

My Dear Fattie

Camp near Shelbyville, Tenn
Friday, March 6th 1863

I am up this morning for the second time but still feel very weak and full. I have had no bloody operations now for two or three days but my bowels are not altogether right yet. But still I hope that I will be all well again in a few more days. The wind blowed very hard all night with an occasional shower of rain. This morning we had a very heavy shower about breakfast time. Our Brigade has just received orders to cook two days Rations and be ready to march at a minutes notice. I am not informed as to the object of the expected move, but think that it is to go out to the place where we were on Pickens last week. We received information yesterday evening that the Brigade which relieved us out there, had a fight with the enemy yesterday morning, but what the extent of it was I did not learn. It is the opinion of many, that we are to go out to re-enforce the Brigade at present, only there should the fight be renewed. But all our intended movements, are kept secret from us. We never know which way we are going untill

we start and then never know where we shall
we get there. It is the opinion of some, that
Cosmocracy has commenced another grand
advance upon us, if so it will not be many
days before we have another general Battle not
many miles from here. As the order we have
is merely to cook two days Rations and be ready
to march at a minutes notice, it is not prop-
-tely certain that we have to day. But if we
do leave, I am at a loss to know what to do.
I am not able to do duty and if I should go
along with the Regiment will perhaps be exposed
a good deal to the rain and cold which would
lay me up probably for weeks. If our tents
are left in Camp I think I shall remain
behind, but if they are taken away and the
Camp broken up, I shall be compelled either
to go along or else go to a Hospital. Future
events alone can decide which course I shall
adopt.

In your letter of the 7th Feb. you asked my advice
about building a house this next summer provided
nothing happens. I am perfectly willing for

you to use your own judgement in that respect
I know that it is something that you need very
much and I am reminded very hard pain
we have of that fact. You mentioned in your
letter how much frightened you were the night of
the storm, for fear the old house would fall down
on your head. What does your Papa think
about it. I know that you will have great
difficulty in getting Nails enough if you do not take
it. You asked my advice about having George
plowed a little this summer. He is not three
years old yet and any heavy work might
injure him, but a little light easy plowing
perhaps would not hurt him or a little light
houlting in the wagon. Tell John to be very
careful in breaking him and not to let him
run away or get injured in any way.

I am sorry to hear that Jim is sick, but
still he ought to think himself very fortunate
in being sick at Home. But to be sick
in a miserable muddy camp like this, oh it
terrible. I had rather be sick a month at
home than ten days here. You state

Camp Near Shelbyville, Tenn.
Friday, March 8th, 1863.

My Dear Bettie:

I am up this morning for the second time but still feel very weak and feeble. I have had no bloody operations now for two or three days, but my bowels are not altogether right yet. But still I hope that I will be all well again in a few more days. The wind blowed very hard all night with an occasional shower of rain. This morning we had a very heavy shower about breakfast time. Our Brigade has just received orders to cook two days rations and be ready to march at a few minutes notice. I am not informed as to the object of the expected move, but think that it is to go out to the place where we were on picket last week. We received information yesterday evening that the Brigade which relieved us out there, had a fight with the enemy yesterday morning, but what the extent of it was I did not learn. It is the opinion of many that we are to go out to reinforce the Brigade at present out there, should the fight be renewed. But all our intruded movements are kept secret from us. We never know which way we are going until we start and then never know where too until we get there. It is the opinion of some that Rosencrans has commenced another grand advance upon us, if so it will not be many days before we have another general battle not many miles from here. As the order we have is merily to cook two days rations and be ready to march at a minutes notice, it is not positively certain that we leave today, but if we do leave I am at a loss to know what to do. I am not able to do duty and if I should go along with the Regiment will perhaps be exposed a good deal to the rain and cold which would lay me up probably for weeks. If our tents are left in camp I think I shall remain behind, but if they are taken away and the camp broken up, I shall be compelled either to go along or else go to a hospital. Future events alone can decide which course I shall adopt.

In your letter of the 7th Feb. you asked my advice about building a house this next summer provided nothing happens. I am perfectly willing for you to use your own judgment in that respect. I know that it is something that you need very much and I am reminded every hard rain we have of that fact. You mentioned in your letter how much frightened you were the night of the storm, for fear the old house would fall down on your head. What does your Papa think about it. I know that you will have great difficultry in getting nails enough if you undertake it. You asked my advice about having George plowed a little this summer. He is not three years old yet and any heavy work might injure him, but a little light easy plowing perhaps would not hurt him or a little light hauling in the wagon. Tell John to be very careful in breaking him and not to let him run away or get injured in any way.

I am sorry to hear that Jim is sick, but still he ought to think himself very fortunate in being sick at home, but to be sick in a miserable muddy camp like this, Oh its terrible. I had rather be sick a month at home than two days here.

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You state that Jim had conscribed, Josh Smiley and Jephtha Jones. I was under the impression that Jones was over 40. I think that it would not be any benefit to the service for him to return. He never did any duty while in the service before, but on the contrary was an expense to government nearly all the time. He might perhaps be able to do some duty at some Post or Garrison where he wouldnot have any marching to do, but he will not be able for service in the field.

I don't think that I stated in my last letter that Col. Buck had returned. He came back last week. He is in bad health and still sufferes with his hand. So Hammie has a bird trap to catch birds. Papa wishes that he may catch a great many for him and his little sisters. Tell dear little Willie that Papa will write her a little letter as soon as he gets well good. And dear little Maggie can walk and talk. Oh how anxious I am to see her once more and hear her lisp the sweet name of Mama. Give them all a kiss for Pa. May Heaven Bless and Protect you my dearest one.

Good Bye,
Your Devoted Husband,
Newton.

Since I finished my letter the Brigade received orders to march at twelve O'Clock. The men did not have time to cook their rations to carry with them, so they all had to leave without any thing. They left three or four men behind from each company to cook their rations which will be sent out to them this evening in a wagon. They left all their tents and baggage behind in camp. They expect to be gone only two days unless circumstances render it necessary for them to remain longer. The Doctor advised me to stay in camp so I obeyed his orders and now am left all alone not exactly alone either for Col. Buck is here with me, he being too unwell to go himself. He will doubtless have a lonesome time of it. I dislike very much to be away from my Regiment when there is any duty to do, but I thought it providence this time to remain in camp. Remember me to Papa and Mother and all the family.

Newton.