


11-9-1863

Letter from John W. Marshall to Francis P. Porter

John W. Marshall

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first so the author spirit of course
so you may know I did not en-
over that I never like for her to
and I never ever with some over
of one happy moment during my stay

Chattanooga, Tenn
Nov, 9th 1863,

Friend Frank

With pleasure I
acknowledge the recd. of yours
of 29th Oct. and let me assure
you of my joy in hearing that
you are so pleasantly situated
And indeed it would be a treat
to visit your place and perhaps
I may "when this cruel war is
over". And perhaps as you wish I
may then be able to get ac-
quainted with some of the Clinton
girls as your recommendation is
more than sufficient to excite my
curiosity especially as you say they
go ahead of "Niece Belle's Girls"
which you know implies a great
deal with me Will you want

me to tell you all about them
I am willing to enlighten you as far
as I can In the first place Old
Mary has married Gus Springer and
settled down to house keeping having
something to commence with poor
Gire I do not know whether she
pleased her pap or not —

2ndly There is Rachel Ann well
you know this is rather a tender point
Of course we parted swearing Eternal
fidelity &c &c just as if we would
not change our minds in three
years Well she went to a One horse
Balancingham Copperhead meeting
at Sonora Of course I gave her a bit
of my mind about it and eversion
her letters come signed "Yours with
much respect &c &c" Now I do not
know what this &c means it may
imply all that "Only Thine" "Ever
Yours" and all these endearing
words used to do in former letters
but I can't see it in that light
and not being as anxious as some
of the folks thought I was I failed

to make any acknowledgments and
now "vice versa" have to seek for affection
"elsewhere" The rest of the family I
guess are all right Well Marshall
is safe at home Guarding Miss C,
his relief coming on about once
a week I have not been home since
I enlisted And have not much
hopes of being 'till the war is
over And then if I don't commit
Matrimony or some other unpardonable
sin I am coming out as you
say to enjoy some of the old
times we used to have And by
the way if you will pick out
some nice girl for me I will
take your town in my way
home from the war and take
a wife with me Mind no
Copperheads taken I would like
to see George the best of all
things Wonder if he knows Old
Mal is married I can't help
laughing every time I think
how badly the old thing was
taken in there was a man

you the help much I like for her
not much in conversation to find her
by the name of Search came very
near marrying her so near that
she had all her finery but when
the day came he could not be
found I never saw Susie's Man
what sort of a looking man is
he You ask me if I ever saw
Mary's little girls of course not
Boo people how unreluctant
But to quit this foolishness We are
still here in Chatternooga with the
rebel army in full view of
us and more or less cannon-
ading every day for the last two
weeks Yesterday and today have
been quite cool but I have
a very pleasant room to stay
in but I have been out in
the cold all day and this
must be some excuse for
writing Frank I had the pleasure
of walking home with one of the
fair sex of Chatternooga last night

November 9, 1863

Chattanooga, Tenn

Nov 9th 1863

Friend Frank

With pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of yours of 29th Oct and let me assure you of my joy in hearing you are so pleasantly situated. And indeed it would be a treat to visit your place and perhaps I may "when this cruel war is over." And perhaps as you wish I may then be able to get acquainted with some of the Clinton girls as your recommendation is more than sufficient to excite my curiosity especially as you say they go ahead of Uncle Bills girls which you know implies a great deal with me. Well you want me to tell you all about them. I am willing to enlighten you as far as I can. In the first place Old Mary has married Gus Springer and settled down to house keeping having something to commence with poor Girl I do not know whether she pleased her pap or not---

2ndly, There is Rachel Ann, well you know this is rather a tender point. Of course we parted vowing Eternal fidelity & just as if we would not change our minds in three years. Well she went to a one house Valandingham Copperhead meeting at Sonora. Of course I gave her a bit of my mind about it and ever since her letters come signed "yours with much respect etc etc" Now I do not know what this etc means, it may simply imply all that "Only Thine Ever Yours" and all these endearing words used to do in former letters, but I can't see it in that light. And not being as anxious as some of the folks thought I was I failed to make any acknowledgments and now "will have to seek for affection elsewhere." The rest of the family I guess are all right. Bill Marshall is safe at home. Guarding Miss C, his relief coming on about once a week. I have not been home since I enlisted and have not much hopes of being 'til the war is over. And then, if I don't commit to Matrimony or some other unpardonable sin I am coming out as you say to enjoy some of the old times we used to have. And, by the way, if you will pick out some nice girl for me, I will take your town in my way home from the war. and take a wife with me. Mind no Copperheads taken. I would like to see George, the best of all things. Wonder if he knows Old Mar is married. I can't help laughing every time I think how badly the old thing was taken in. There was a man by the name of Learch came very near marrying her, so near that she had all her finery but when the day came he could not be found. I never saw Susies man. What sort of a looking man is he? You ask me if I ever saw Mary's little girls, of course not. _____ people how unlucky. But to quit this foolishness we are still here in Chattanooga with the Rebel army in full view of us. And more or less, cannonading every day for at least two weeks. Yesterday and today have been quite cool, but I have a very pleasant room to stay in but I have been out in the cold all day and this must be some excuse for poor writing. Frank I had the pleasure of walking home with one of the fair sex of Chattanooga last night but as she rubbed snuff I could not muster courage to kiss her so you may know I did not enjoy the trip much like I told her here -- ever that I would like her not to use any for the next week and I would call next Sunday evening so I am looking forward in hope of one happy moment during my three years. Write soon. Yours truly.

John W. Marshall