckinridge, on whose staff Henry C. Day served as a volunteer aide during the battles around Chattanooga. *Courtesy UTK Special Collections.*

I have presented both of my letters from Major Bullock—& the one to Col Madowski as I mentioned yesterday—Will probably see Genl Cumming in a day or two—but dont object to looking around in my present position for awhile— 8

Today I bought a horse for Captain Little and have taken his note for the amount \$450—It is a very good horse somewhat under poor

⁸ Brigadier General Alfred Cumming, a Georgian, was a brigade commander in Hardee's Corps. Lieutenant Colonel H. Madowski was chief of ordnance of the Army of Tennessee. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 213; Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 66; Captain George Little, Compiled Service Records of Confederate Officers and Non-regimental Enlisted Men.

treatment now as its owner, Lt Clay A.D.C.⁹ to Genl B has been away— Clay leaves in a day or two for Paris via Richmond— The horse he had bought from young Breckinridge¹⁰ the other A.D.C.—He has been in the Staff for over two years and all speak of him as a fine animal—small but hardy—nice trot & canter—quick walk—kind and gentle.

Little can only draw forage for horses actually belonging to him should we part I shall try to persuade him to let me keep the horse—L was out of funds and the horse was needed for me altho' I am not allowed one. As Clay did not expect to pass thru Macon I was obliged to pay down the full amt Capt L says I will not need much to have on hand—I would like however \$200 more but as I dislike the risk of the mail will ask you to forward \$50 in \$10s in that way. L receives all his money in that way safely—

Now for news We will probably move or have a partial engagement in a few days—Gen Longstreet I was told last night was within 10 miles of Knoxville on the 17th—Today we hear that his cavalry under Wheeler drove the enemy to their entrenchments and this evening it is said our forces are in possession of the place—11

Genl Hooker with 2 Corps and Genl Sherman from about Bridge port are at Trenton and hold Johnson's Creek S. end of Lookout Range—thus flanking us on our left 20 miles to the rear—Unless driven back we will have an advance or retreat very soon which will depend on movements in East Tennessee—I understand that Genl L does not trouble Genl Bragg with many dispatches altho' they have a telegraph

Your favor of the 18th and Mary's of the 19th have just been handed to me As it is pretty late I may not have time to answer Pet—no papers yet—I enclose a fragment of a Herald with the money Article—

It has been raining nearly all day but not hard—Tent has a fly and is dry and comfortable—

Thank you for Charleston news-Cooper's regiment and John's

Battallion are with much low Your affect Henry C. D

⁹ Lieutenant James B. Clay Jr., son of the aforementioned Mr. Clay. Compiled Service Records of Confederate Officers and Non-regimental Enlisted Men.

¹⁰ General Breckinridge's son. Nepotism was common in both the Confederate and Union army and men frequently served on the staffs of relatives. There is reference in Day's second letter to young Breckinridge being taken prisoner.

¹¹ Day was misinformed. The Confederate assault on Fort Sanders at Knoxville failed. E. Porter Alexander, "Longstreet at Knoxville," and Orlando M. Poe, "The Defense of Knoxville," in *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War* (4 vols., New York, 1884), 3:749, 741-43.

ISTORY

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n Fort Sanders at Knoxville e," and Orlando M. Poe, "The the Civil War (4 vols., New DOCUMENTS

Battallion are both here—but have not seen them—Adieu dear father with much love to dear Mamie

Your affectionate Son Henry C. Day THE JOURNAL OF EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY

Hdqrs Genl Breckinridge Corps Dalton Ga Novr 30<u>th</u> 1863

My dear Father

You are doubtless anxious to have a detailed account of the late fight our great skedaddle and of your young soldier-I would have attempted to give one before but have been constantly on the move and had so little rest that I neither had the time nor the freedom of mind to do so. I sent a telegram to you from Chicamauga by Little on the 25th, another on the 28th via Atlanta & also a letter, and another opportunity offering got Little to also write a few lines to let you know that I was safe-That I have considered you must be aware of and now I will as far as I can get the leisure give you an account of what has happened I went with the General to the extreme left abt 2 o'clock on the 25th we had a small brigade of about 1200-which was soon engaged with a very heavy force-The enemy had attacked our forces on the right early with day to conceal this movement on our left-Breckinridge went about a mile beyond our left by order of Bragg to hold the enemy in check if possible-As soon as our small force had thrown out skirmishers, we became aware by the brisk firing that the enemy were in force-The bullets whistled around us (we were near the skirmishers trying to make out their force & position) and our troops giving way under the heavy fire, I had a good opportunity to keep me from thinking of the whistling music of the bullets by attempting to rally the troops-we must have been engaged near an hour-when finding the enemy had completely turned our line and were enveloping us on 3 sides the order was given to retire-when near our Hdqrs at which point the left of our regular line rested-we found that the Enemy had carried the ridge & were there in line of battle thus closing the 4th side-by a rapid diagonal movement down the hill we escaped, and brought off tho' with great difficulty & risk the Brigade We had at one time a fire converging on us from 3 sides-

We retired to Birds Mill on Chicamauga Creek where we had a pontoon bridge—About a 1/2 mile beyond Genl Breckinridge made his Hdqrs for the night—a very exposed position but a necessary one as all our army was scattered & no one knew where—

The next mg we left Chicamauga Station under fire from an advancing Battery leaving after the rearguard—the same night we left Graysville just before dark—I was sent back with important orders but before I could return the enemy had intercepted the line of march of the rearguard to which I was sent, and I and one of the escort were fired on while returning by a long line of the Enemy on the side of the



The battle of 1863. Courtes

road in which had not pass the surprise escaped hav assure you v On the m

the rear had was the sam in our rear-At Ringg loss—we f prisonerswithin 100 At this p

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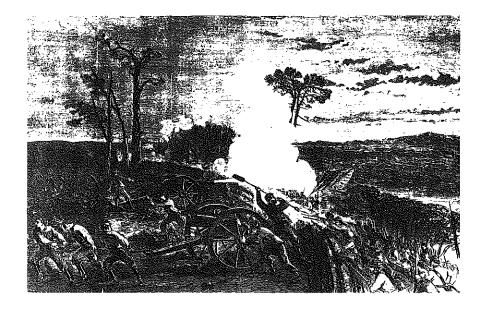
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The battle of Missionary Ridge, described by Day in his letter of November 30, 1863. Courtesy UTK Special Collections.

road in which we were riding—It was dark—a brigade of our troops had not passed 5 minutes, and we had straggling all around—so that the surprise to us was complete—By the speed of our horses alone we escaped having to pass a 1/2 mile further along their lines altho I can assure you we left the road—

On the mg of the $27\underline{th}$ Genl Cleburne's¹² Division which brought up the rear had a fight with the enemy at Ringgold at a gap—the column was the same which had turned our extreme left on the $28\underline{th}$ & had got in our rear—

At Ringgold they were not only checked but driven back with great loss—we forced them to leave 5 colors on the field took 100 prisoners—and must have killed from 100 to 500—They were nearly within 100 yds before they discovered our troops in ambush—

At this place too Genl Breckinridge & staff left after the rear guard-

¹² Major General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne. This Irish-born officer, received the thanks of Congress for saving the army's trains in this engagement. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 158-59; Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 53-54.

THE JOURNAL OF EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY

Arrived here the night of 27<u>th</u> & made our Hdqrs in a barn—the next night, a dark cold one, I was sent off 20 miles on unknown road of course to order back our trains—It was not a pleasant task—but I got there before 1 o'clock—it was too cold to sleep & I huddled over the fire until day break when I returned—

I was for 6 days and 5 nights without any regular rest had perhaps 6 to 8 hours sleep in all always ready to mount at a moment—Had but one regular meal & about a square inch of fat bacon which as I had nothing else but crackers was to a hungry man a treat—but I had never touched any before.

Selders gave me some coffee at parting which has kept nearly all the staff from the General down alive during our retreat—

Our total loss is small—hardly 400 killed—perhaps 1000 wounded & 1000 to 2000 prisoners—only 12 guns lost in our Corps—perhaps 30 in all—the estimate of killed wounded is not far from the exact figures— Considering how our troops in our main line of battle broke & ran & that the rout that eveg was in Bull Run style it is a wonder that our loss was not heavy—but we have lost but few men & hardly any wagons of our train—Considerable corn was abandoned at Chicamauga—not enough cars—

I have now comfortable quarters in a house but it is terribly cold—I feel sure that you have rec'd my letter of the 27<u>th</u>—I have been very busy hardly any time to rest—and my noble little horse is a trump—Today unfortunately he fell on some ice & harmed himself a little—

Every body says it has been the hardest time ever seen most trying until today always away from our wagons—I have stood it astonishingly well—but would really enjoy a weeks rest in Macon now

The night of the fight the General complimented quite highly before a member of his staff—said I was always where I was wanted & some other complimentary things—But I have since had harder work than that skirmish which also makes hardly any show—

Genl B's son was taken prisoner he also lost his Adjutant General—it is possible that I might have had a place but tonight we learn that all $Hill['s]^{13}$ staff is assigned to duty here that will throw out a number and leave me no chance—

We all of us had a double & treble amt of staff duty as it was so small and the exigency so great—

I telegraphed Cooper was see I expect to Joe Cumming t I have acted room full talking am also abt no Give much had no letters some days to c We will ha be the point if I am too tu your anxiety-Adieu dear Your affe Henry (

14 Colonel J. Georgia In
15 Major Generative Reservation of the Reservation of the Gray, 3

¹³ Lieutenant General Daniel Harvey Hill, brother-in-law of Stonewall Jackson. He was relieved of command by Confederate President Jefferson Davis because of his criticism of his superior officer, General Braxton Bragg, commander of the Army of Tennessee. Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 136-37.

E HISTORY

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n-law of Stonewall Jackson. He nt Jefferson Davis because of his Bragg, commander of the Army DOCUMENTS

I telegraphed that the 2 Nisbets¹⁴ Smith Clark & Cassels were well— Cooper was senior officer & lead Wilson's Brigade

I expect to see Genls Walker¹⁵ and Cumming in a few days—saw Joe Cumming to day—

I have acted all through as Aid de Camp I am writing this with a room full talking & my fingers still with cold altho a big fire is near—I am also abt nodding—

Give much love to Pet I have scarcely any chance to write & have had no letters of later date than 28th They are not lost but will take some days to come up—

We will hardly fight here—Kingston or thereabouts will doubtless be the point if the enemy advances again

I am too tired & too little leisure to write carefully—only to relieve your anxiety—

Adieu dear Father

Your affectionate Son Henry C Day

¹⁴ Colonel J. Cooper Nesbit, 66th Georgia Infantry, and Major John W. Nesbit, 26th Georgia Infantry Battalion. Battles and Leaders, 3:730.

¹⁵ Major General William Henry Talbot Walker, another Georgian, who commanded the Reserve Corps at the battle of Chickamauga but was not in active field command at Chattanooga. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 886; Warner, *Generals* in Gray, 323-24; Battles and Leaders, 3:730.

Dalton Ga Dec 5th 1863

Dear Father,

Captain Little expects to visit Macon in a day or two, as he is ordered to Rome to inspect some heavy cannon—The status now is as follows as regards private interests—Little is assigned to Breckinridge's Division, whither Genl B will follow so soon as either Genl Hindman¹⁶ returns or D.H.Hill is ordered back which latter event is probable. I will go with Little—I see no chance of my procuring a commissioned position—L says I came nearer with Genl B than he had expected—A General has hardly any opportunity to grant a new commission, and as a rule they have promised 40 to 50—I hear something of all officers except Generals being allowed but one horse—in that event (which I shd deplore on a/c of being parted from my little pony) I hardly know what I shall do. If I find that I cannot by the operation of events over which I have no control do good service here, I shall make no hesitation at returning—But that I do not now look on as probable—

I enclose a rough sketch of our late fight and first days retreat & second days fight at Ringgold—taken from an Engineer's map.

Before Lookout fell our line extended from a point between Chickamauga & Chattanooga along the foot of the ridge to Braggs Hdqrs & thence across to Lookout—Two days before Lookout fell Bragg detached 2 Divisions for East Tennessee Cleburne's was recalled but Johnson's (Buckner's old) was too far advanced—Bragg feared an attack on our right, and massed his troops there—only 2 or 3 brigades were left on Lookout and the enemy captured that point by main force—The next morning the 25<u>th</u> & the night previous, the place was evacuated and we gave up our line of entrenchments across the valley and formed a line across the Ridge—Breckinridge was sent off with Clayton's Brigade to check that heavy column of Hooker's and Osterhaus about 15 to 20,000 strong which had crossed that morning from Lookout and had turned our left while our troops were massed if massed at all on the right—

Our line of retreat. Breckinridge's Corps is shown by the dotted blue line—At point E on the night of the $26\underline{th}$ I was sent back to Johnson Sta with important orders that the enemy were only a mile off and advancing—I had to wait sometime at the Bridge & on my return after



Day's map of the battles 5, 1863. Courtesy Spec Hopkins University (Sta

dark was fired on by at the top of my ho back with an order hills along pencil lin

17 Brigadier General (commanded Walker 344-45; Warner, Gen

¹⁶ Major General Thomas Carmichael Hindman, a division commander in Breckinridge's Corps but not in command at Chattanooga. Warner, Generals in Gray, 137-38; Battles and Leaders, 3:730.

HISTORY

Dalton Ga Dec 5th 1863

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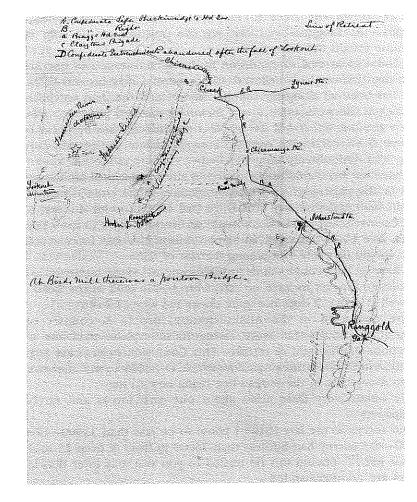
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Day's map of the battles around Chattanooga, included in his letter of December 5, 1863. Courtesy Special Collections, Milton S. Eisenhower Library, The Johns Hopkins University (Sidney Lanier Papers Ms. 7).

dark was fired on by the enemy (at E) they lined the road & I escaped at the top of my horses speed—On rejoining the General I was sent back with an order to change the line of march & I went across the hills along pencil line "f"—met Genl Gist¹⁷ at the Station & took the

¹⁷ Brigadier General Gist had the unusual full name of States Rights Gist. He commanded Walker's Division at Chattanooga. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 344-45; Warner, *Generals in Gray*, 106-7; *Battles and Leaders*, 3:730.

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road "f" down the river to Ringgold—fording several rather deep streams. At Ringgold you can see the position of the Gap where Cleburne fought the enemy—

It has been all along my opinion since I saw the map on the mg of the 26<u>th</u> at Chicmauga that *it was fortunate our line gave way where it did or else our left if not the whole Army would have been cut off by Hooker & bis corps.* We were without Cavalry to protect our flanks & Bragg was undoubtedly outgeneralled—

I have not been able to get settled in any way—either my thoughts & head or the papers which I have in charge. While Little is away I will remain with Maj Duxbury D H Hill's Ord off who with the rest of the Staff have relieved us all—Direct still to Breckinridge's Corps—You had better give Little the valise in Macon unless May has taken it away—there should be a key to it among the rest of mine—

I have a bad cough—it is troublesome at night but that is all— Arsenicum appears to have no effect on it—My cold in the head altho not well is better & does not quite choke me when I write

The confusion in the Administration, orders & counter orders uncertainty etc are far more trying to my spirits than the active operations of the fight & retreat—This Confusion in my case is partly due to a lack of business qualifications & babits in my associations and to everything in the Bureau line being new to me—

We obtain very little news about our own forces and rarely see newspapers-

Our forces at the late Battle I know to be less than 35000—possibly 30000—the enemy had not less than 75000 in front & from 15 to 20000 on our left.¹⁹ Should this be mailed to you you may infer that Little's orders are countermanded—

There are several things I would like in Macon but have not really leisure to think of them. My field glass as you feared has been of but very little service to me—and I am trying to sell it—I am very anxious if I can to dispose of it to procure an opera glass—for I have twice been sent on reconnaissances—short ones of courseI have carefull affairs—but do no leisurely—

I rejoice to h speaks of being a with the rest of C and we then left P.N.A.'s letter of except as far as to just before dusk

I trust dear Fa an attack of Quin salt agency con changes so long to allow me to v it be advisable— Much love to

Believe m Henry C

I have conclude may not get to All your letters

¹⁸ Obviously a reference to General Bragg, and a widely held opinion in the army. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 78.

¹⁹ Day underestimated the Confederate strength and overestimated the Union strength. The actual effective strength was 64,165 Confederate and 56,359 Union. Boatner, *Civil War Dictionary*, 147. Battles and Leaders, 3:729-30, puts Union strength at 60,000 but does not give Confederate strength.

NESSEE HISTORY

-fording several rather deep e position of the Gap where

e administration of our Army eed of a new broom—¹⁸

te I saw the map on the mg of ate our line gave way where it ny would have been cut off by Cavalry to protect our flanks &

any way—either my thoughts & rge. While Little is away I will d off who with the rest of the Breckinridge's Corps—You had nless May has taken it away t of mine—

me at night but that is all it—My cold in the head altho me when I write

on, orders & counter orders o my spirits than the active Confusion in my case is partly of & *babits* in *my associations* g new to me—

ir own forces and rarely see

b be less than 35000—possibly 00 in front & from 15 to 20000 you you may infer that Little's

in Macon but have not really as you feared has been of but to sell it—I am very anxious if a glass—for I have twice been ourse—

a widely held opinion in the army.

gth and overestimated the Union s 64,165 Confederate and 56,359 Battles and Leaders, 3:729-30, puts onfederate strength. I have carefully noted all you say about yourself Pet & General affairs—but do not feel well enough in the midst of confusion to reply leisurely—

DOCUMENTS

I rejoice to hear this morning of Morgan's escape—Grant I see speaks of being at Chicamauga 4 O'clock AM of 26<u>th</u>—As I was there with the rest of Genl B's staff after the rear guard as late as 10 O'clock and we then left it under a fire of shells, that must be incorrect— P.N.A.'s letter of 25<u>th</u> Midnight Missionary Ridge is I believe correct except as far as to the place We were the last on the Ridge—& that was just before dusk after Sundown—

I trust dear Father that your health is better & that you have escaped an attack of Quinsy Pet feared you might have—I am truly glad that the salt agency continues as I hoped—I feel quite independent of all changes so long as I hold no commission—as my papers are sufficient to allow me to withdraw without a regular furlough should I be sick or it be advisable—

Much love to Pet & kind regards to friends Believe me Your affectionate son Henry C Day

I have concluded to send this by mail as L does not leave until night & may not get to Macon—

All your letters are I think rec'd-May's also for Dec 1st or Novr 30th