1863

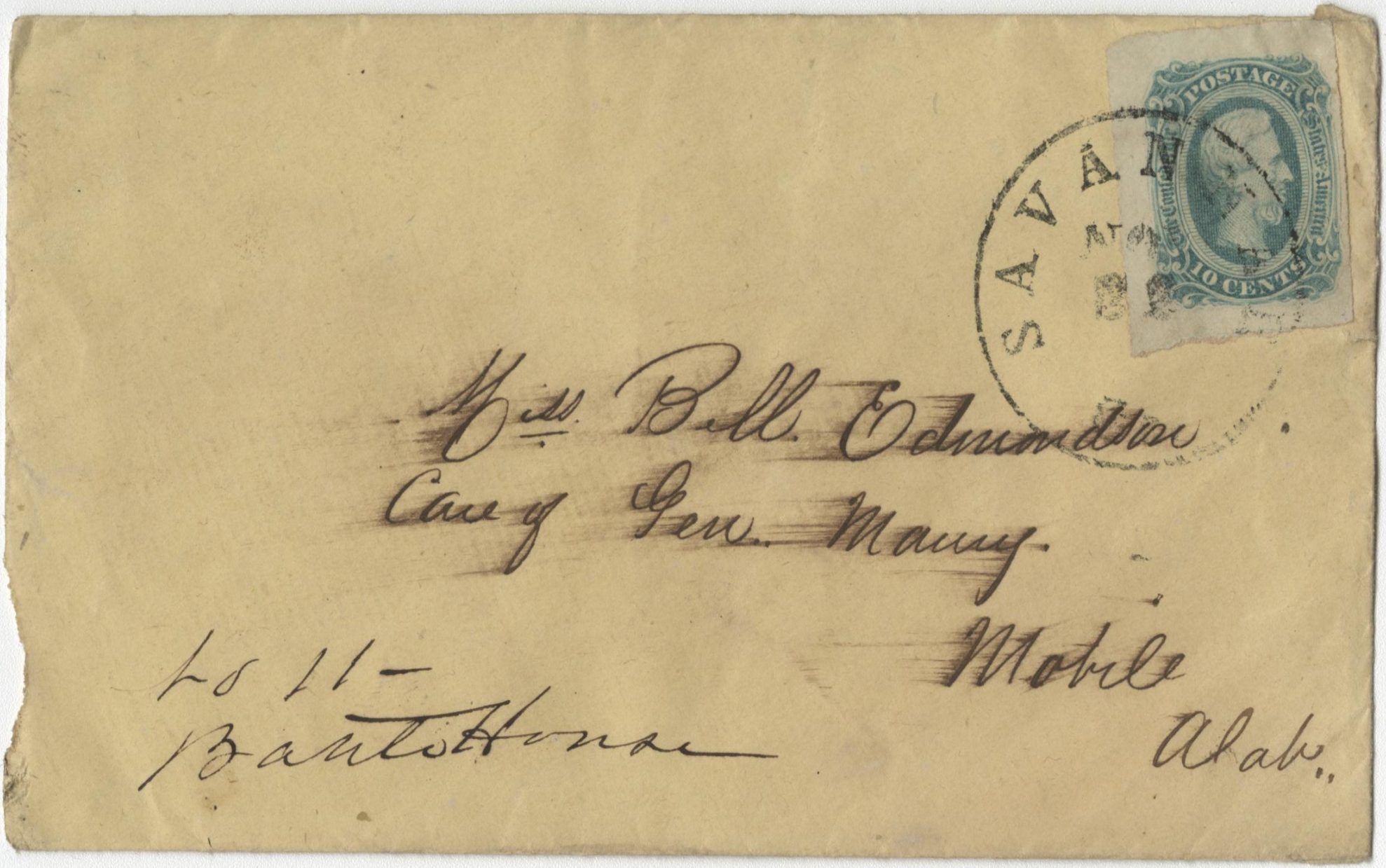
EBWS 2.12: Correspondence and Documents, 1863 November-December

Miss. Bell. Edmondson

November the 19th 1863

Miss Bell

I received your kind letter and you can not immagine how happy it made me. to hear you say I could now write a letter to my dear Mother with safety. I would give almost any thing to see you I have often and often times thought of your kindness in helping me out of the yankee lines. I was surprised to hear you were in Mobile. I espect Brother was very much so. My dear Father is here with me. so I am no longer lonesome, he is so cheerful. Miss Bell. you will do me the greatest favor I could ask of you. if you will send this letter to my sweet Mother enclosed in yours. I will not put it in an envelope. will you please direct it. you know best how to do so. I received a letter to day from my Mother. she tells me to direct my letter to her this way. Mrs C. B. Carr. Oh I hope she will receive it for I know she will be happy. to hear from her Love



Mrs. Bell. Edmundson
Care of Gen. Maury.
Mobile
Ala.

Lot 11 —
Barlotttom

Dear Miss Edmondson

I called this morning to take you to dinner, and was truly disappointed to find you absent from the Hotel. Will not yourself and Miss Kate come to see me this evening about eight o'clock. Bring any beaux you please with you. It is my reception evening. If you will do me the favor to ask Dr Pellen to come with you, I shall be much obliged to you. Be sure to come.

Your friend

Minnie Lawrence

Monday Noon

Okaloma Miss Nov 23rd 1863

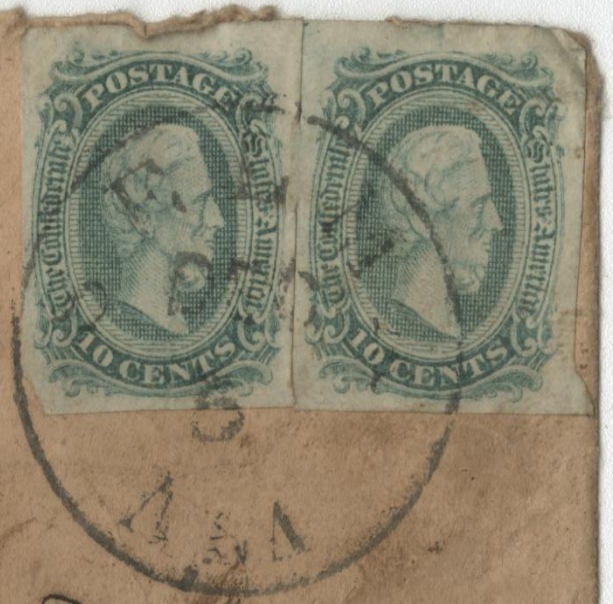
Miss Bell Edmondson

Dear Miss

It becomes my painfull duty to announce to you the death of our mutual friend George Jones - I met him and Mr Rowlings at Rome Ga after our command had left for this place - the second day after we left there as we were crossing the Chattooga River about two miles from Cedar Bluff he was drowned the River was swimming and his horse threw him off he could not swim and befor we could give him any assistance he went down and never rose we used every exertion to recover his body but failed - having frequently heard him speak of you as one of his particular friends I write to you hoping that you will have an opportunity to break the news to his Sister - Your brother Ed is with the Company and well

Yours with great Respect
Phil. T. Allen
Capt Bluff City Greys

Mr. A. J. Edmondson
care of Lt. U. S. Navy
Memphis
Tennessee



Miss Bell Edmondson
Care Battle House
Mobile Ala

Proprietor please send
to her room immediately
if she has arrived
J H P

Selma Ala Nov 25th 1863

Miss Bell Edmondson

Mobile Ala

My dear friend. I start in the morning for Meridian Miss and possibly will go as far as Brandon, and it may be, I will go before returning to some point on the Miss River under orders from Richmond received soon after you left here; so you see how fortunate as well as unfortunate I was in not going with you & Miss Crawley to Mobile.

I go on important official business the nature which I will not trouble you to relate; but the time when I will be back is what I wish to write you about, and yet this is the very thing that I can't know myself.

My mind is pretty fully made up to go with you to Panola when you start home if I can find out when this is, and I can possibly leave my official engagements long enough, and I hope to get through with the rather new duties upon me by the time you wish to return. I will try to write you from Meridian or Brandon when I will know better how much time I will have before me, and it is possible that my business engagements will keep me on this Miss long enough to enable me to meet you at Meridian or Brandon and go with you from there; but this must be determined in the future, and will depend upon the length of time you will remain in Mobile, as well as my own movements which shall be regulated to suit your convenience as much as possible.

Write me upon receiving this and direct to care Capt A Vanna Meridian, and let me know when you will go home, if you have fixed a definite time in your own mind, for I doubt not with your present very pleasant surroundings you will be a

a loss to fix the hour of departure; but for your consolation let me remind you that Moses was once seperated from his people for a long time; but finally "come out of the wilderness" all right, with a wife wedded while he was away from home.

Don't fail to write to me, for you know I must write that letter home by you, and that will have to be done before we, or you as the case may be, start up to Panola –

I have been to the express office and told the agt that I was looking for a small package from Mobile (the buttons) don't forget them – the Tailor is making my coat now – send them by the Pioneer Express if you have it already starts there.

I wish I had time to write you a more decent letter, and a long letter to tell you how I miped you when you left, and then when I think of you and Miss Shawley the morning before you left I almost involuntarily give my moustache a twist, and Oh! how pleasant the memory of – how gracefully – how pleasant you both together seemed to me like twin cherries, or the glittering two ripe peaches from the same limb

Remember me kindly to Miss Shawley, and let her know me the life – of my last examination I thought them better, if not entirely well –

Write me how you found matters when you got to Mobile, and if you do not understand my exact meaning ask Miss Shawley, and tell me also how you are spending your time, and whether my friends Mr & Mrs Smith have called on you as yet – I went to them the evening you left.

Write me and believe me your friend and obed servt.

Thos H. Price Mayre

Miss Bell what has become of Miss Sallie Kirk I suppose she is with you.
I suppose Brother has told you the place I am stationed on. I am on board the C.S. Steamer Georgia. it is a floating battery. stationed three miles below Savanah City. I did not fulfill my promise. dont you remember when I started from your house. I said I would be back again in less than a month. I would have done so. but the yankees got between us. I would like to have a long conversation with you. but I am afraid it will be along time. unless some lucky chance shoud allow me a furlough.
give my respects to Mrs. Challie Kirk Miss Bell if I am not asking to much will you please answer. because I would like to know if you received this letter. and it gave me great pleasure to hear from one that is my friend. give my love to Brother. and tell him I will write to him excuse this writing. I hate to finish but as it is getting late. I will have to close

Shanta Fe

28: Nov: 1863

Genl. Joseph E. Johnston

Army of the Miss. Dept.

Dear Sir

This

will be handed to you by Mrs. Betty Pratt wife of Genl. Zachary Taylor and wife of Capt. Bernard Pratt of Chief. Genl. Price's Army in the West. She is also the niece of the wife of Chief. Genl. McLaws — She wishes to visit her mother Mrs Edwards in Ky. — Can you let her pass our lines so that she can reach Memphis? If you can you will greatly oblige her & her numerous friends all of whom are Southern & believe this to be your cause — Mrs —

Thomas the widow Weston
B. Thomas deceased of Augusta
in this State wishes to accom-
pany Mrs. Pratt – Mrs.
Thomas is a lady of great
respectability = She wishes to
visit her relatives in Phy –
I commend these ladies
to your kind attention –

Yours Respectfully
Alex. H. Stephens
V. P. C. S. A –

I receive my carpet sack and clothes. I am very much obliged to you for sending it. well Miss Bell I will have to finish. good bye. remember me who is your true and faithful friend.

from your true friend

George Atkison

Genl. Joseph E. Johnston

letter for
Mrs Brutt
&
Mr. Thomas

Farmington
Me

Lt. General Leonidas Polk.
Commdg. Dept. Mississippi.

Introducing
Thos Pemerd Pratt Esq.

Nov. 28th

Misses Belle & Shallie

At what time would you like to breakfast?

I will send in to your room

I hope you will enjoy it —

Do come as soon

I am coming on to see you — Honest pay you one of these days

Now don't be afraid

Don come out & invite me in —

Yours affectionately

T. H. D.

Mrs Reed
" Edmondson
Nov 11
Baltimore

Columbiana Dec 2nd
/65.

Dear Belle

Agreeable to promise, I hasten to write you; waiting only long enough to get settled, & feel at home; Columbiana is not such a bad place after all, and as we are with such pleasant people as Dr McKee & his family, I think I could content myself here, even longer than I will have to stay. I have been thinking about you a great deal my dear friend, and my heart has ached with intense sympathy for your great trouble: I yearn to administer some healing balm, to offer some soothing remedy for your wounded heart, but alas! for the inability of woman to offer consolation for any such suffering; silence after all is most expressive, and I frequently use that means of showing sympathy, though in your case it often lead to the unjust charge of coldness, even when I was feeling most for you; My dear child

you could not begin to understand or appreciate how deeply & sincerely I felt all you were undergoing; I have have been through many a severe trial, & thought there could be none more bitter, but yours surpasses all; I know not what to say: I know I speak idle words when I say; Go! forget him! he is not worthy to be thought of, as you think. Yet I cannot speak harshly of him without violating the trust & confidence placed in me as his friend, which I promised faithfully to be, though all others assailed him: I have never been a false friend, & I would not begin now: You see how I am situated. I hope you had a pleasant visit to La Grange; I wish I could have gone with you, as I could then have seen your sister & Louisie too; I have just finished a long letter to Fan, telling her about our trip to Mobile, but I suppose you gave her a more full & better account; Willie is visiting now to Sue. I will send it next your

letter, & I will wait until Anna goes, before writing home, as one letter can tell all of news from this quarter: we are looking for Anna every day: Mollie says, if Anna goes to Mobile again, we will go too; but I am afraid I would not enjoy it as much as before as "Dick" will be away, & I would miss him so much, bless his old heart! give my best love to him, & tell not to forget to bring me something pretty when he returns from Yank lines: and say to Dr Nisbet for me, I he will not become so much infatuate with the widow Twelves as to forget his friend Mollie: by the way Bell: if you go back to Mobile you will be certain to have the pleasure of her company home with you: Tell Tom Kirkland I sent a kiss to him; I will always love him, for his kindness to us. I wish dear child I had something pleasant to say to you, but I know too well, nothing that I could say, would give more than

a transient gleam of pleasure: but be assured of one thing, you have in me a true friend, and if I can ever serve you, you know it would make me happy to do so: don't forget me after you reach home but continue to write, & I will always answer, write to me before leaving Mobile.
Remember me kindly to all of our friends there: & say I hope to be with them soon again: when you go home, say every thing which you can think of, to Ma, Pappa & Sue all alone: make them as happy as possible & tell us all; I read a letter from Anna last night & she has is charmed with Dixie.
Good bye dear Bell; hoping to hear from you soon, I am ever your true friend
Shallie.

Miss Belle Edmondson
Memphis
Tenn

(Have my letter mailed at St Louis if possible)

Selma Ala Dec 4th 1863

Miss Bell Edmondson

Mobile Ala. My ever Dear friend, I promised myself when we last parted, that I would set apart some portion of today, for the purpose of writing you such a letter, as I even then, while with you, felt, that I wished to write you; but things of less welcome, and decidedly more material nature have been so crowded upon my attention almost every hour since I saw you that I almost feel unequal to the requirements of the present moment.

I desire to tell you much, too much for the short space of one letter, and yet it may be nothing that has not already passed through your own mind & heart, except it may be some matters exclusively about myself of which it is quite possible I have told you all before.

Friendly letters, to me, are something more than mere ink and paper, or words and sentences, and though there may be nothing new in subject matter, yet there is always a presence of the writer, attended with a sort of spiritual communion hallowed by the sacred memory of the past, that seems to brighten, at least for a time, the too often dark pathway of life, and renders the soul to pursue its journey with renewed energy, like the fragrance of flowers and the babbling brook to the way worn traveler. And taking it for granted that the feelings and sentiments which animate my own heart, are common to us both I write with the hope, that the voice of friendship may prove a welcomed visitor through no special message is delivered.

Allow me to say to you, my dear friend, that, having lived

My Dear Bell -

I was very sorry that I did not get to see you before you left this morning, Mrs Clayton arrived shortly after you left and was very anxious to go on at once but concluded that best to wait for you - You must abandon your trip to Lena Bell and go with

[illegible] want for you to stay on [illegible] here still longer but it is by no means advisable to do so - You know what I said to you - With my best love to all at home wishing you a very pleasant trip I am your affectionate Bro -

J. H. Edmondson

Nov 26/63

much longer in the world than you, and having enjoyed as much of its good, and that which is commonly called happiness, as usually falls to the lot of most of persons in this life, and I assure you, upon a retrospect of the past I see nothing to inspire the desire to live it over again; it is true there are many sacred memories and sentiments that are welcomed still as precious & refreshing springs of pleasure at which we should accustom ourselves to drink often rather than in the more turbid pools of bitterness & disappointment. But these green spots of the past are still in our possession, we need not live life over again to enjoy them, they belong as well to the present, as the past, like precious jewels that have been treasured up, and may be enjoyed now, if we only would, seperate from the labor & pain which they cost us. Thus you see all the good of life & the ~~past~~ may be saved to us even in this world, and in the light of revelation how doubly bright and precious these blessings become, if the immortal interest of the soul have been happily not neglected when the sands of life are run out. And this brings me to the great central idea, to which, unworthy as I am, I wish with the voice of friendship to turn your attention. You will remember I made some allusion to my own faith and belief in an overruling providence at our last interview; but my heart was then too much affected, and my mind too much disturbed to say to you what I wished, and what, I now believe is all the better by being written. Oh! that I could so win your heart as to be able to bathe it, not in Lethes oblivious waters which might rob you of the bright side of past life; but in that precious fountain of blood, and heal it with that safe and effectual remedy, the ever blessed "balm of Gilead" - I know my dear friend, that you may very naturally say that my precept is not in keeping with

my example — This, with shame and confusion to myself, I must acknowledge is too true; but nevertheless, whatever appearance may be, and as unworthy and ungrateful as I feel myself to be, you may rest assured I am not recommending the waters of an untried fountain; but rather one from which many a refreshing draught has been drawn, and that too when the dark clouds of gloom & bitterness hung heaviest over my future — There is much of sound philosophy in disappointment and adversity, and I believe, in almost every instance they are heavens choicest blessings in disguise, though we may from the blindness & weakness of poor human nature fail to see & enjoy the good that providence holds in store for us — Of course, I predicate what I have said, as well as what I have to say, in this connection, upon your acquiescence in my belief in the truth of Revelation. You know that there is but one object according to the teachings of Revelation, that is worth to be loved with all of our hearts soul & strength, without the sin of idolatry on our part: that is, according to my understanding, we are not permitted to so concentrate our hearts & affection on any earthly object as to neglect the higher interest of the soul, and when we do it, we are in danger, and having the interest of the nobler part of our nature so jeopardized by the poisonous draught which we so eagerly seek; we must admit that providence to be a blessing, which takes from us the cup before it is drunk to the ~~bitter and everlasting~~ dregs, though we may be almost overcome, for the time, by the dark billows of disappointment. I feel assured that there is a higher destiny, a brighter day in store for you, yet in the future, and I must believe that one who has exibited so much fortitude, and encountered so many dangers for the good of others & a beloved country in distress, will at least exercise some of that large store of virtues for self protection.

Office Insp. Genl. Hospitals
Augusta Ga, Nov 27th 1863.

General,

Permit me the pleasure of introducing Mrs Bernard Pratte, who is an exile from Missouri, and whose husband is an Officer serving in General Price's Command. Mrs Pratte is anxious to reach her husband if the route is practicable; and in the event that it is not, she desires to go to her Mother in Kentucky, or to her home in St Louis.

Knowing that you will take pleasure in furnishing her with information, and such assistance as will be compatible with the interests of the service and the requirements of a lady, I do not hesitate to make the request.

I am General
Very Respectfully
Your Obdt. Svt.
L. P. Yoe

General Leonidas Polk
Comdg: Dept Mississippi

Moses Zela Edmondson

Capt Edmondson

Guthriesville York Dist So Carolina
Decr 17th 1863

Miss Belle Edmondson

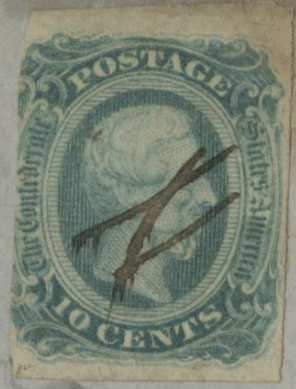
Can I trouble you to send or hand the enclosed letter to Grandma? I have almost regretted not going with you since I left, I had a very unpleasant trip to this place. It rained almost incessantly from the time I left Mobile until I arrived here, and being exposed on the trains gave me an attack of the Pleurisy from which I have just recovered. I expect to spend the Christmas here with my friend and Mess-mate Mr Williamson, by which time I am in hopes my arm will be well enough for me to travel, and I intend to visit North Mississippi. My Arm is improving very fast. Give my kindest regards to your father and all the family also to Miss Nannie.

Sincerely Yours
Lieut. H. C. Elliott.

Miss Belle Edmondson.
At Home
Near Memphis
Tennessee.

Guthrieville
18 Dec

Miss Belle Edmondson



Capt Sam Henderson
"Hendersons Scouts"
Parola
Miss

Please forward the enclosed to
Miss Edmondson Near Memphis
and oblige a Soldier.

PS - If neither of the gentlemen will loan me the money - please try & get it I will repay on your order

J. FRED. SIMMONS. R. W. CRUMP.

SIMMONS & CRUMP,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

Hd Quarters Jackson Cavy Division

Clinton ~~Sardis~~, Miss., Dec 18th 1863

Esteemed Lady:

Genl Jackson was kind enough to show me your note & tele and if I desired anything you need get it for me and as Mr Farmer goes up tomorrow I enclose a memorandum which I shall be under many obligations if you will fill & send the articles by him. I enclose a request to Dr Raines, ~~&~~ one to Mr H Owen & one also to Mr Dyer either one of whom will I think advance the necessary funds & you can write a receipt on the back of the note for whatever amount you get & destroy the other notes - Please write me what amount you receive so that I may know what I owe them. If you get any more than may be necessary you can either enclose it to me or lay it out in fine

perfumery – Hedyosmia, or Patchouly or something of the sort. The articles I most need I mark with a cross so that you may get them first.

Your kind attention to this my dear young lady will be ever remembered by me & gladly reciprocated when opportunity presents.

I am a member of Gen Jackson's staff & live in Pinola Co & shall go up next week or the week after – Alice Crump my sister-in-law also I have frequently heard speak of you is living at my house, & in hoping both she & my wife will always be pleased to see you.

Besides thanking you I shall pick you out a nice bear & keep him in reserve

Yours

J. P. Simmons
Major

1

2 X

3 X

4 X

5 X

6 X

7 X

X

8 X

X

9 X

10 X

1 X Fine indigo blue, or deep blue cloth for pantaloons. 1½ yards if double width & 3 if single.

2 X 6 yds Wide gold lace fine for stripe say inch & quarter wide or as wide as the most - If you can get it striped with red or yellow do so.

3 X 30 yds fine gold lace for coat sleeve say ~~1~~ this width.

4 X Fine grey cloth for coat.

5 X 4 Stars for Collars

~~6 X 8 very large ones for my Shabrack.~~

7 X Fine Calf thinded boots. No 6.

8 X Fine Plush hat No 7/8 or 7. with gold cord & gold tassels, & a star to loop up at side.

X Grey cloth overcoat with long cape -

9 X 3 doz Small staff buttons.
2 doz large " "

10 X Fine Cavy bridle & bit & breast strap & martingale. trimed with yellow

morocco & ornamented with
silver plated ornaments.
5 or 10 gallons good whiskey
2 boxes Cigars
1 Loaf Sugar — or bag crushed 25 lbs.
11 + 1/2 yds fine straw colored goods for collar cuffs & binding for coat.

If you can get these or any
of them & send them to my house
at Sandis — what Mr ~~[illegible]~~ Eaves
cannot bring — I will receive
them. The articles numbered
are most needed of those
that are crossed, but I know
you will have difficulty in getting
any & shall be grateful to
you for the effort. I shall
probably remain at home two
or three weeks — Yours G. H. S.

Jany 18th 64

This was written a month ago to send
by Mr Farnsworth but he did not go and
I send it by Mr Eaves Please
reply by bearer — Anything sent to my wife at Sandis
will reach me

Miss Belle Edmundson

Care of Mr Evans

DeSoto Circle

Miss

Panola Dec. 20. 1863.

Dear Miss Belle,

Yours & Mrs Dr Kirks have been here 3 days, & I have done my best to send them up, but the bad weather, bad roads, & high water have prevented so far, & have a promise to get them taken to Hernando to-morrow & if I can get them no further, will leave them at Sim Yates - So if you send down for them, stop at his house. In the way of news I have not a word of interest, & I don't think you will find much in the papers herewith sent, except Our Presdents Message. I am suffering from a bad stye, & can hardly see, Can't you send me "an eye opener" for Christmas. With kind regards to your Father & all the family I am

Truly yr friend
Thos. Henderson

P.S.

I send you a letter from Maj Hunt of Genl Polk's staff to his Wife Mrs Callie Ward Butler, that was. Get some of your Memphis friends to furnish note saying how she can answer so he will get it if possible

T.H.

Miss Rosa [illegible]
Atlanta

In the goodness of your noble, womanly, and patriotic heart you have doubtless been too confiding; but while the quiet of this crystal fountain may be disturbed, yet thank God its limpid waters are still pure, and in spotless innocence & truth will continue to reflect, and perpetuate the deformity and blackness of the heart that would dare disturb its rest.

Despise not, nor think not one particle the less of yourself my dear friend, for you have almost innumerable friends with true hearts & loving who good opinion and appreciation is richly worth living for, and that too with the <u>highest</u> opinion of yourself.

And now allow me to say to you in writing, what I have already promised verbally, that <u>all</u> that you have intrusted to me in confidence shall be kept most sacred; and allow me to say that I thank you most heartily for the compliment you have paid me in making me your confidant, and in return I can but remain <u>at all times</u> your obedient servt.

And now, the balance of my paper about my dear wife & children and myself; and first if you go to Mo, see them for me if you can, for I am in despair of hearing from them otherwise & if you do they will send me by you such things as I need, a memorandum of which I herewith send you. If you do not go you will please call on Mr George T. Stubbard whom you can find through Mr Seymour and get such of the articles as you can & I will come to Panola at any time you will agree to meet me there, or you can send the things to Maj Mellon at Panola or Grenada - he is the purchasing commissary for that part of the country - if you send them to him instruct him to keep them & communicate to me by letter. The things you have for my wife you can send or carry to her as the case may be - the letter herewith is for her; but if you do not go I want you to write to her as soon as you get home & tell her all you know about me.

Believe me my truly your friend & obd servt — Th. H. Price Maj. C.S.A.

I shall expect a letter from you soon after your arrival at home - you must answer this also from Mobile - I leave for Pa.

SOUTH-WESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Panola Miss Dec 24 1863.

By Telegraph from Richmond Dec 24 1863.

To Miss Belle Edmondson

Tell Mrs Lott Clark that her husband is here

J H Edmondson

9 P.M.

Miss Belle Edmondson

Near Memphis

Tenn.

Grenada Miss Dec. 28th 1865

Will Miss Belle please forward this letter to Mrs
M A Jones & oblige Yours Respectfully

Chas L Jones

Journal Mag
Dec 24

Miss Belle Edmunds
Care of Capt Emden
Panola
Miss

THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

Terms and Conditions on which Messages are Received by these Companies for Transmission.

The public are notified that in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while these Companies will as heretofore use every precaution to insure correctness, they will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages beyond five hundred times the amount paid for sending the message, nor will they be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unrepeated messages, from whatever cause they may arise, nor the delays arising from interruptions in the workings of their Telegraphs, nor for any mistakes or omissions of any other Company over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by these Companies for transmission subject to the above conditions.

J. R. DOWELL, Gen'l Sup't, Richmond, Va. W. S. MORRIS, Pres't, Richmond, Va.

Received at Mobile Nov 12 1863 *at* _____ *o'clock,* _____ *minutes,*

By telegraph from Selma 12th *To* Miss Belle Edmunson

care Maj Flournoy

a a G

Have you news from my family write I wrote you by your brother

Thos H Price

13/13 Maj

Elm Ridge
Nov 14th / 63.

Dear Belle.

You must in the first place excuse me for directing your letter as I have also ask Dr. Moore to do the same but I do not know how to direct them otherwise - so you will get them - until you write and let me know. This letter I may have been here for some time I will send all your letters as they come. I have had a very pleasant Maggie Cockrell came on and have been in town three times this week on it. It is not today and I don't know what on earth I am to do about it. I'll have to wait to Provisioner or good-looker in future.

I hope you are having a pleasant time and do write me something cheerily about your affair I went in town to day and drawed your money and paid all your debts and your hand for letter theft. I will do all I can for you - in truth you must let me know. I am so hurried now I can't write any more. I will write you a long letter in a few days - and tell you all the news. Helen and Hal are here frequently and are getting on finely. Kiss your - write to my own time any thing to Mrs Clayton Laura Beulah & Lib. are all well.

Yours ever loving sister Sallie

10.

NEVADA
NOV 19
MIN

10

Miss Belle Edmondson -
Care of Dr. G. A. Shoe -
Florida -
Alan =