

Camp near Shelbyville Tenn
Jan 23rd 1863

My Dear Sister
I wrote you four days
ago, since which time we have had a
succession of rain snow, sleet and every
thing else that is disagreeable. We have
consequently had the most unpleasant winter
season that I ever experienced. Two
days ago Col. Summitt and myself conde-
-ided that we would put up our tent, we
having for several days past been staying
under a log. So early in the morning
I had some men at work building us
a chimney. It kept raining a little
all day but we kept at work and just
before night we had the chimney
completed and our tent erected; but
just at that time it commenced
raining very hard and in a short
time all the mud was washed
off the chimney and left nothing

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but the naked sticks remaining on
the stem of the Chimney. Still I
made up a large fire and kept it
up for the greater portion of the night.
Every few minutes I would look up
the Chimney to see whether it was burning
or not, and it reminded me very forcibly
of the old Chimney at home when you
would make M^r and Ann look up it
two or three times before going to bed
to ascertain whether it was on fire
or not. Next morning I had
it re-daubed with mud and have
kept a good fire going ever since.
This evening the Sun is shining
out and the weather is quite pleasant
but too warm I think to last long.

The last letter I had from you was
dated the 25th Dec^r more than a
month ago and you may not assume
that I am getting quite anxious to

hear from you again. I cannot
imagine why it is that our letters
are so long reaching their destination
I hope by this time you have received
my letter by Hoodin's people and that
you are satisfied that I am all right
since the Battle of Murfreesboro

I have just been reading a Mobile
paper of the 15th Inst which publishes
a list of the killed & wounded of
the 34th Ala Reg. but which is
incorrect almost from beginning to end
with the exception of Col Buck. It
reports one severely wounded and Col.
Permitt wounded in the face, neither of
which is true. Sigs Spraggins was the only
person of your acquaintance that was wounded
in my old Company. and he was very slightly
wounded. From all that I can learn
there seems to be some very important
move on foot here but what it is, I
cannot tell. Some think that it

is a forward and others that it is
a serious movement of an
kind and to believe either
reported that thousands of making
very important for another address
upon us but by some this is doubted
I suppose the facts have concluded to
spend the winter campaigning
back to go into White States State.
But more stands the exposure especially
will and better in fact than I
now expected they appear. I am
gaining and somewhat I assure you.
That would I hope you just for a little
short visit to home but also this is
desired a great deal must be content.
I trust is my will, and always expect
to begin good spirits. John Mac
Kamara here two days ago from Chatt
anooga. He is in fair health. In
mention in your last letter something
about employment. I am glad to hear

Camp Near Shelbyville, Tenn.
Jan. 22nd, 1863.

My Dear Bettie:

I wrote you four days ago since which time we have had a success of rain snow, sleet, and everything else that is disagreeable. We have certainly had the most unpleasant weather recently that I ever experienced. Two days ago Col. Dennett and myself concluded that we would put up our tent. We have for several days past been staying under a fly. So early in the morning I had some men at work building us a chimney. It kept raining a little all day but we kept at work and just before night we had the chimney completed and our tent erected; but just at that time it commenced raining very hard and in a short time all the mud was washed off the chimney, and left nothing but the naked sticks remaining on the stem of the chimney. Still I made up a large fire and kept it up for the greater portion of the night. Every few minutes I would look up the chimney to see whether it was burning or not, and it reminded me very forcibly of the old chimney at home when you would make Vic and Ann look up it two or three times before going to bed to ascertain whether it was on fire or not. Next morning I had it re-daubed with mud and have kept a good fire going ever since. This evening the sun is shining out and the weather is quite pleasant but too warm I think to last long.

The last letter I had from you was dated the 23rd Dec. more than a month ago and you may rest assured that I am getting quite anxious to hear from you again. I cannot imagine why it is that our letters are so long reaching their destination. I hope by this time you have received my letter by Hoodenpyle and that you are satisfied that I am all right since the Battle at Murfreesboro. I have just been reading a Mobile paper of the 15th inst. which publishes a list of the killed & wounded of the 24th Ala. Regt., but which is incorrect almost from beginning to end with the exception of Col. Burk. It reports me severely wounded and Col. Dennett wounded in the face, neither of which is true. Sigh Spraggins was the only person of your acquaintance that was wounded in my old company and he was very slightly wounded. From all that I can learn there seems to be some very important move on foot here but what it is I cannot tell. Some think that it is a forward and others that it is a retrograde movement I am fully prepared to believe either. It is reported that Rosincrans is making every preparation for another advance upon us, but some this is doubted. I suppose the Yanks have concluded to open the winter campaigning and not to go into Winter Quarters at all. Our men stand the exposure remarkably well much better in fact than I ever expected they would. I am getting very homesick I assure you. What would I not give just for a little short visit to home but also this is denied. I must be content. Newt is very well and always appears to be in good spirits. John More arrived here two days ago from Chattanooga. He is in fine health. You mentioned in your last letter something about employing Tom Mullin to overlook your business. I think that would be a very good assignment provided he has the time. Tom has had experience enough to make him a good farmer. Any arrangements of that kind which you may make will be perfectly satisfactory to me.

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The main object will be to make corn, peas, potatoes & in abundance while the war continues. My love to Mag, Julia, Mary, Mother, & Papa. Tell Squire Copeland that I would be very much pleased to hear from him. If I had paper I would write to all my neighbors but I can get barely enough to write to you. How is Bro. Burgin getting along. When you see him tell him that I intend to write to him as soon as I have time and opportunity. Remember me to old Sister Smiley. I hope that she is getting along well. I feel as if there never a day passes but that the prayers ascend to Heaven in my behalf.

Remember me with a kiss to all the dear children. May God in mercy Bless and protect you My Dearest One.

Good Bye
Your Devoted Husband,
Newton.