

Friday Evening March 20<sup>th</sup> 1863  
Camp near Shilohville

My Dear Petta

It is now nearly night but I have concluded to commence a letter to you and perhaps I will be able to finish it tomorrow morning before the Post Master leaves for the office. I have just returned from a Brigade drill. We had a very pleasant, and to me, a very interesting drill. It is quite a beautiful sight to see two thousand men, all in one line manuevering on the field at one time. This evening we had two Brigades, about forty five hundred men out on the field. We have been favored now with some delightful weather for several days past, but this evening it has clouded up and has every appearance of rain soon. Next Monday our Brigade goes out on Picket again and I suppose the bad weather will continue about that time. The present week was our regular turn to go on picket, but in consequence of our Brigade having done so much duty of that kind, since we have been here, it was relieved from duty this week and another unit in its place. I wrote you three days ago acknowledging the receipt of a letter and clothes by Hordenspyke. The letter was dated the 9<sup>th</sup>, To day I received

one from you dated the first, and I suppose there is still another behind dated somewhere between the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. The sun has retired behind the western hills, and night is setting in, so I shall close till morning.

Saturday Morning March 21<sup>st</sup> After a pretty good night's rest, I again resume my little chit-chat. We had quite a dark and windy night, but little rain. It is still cloudy and cold and I expect that we will have either rain or snow, or both, before it clears off again. This morning I have on my new pants for the first time. They fit me elegantly. They were a little too long, and I had them cut off, just the width of the hem and turned up again. I feel very proud of them indeed. I am all right now in the way of clothes for some time, I hope. I received with my clothes, a silk Tobacco Bag, with some crocheted work around it and my name embroidered upon it. To whose fair hands, am I indebted for the gift. I am no smoker and shall never pollute it with Tobacco but will keep it as a memento of the maker. I wrote you in my last letter about the Christa. It is a matter of very little difference to me, whether

they be checked or striped. In times like these we should not consult our tastes and fancies too much, but should be guided alone by our actual wants and necessities and feel grateful when we can get them, even supplied. I am glad to hear that your wheat looks so fine and promising. I do hope that Providence will favor you this year with an abundant crop. You and the children will forget how a Biscuit tastes, if you do not get some Flour soon. I am sorry that you lost one of your Cows and a Lamb. I suppose the children regretted more, the loss of the Lamb, than its Mother. The little thing was killed I reckon by kindness. So So. P. P. did lose your letter. I expected, that it was lost, when I heard that he had lost his Carpet Bag. I understand that he lost a large bundle of letters for persons in Pickens County. But fortunately he lost no money. You ask my advice about planting Cotton. I hardly know what to advise you. Corn, Peas, Potatoes Pumpkins. He should constitute the principle crop. and any surplus you may have of these articles will bring a good price. Any thing to eat. will as long as the War continues, bring a high price. Truly

potatoes are now worth from ten to fifteen dollars per bushel. Onions from ten to twelve dollars. I would think it advisable to plant a small patch of Cotton say - two or three acres, enough to supply you plentifully with spinning Cotton, and other purposes of home use. I suppose that you are nearly done planting Corn by this time, except the two wet places I suppose that you will have got a good water molen patch. Are you planted any Irish Potatoes, or has you had any seed sent. It is long that your Potatoes were added out. I suppose that you were attended to that. I am sorry to hear that old sister Emily is still suffering. And Emma Morris is "teaching the young idea how to shoot". Pa. Little had. I think that she would be a School Teacher. I would not have surprised me to hear that James was teaching. but I never dreamed of Lem being a teacher. I think it very commendable for her and hope that she may succeed, even beyond her expectations. I am not within 100 of her yet. I respect that he will think I am a very busy correspondent. I have had so much to do this week that I have not had time to write to him and all

Friday Evening  
March 20th 1863.  
Camp Near Shelbyville.

My Dear Bettie:

It is now nearly night but I have concluded to commence a letter to you and perhaps I will be able to finish it tomorrow morning before the Post Master leaves for the office. I have just returned from A Brigade Drill. We had a very pleasant, and to me, a very interesting drill. It is quite a beautiful sight to see two thousand men, all in one line maneuvering on the field at one time. This evening we had two Brigades, about forty five hundred men out on the field. We have been favored now with some delightful weather for several days past, but this evening it has clouded up and has every appearance of rain soon. Next Monday our Brigade goes out on Picket again and I suppose the bad weather will commence about that time. The present week was our regular turn to go on picket, but in consequence of our Brigade having done so much duty of that kind since we have been here, it was relieved from duty this week and another sent in its place. I wrote you three days ago acknowledging the receipt of a letter and clothes by Hoodenpyle. The letter was dated the 9th. To day I received one from you dated the first and I suppose there is still another behind dated some where between the 4th & 5th. The sun has retired behind the western hills, and night is setting in, so I shall close till morning.

Saturday Morning March 21st. After a pretty good night's rest, I again resume my little chit chat. We had quite a dark and windy night but little rain. It is still cloudy and cold and I expect that we will have either rain or snow, or both before it clears off again. This morning I have on my new pants for the first time. They fit me elegantly. They were a little too long and I had them cut off just the width of the hem and turned up again. I feel very proud of them indeed. I am all right now in the way of clothes for some time I hope. I received with my clothes, a Silk Tobacco Bag, with some crochet work around it and my name embroidered upon it. To whose fair hands, am I indebted for the gift. I am no smoker and shall never pollute it with Tobacco, but will keep it as a memento of the maker. I wrote you in my last letter about the shirts. It is a matter of very little difference to me whether they be checked or striped. In times like these we should not consult our tastes and fancies too much, but should be guided alone by our actual wants and necessities and feel grateful when we can get them, even supplied. I am glad to hear that your wheat looks so fine and promising. I do hope that providence will favor you this year with an abundant crop. You and the children will forget how a biscuit tastes, if you do not get some flour soon. I am sorry that you lost one of your Ewes and a Lamb. I suppose the children regretted more the loss of the Lamb than its Mother. The little thing was killed I reckon by kindness. So Lieut. Dunlap did lose your letter. I expected, that it was lost, when I heard that he had lost his carpet bag. I understand that he lost a large bundle of letters for persons in Pickens County, but fortunately he lost no money.

Page 2:

You ask my advice about planting cotton. I hardly know what to advise you. Corn, Peas, Potatoes, Pumpkins. He should constitute the principle crop and any surplus you may have of these articles will bring a good price. Any thing to eat will as long as the war continues bring a high price. Sweet Potatoes are now worth from ten to fifteen dollars per bushel. Onions from ten to twelve dollars. I would think it advisable to plant a small patch of cotton say two or three acres. Enough to supply you plentifully with spinning cotton and other purposes of home use. I suppose that you are nearly done planting corn by this time, except the low wet places. I suppose that you will have you a good water melon Patch. Have you planted any Irish Potatoes, or did you have any seed to plant. It is time that Sweet Potatoes were bedded out though I suppose you have attended to that. I am sorry to hear that Old Sister Smiley is still suffering from her fall. And Emma Norris is "teaching the young idea how to shoot." Little did I think that she would be a School Teacher. It would not have surprised me to hear that Fanny was teaching, but I never dreamed of Em being a teacher. I think it very commendable in her and hope that she may succeed, even beyond her expectations. I have not written to Bro Lyles yet, I expect that he will think that I am a very lazy correspondent. I have had so much to do this week that I have not had time to write to him.

My tent is full of Officers laughing and talking and they confuse me so that I cannot write. If I have made any mistakes I think that you will be able to correct them. Hammie I see likes to stay with his Grandpa. Tell Grand Pa that he must not wean him away from you entirely.

Col. Buck has been very sick for several days. The Doctor sent him to a private House in the Country a few days ago. I believe that I have scribbled you every thing that I can think of at present. Every thing remains quiet at the front. So far as I can learn. I don't know what the Yanks are at. Wor do I do know whether they intend to advance upon us here or not.

Remember me with a kiss from to all the dear children. May Heaven bless you my Dearest One.

Good Bye,  
Your Devoted Husband,  
Newton.

Tell Em, Anne, Vic, Remus, Neulin, and all the servants howdy.