



as sleepless as are our enthusias-  
tic School-boys at home on  
the night preceding Independence  
Day, and ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> we not ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> some-  
what accustomed to night firing  
we would <sup>all</sup> have spent as wake-  
ful a night as probably did  
our Aunts and grandmothers and  
the anxious mothers of those boys  
at that identical time. But  
our tireless battery boys are true  
soldiers and it is a misnomer  
to call them boys at all. They  
are almost without exception  
self-reliant heroic men. They  
were firing because they were ordered  
to fire. <sup>and they lay & entered a file in order to carry</sup> The Rebels had left  
their strong position about Ken-  
necaw Mountain on the night  
of the 30<sup>th</sup>. Their left flank had  
been burned by Scofield and  
their line of communication was  
threatened. Our forces were

even in sight of their Rail Road.  
En passant let me say that  
although great credit is due to  
the Commanding Officer and the  
troops that make a bold flanking  
movement before the enemy yet  
it should not be lost sight of  
that in all such movements made  
by any portions of this Army  
during this campaign, the re-  
mainder of the Army has held  
the enemy in its front. This  
was the case at Kennebec Mt.  
Results were made by three  
distinct columns and with  
glorious losses on the very day  
Scofield gained his advantage  
on the extreme right. Davis' Div<sup>n</sup>  
(12<sup>th</sup> Corps) got so close that the  
men actually fought with stones  
because they could throw them  
over the works, <sup>which their bullets would not penetrate.</sup> There Davis' men  
were hurrowed and nothing could

Some of the prisoners, thought & said they would fight again North of the Chattahoochee. Others said they were hurrying across the river as fast as possible. Our army pursued on all the available <sup>roads</sup>. Having no complete and reliable maps of the country it is often great labor to ascertain the right road. Of late the Rebels have swept <sup>back</sup> all or nearly all the people with them. The 4<sup>th</sup> Corps was marching upon the R.R., its Artillery and wagons going in rear of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps on a narrow road, near the R.R. running parallel on the West side. Hooker <sup>(20<sup>th</sup> Corps)</sup> was three further West - and McPherson & Schofield were beyond him.

There was skirmishing with the Enemy's Cavalry beginning soon after we reached ~~the~~ vacated works.

was within 75 yds of the Rebel fort upon the same ~~height~~ hill so that the continuous stream of musketry from our <sup>works</sup> completely <sup>into very flames</sup> splintered and smashed the Rebel Chesney de Price. I doubt if such a sight was ever seen before - from the effects of bullets alone.

But we will leave these stubborn works at Kennesaw - not so reluctantly as the Rebels, by no means, for with them they must give up Marietta and many of them said that with the Relinquishment of that position would come the immediate fall of Atlanta. Johnson loved it so well that he held on one day <sup>longer, it is said,</sup> ~~of something to turn up~~ "Contrary to his best military judgment in the eager hope for something to turn up."

We marched into Marietta

on the clear pleasant morning  
of the 3<sup>d</sup> of July jubilant <sup>alike</sup> at  
our own success in ejecting the  
enemy from their stronghold and  
also because we knew the vexatious  
disappointment to all Rebels  
and the loss of morale to their  
Army. We mounted to the top  
of the "Military Institute" a large  
brick building situated upon an  
eminence South West of the town  
and from which we could view  
the country for many miles.  
Little else than woods could be  
seen in any direction. Stone  
Mt. towers up some 20 miles to  
the South East - the last strong  
child of the Alleghonies - too far  
to the East to come in our path  
~~and~~ trouble us or comfort the enemy  
as have Kenesaw and Lost Mts.  
which are said to belong to the  
same family.

We could see clouds of dust to  
the South and in the direction  
of these we pushed on. Our Army  
moving in different columns came  
upon the enemy in force in a  
line cutting the R. R. eight miles  
from the Chattanooga bridge with  
the flanks apparently thrown back  
upon this river. This point on  
the Rail Road is sometimes called  
"Neal Dow" Station ~~perhaps~~ named  
certainly before that - pure patriot  
of Maine had by his devotion  
to the national cause become  
a stench in Southern captured  
nostrils. - I will not dwell  
upon the details of the fight of  
the 4<sup>th</sup> of July - Again we pushed  
them on the left and in the center  
and again we pressed around their  
left flank or pressed ~~it~~ back  
~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> light Cavalry Corps and  
in the night they withdrew.

Directly towards Atlanta and bearing  
back towards the North after passing  
the R. R. bridge thus forming a  
neck of land or peninsula. This  
neck of land the enemy now  
hold, having previously fortified  
it strongly. - Great was the  
joy when our army reached  
the banks of the Chattahoochee  
and came in sight of the  
long-tailed-of Atlanta.

We opine, too, that some  
little fluttering was caused in  
the hearts of not <sup>but</sup> in the houses  
and streets of ~~both~~ of that  
fair city at the first thunder  
of Yankee cannon. Still we  
go on - yesterday Serpfield crossed  
the river five miles up - and  
today <sup>the</sup> Div<sup>n</sup> of Howard's <sup>copy</sup>  
with Gordon's Cavalry <sup>is to go</sup>  
the same still farther up. Under  
terrific cannonade right before last  
the Rebel Ponton-bridge was captured by

St Vinnings Station - three miles  
from the R. R. bridge and about  
ten (10) from Atlanta the  
opposition to our progress became  
more stubborn. Here the  
road west of the R. R.  
crosses the latter and leads to  
Pace's Ferry across the Chatta-  
hoochee distant in an easterly  
direction only one mile.

We had heard some & doubted before  
we reached this point that the  
Rebels had a Ponton-bridge across  
at Pace's Ferry and had been  
crossing since 2 o'clock. An  
Negro, however, said that they  
were in fortifications this side  
of the river. Both statements  
finally proved true. From  
the dense and uninterupted  
woods we had been unable  
to see anything. But scouts  
had reported a wagon train across



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Hazim's men, Wood's Div<sup>n</sup>, 4 <sup>regts.</sup>

One Cannon was captured by  
Stofield yesterday evening. Our  
men have never seemed in better  
spirits. And to every reasonable  
mind the chances for the im-  
mediate capture of Atlanta  
are better than those for the  
taking of Richmond.

That he may not be <sup>too</sup> confi-  
dent the writer of this will re-  
call to mind that in June  
1862 he was with the National  
Army within <sup>from or five</sup> ~~4~~ 5 miles of  
Richmond, when the men  
would climb the high trees  
in lieu of high hills and see  
the Rebel Capitol. But here  
we have a larger Army than  
that opposing <sup>us</sup> and if Grant de-  
termines, as <sup>we</sup> who doubt that  
he will, it must be in large  
numbers. Besides I have a faith

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which no one is required to  
adopt and whose grounds  
I have not the space to declare  
even were it desirable - a faith  
that God's time has come for  
bringing this Rebellion to an end  
and that in His mercy He will  
not again roll back the  
wheels of our <sup>otherwise</sup> irresistible progress.

W. A. Howard