Dear Col. Orchard:  
Oct. 16th. '62.

My Dear Barrett,

I write hurriedly on my knee a few lines that may never reach you—For there are no envelopes to cover them nor regular mails to carry them.

You have read the affair at Chaplin the other day. I infer from Breckinridge and Cheatham themselves & to be.

1st. Cowards, or
2nd. Imbéciles, or
3rd. Traitors

Every officer in the Army feels knows that Bragg was in our grasp there if Gen. H. or they had either of them done their duty. But so far were they from helping Gen. McCook & Hinesdaw and in their fight—3 hours of it harder, or says McCook a good judge of fighting, than Skilod that Gilbert actually withdrew a division which was on McCook's right, and held it, while the fight was going on. If Gen. H. will be not removed by the President immediately the Army will go to the devil. In fact we all believe that Gen. H. is playing into Bragg's hands. Complaints are alarmingly frequent. The men are so disgusted at having to march—march now and never have a winning fight under a traitor. I'll write fully when I get where I can.