Salvator Jan 1863

My dear Sister

I received your letter just now by Mr. Castleton (dated Jan 3rd) I dont know what delay it so long. I was indeed surprised to hear this of Mrs. W.

I have seen Mr. Watson but I know nothing of the family do you know anything about them? If it is true to intention to sold Selma the had better leave. I am sure Mr. W will leave for home to day. I suppose she will be gone before the letter reaches you. I know of Know a place where Selma could go to at present, if Mrs. W hone would be a good home for Selma I am asking she should go with her, what is she to do here. I do not like the idea of her going to a family of which I know nothing of. I wish to the army and let me know all that you know about it. I will also give you the particular of the battle. We left Eagle Ford about 7 Oclock PM with about 20 pieces of light artillery and three thousand soldiers. I was ordered by Maj. right to report to Capt. Whitaker for duty during the battle, who placed me in charge of a field carman. We arrived in town about 4/4 Oclock AM, the cannon were placed along the strand street (which runs along the edge of the water) and a party of riflemen near the side of which were nothing after stationed. Just before day light the first gun was fired which was done by Mr. Haggard. One battery Capt. Whitakers gun 4 Min was stationed near the brick railroad house, then after the Harriet Lane was captured we went down through and fired into the Cavosco previously we had fired into the Harriet Lane. Maj. W. M. Holston introduced me to take
My gun to the army battery near which the Edithon &
Chessex was lying with a white flag hoisted on them.
This happened after the C & C was taken, & after
nearly all the one guns were pointed at the C & C
to prevent any treachery, some time after they both con-
menced moving off. I immediately sent a man to
the commander for permission to fire but he would
not permit it, saying not to fire until I had received
orders. I do not think he had any idea that they
intended to escape, when they got about a mile off,
some guns fired. I then did not wait for any orders
but fired as fast as I could. If all the guns had
been fired at him as they first moved off they would
have been torn all to pieces as they could have done.

It is a miracle that none of us were killed. But the
night I was most exposed to this. Capt. Whitaker sent
me with orders to Brig. Gen. Hallock who was at
the 11th battery detailed from the back ware house
and met the Brig. just before I got to the place where I
expected to find him. I walked through Strand vet.
through the hottest fire expecting every minute a ball
to pierce me. But God preserved me from harm.

There are 4 killed & 31 wounded in our regiment. John
Brettler was slightly wounded. I will write again soon.
Write to anyone & let me know as possible about Selma. God be
my love to you all & God bless you all.

From your affectionate Erastus Loomis