

On March April 16, 1863

Dear Father

Bollie, Jno & myself all have received letters from you in the last few two or three days. Dr James brought letters to Jno & myself yesterday. You see above that we are again on the move again marching to Cumberland Gap, or as the order Col Thornton got this morning read in "the direction of Cumberland Gap." The order was sudden and was as I have quoted, so far as related to our destination & all I think Col Thornton understands of our destination, he acquired from the order. He expects more explicit orders, or to see Genl. Grace in person before we go much further. We did not leave our camp at Lees Springs about 12 this morning, and halted early this evening. Consequently ~~we~~ ^{have} not marched more than 12 miles. Col Thornton is commanding the Legion the 1st, 2d & 3d Battalions, the 4th was sent this morning to Strawberry Plain on the Knoxville Rail Road to relieve the 43 Ala Reg which I suppose will follow us directly. Porter's Battery is also along with us. The 63rd Iowa Reg is already at the Gap. These are all in Genl. Grace's Brigade. I suppose our move to the Gap is in connection with some anticipated advance or move of the enemy in Kentucky reported now to be under Burnside. But I have so little idea of the true state of the case I suppose that I had better cease to surmise even.

Pollio addressed Col Thorington a communication a few days ^{since} requesting him to decide which is the ranking officer Col Sanford or himself? No reply yet Col Thorington will leave it to a higher tribunal. He is very ignorant on military matters and has committed several blunders consequently has lost confidence in himself. He is as big a failure I believe as Col Hilliard. The Legion though is much superior in every respect now to what it was, no credit however is due Thorington, all is due Commanders of Battalions for what their Battalions are.

You think the "savita in modo" the best policy - I agree with you and am pleased to act on it generally but in the particular ^{Case} I do not think it would answer. All men you know cannot be treated alike. Force must be met with force.

Overbearing men must be made to know other men adopt the other policy as well as themselves, but as far as possible it ought to be used by all of us. The Legion I think are inclined to like Grace very much. Thorington & the Field officers of the 1st 2 & 3 Battalions at least of the 4th I cannot speak. To night is a very pleasant night and clear, I trust the weather will continue so until our expedition is accomplished.

Genl Pegram I think was awfully thrashed or at least made a signal failure on his Kentucky trip & I suppose it has made the enemy bold enough to make some move which we are now to meet. It would be pleasant to see Tennessee Hills crimsoned with Traitors & her own reregades blood.

3

Within the last few days a communication has
from the Company Officers of the 63. Tenn Reg, has
appeared in the Knoxville Register reflecting seriously
on Genl Gracie's character as an officer and as a man.
The occasion of it was the refusal on Genl Donelson's
part to remove them from Gracie's Brigade and
place them in Jackson which they petitioned to be
done, the accusations or insinuations rather are very severe
on Genl Gracie and are not only false and malicious
but in violation of military rules, What disposition will
be made of the officers who have acted so I cannot
say, but I do not believe Genl Gracie will allow
them to go unpunished.

I am writing by feeble fire light and but little wood
at night to keep a blaze so I will have to quit.
Health of the Battalion tolerably good - I believe we
have the largest number of men present, about
350 without the officers.

All the officers of this Battalion have been examined
Company officers I mean. Iron got back last and so
did Capt Wise; both passed satisfactory examinations.
Iron's from all accounts was among the most perfect,
nothing heard from Waldens or Mc Intyres cases which
went before the Board & afterwards to Richmond.
Nothing yet from Mg Stubblefield.
Love to all remember me to Sis

Yours
Cromshaw Hall



On march April 16, 1863

Dear Father

Bolling Jno & myself all have received letters from you in the last few two or three days. Dr James brought letters to Jno & myself yesterday You see above that we are again on the move again marching to Cumberland Gap or as the order Col Thorington got this morning read in "the direction of Cumberland Gap" The order was sudden and was as I have quoted so far as related to our destination & all I think Col Thorington un[tear in page] -stands of our destination, he acquired from [tear in page] order. He expects more explicit orders, or to [tear in page] Genl Gracie in person before we go much fur[tear in page] he did not leave our camp at Leas Springs [tear in page] about 12 this morning and halted early this even consequently ^{have} ~~did~~ not marched more than 10 or 12 miles. Col Thorington is commanding the Legion the 1st 2^d & 3^d Battalions. The 4th was sent this morning to Strawberry Plains on the Knoxville Rail Road to relieve the 43 Ala Reg which I suppose will follow us directly. Baxters Battery is also along with us. The 63 Tenn Reg is already at the Gap. These are all in Genl Gracies Bridgade I suppose our move to the Gap is in connection with some anticipated advance or move of the enemy in Kentuck reported now to be under Burnside. But I have so little idea of the true state of the case I suppose that I had better cease to surmise even

[page 2]

Bolling addressed Col Thorington a communication a few days ^{since} requesting him to decide which is the ranking officer Col Sanford or himself? No reply yet Col Thorington will leave it to a higher tribunal. He is very ignorant on military matters and has committed several blunders consequently has lost confidence in himself. He is as big a failure I believe as Col Hilliard The Legion though is much superior in every respect now to what it was. No credit however is due Thorington. All is due commanders of Battalions for what their Battalions are

You think the "suaviter in modo" the best policy - [tear in page] I agree with you and am pleased to act on [tear in page] generally but in the particular ^{case} I do not think it would answer. All men you know cannot be treated alike. Force must be met with force. Overbearing men must be made to know others [tear in page] adopt the other policy as well as them selves.

But as far as possible it ought to be used by all of us. The Legion I think are inclined to like Gracie very much. Thorington & the Field officers of the 1st 2^d & 3^d Battalions at least of the 7th I can not speak. To night is a very pleasant night and clear. I trust the weather will continue so until this expedition is accomplished. Genl Pegram I think was awfully thrashed or at least made a signal failure in his Kentucky trip & I suppose it has made the enemy bold enough to make some move which we are now to meet. It would be pleasant to see Tennessee Hills crimsoned with Traitors & her own renegades blood.

[page 3]

Within the last few days a communication has from the company officers of the 63. Tenn Reg. has appeared in the Knoxville Register reflecting seriously on Genl Gracies character as an officer and as a man The occasion of it was the refusal on Genl Donelsons part to remove them from Gracies Brigade and place them in Jackson which they petitioned to be done. The accusations or insuations rather are very severe on Genl Gracie, and are not only false and malicious but in violation of military rules. What disposition *[tear in page]* be made of the officers who have acted so I cannot say, but I do not believe Genl Gracie will allow them to go unpunished.

I am writing by feeble fire light and but little wood at night to keep a blaze so I will have to quit Health of the Battalion tolerably good - I believe we have the largest number of men present, about 350, without the officers.

All the officers of this Battalion have been examined company officers I mean. Jno got back last and so did Capt Wise; both passed satisfactory examinations. Jno's from all accounts was among the most perfect. Nothing heard from Waldens or McItyres cases which went before the Board & afterwards to Richmond Nothing yet from Maj Stubblefield.

Love to all remember me to Sis

Yrs &c

Crenshaw Hall