

Camp near Shelbyville Tenn  
Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Pettie

As I am blessed with an idle hour or two this evening, I have concluded to devote them to writing you a short epistle. I wrote you about three days ago since which time, nothing of any interest has transpired in Camp. We have had very unpleasant weather all week. Part of the time it was exceedingly cold and windy. We were compelled to keep good fires and stay by them to be comfortable. I don't think that the fruit crop has been injured yet very materially, as it has been too windy every night for much frost. My health has been tolerably good. I am still troubled at times with Diarrhea. I am now in command of the Regiment and have been since the Resignation of Col. Permitt, and I have to about the Camp all the time, to receive and issue orders, which are received, more or less, every day. Col. Beck is still absent sick at a house in the Country. He is in very bad health and I fear that it will be some time before he will be able to do any duty in the field. I regret his absence very much, but still I get along very well. We have one of the best Adjutants in the army and he is a great assistance to me. The Companies

Have all gone out to drill in Company Dill for our  
hour. It is always a great bore to the men now, to  
drill, especially in Company Dill. They have it to do  
more from duty, than necessity, they have been drilling  
so long, that they cannot see any reason now for it.

They like Battalion or Brigade drill much better  
because, that always interests them. When men are  
in camp all the time, I think a drill every day for  
an or two hours, is a benefit to them. A great many  
men while in camp never take any exercise at all  
unless they are forced to it. They lay about camp  
and in their tents as if they were almost lifeless  
and do nothing but eat and sleep, untill they become  
sloppy, indolent and no account for any thing.

Our Brigade has now been permanently assigned  
to the command of Col. Manigault, the Col. of  
the 10<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Regiment. He is oldest Col.  
in the Confederate service. I don't mean in age, but  
by date of Commission. He has been recommended by  
Gen. Bragg, for promotion to Brigadier Genl. He is a  
most excellent officer, very pleasant and sociable and  
respectable in his manners, and very strict in his  
discipline. Like all South Carolinians I believe.

My dear  
I have  
written  
to  
you  
many  
times  
but  
I  
do  
not  
know  
if  
you  
have  
received  
any  
of  
them  
I  
am  
very  
truly  
yours  
John  
C. Calhoun

he is very fond of foot racing, wrestling, Ball,  
Prisoners Base, and all those old fashioned sports.  
A few evenings ago, he had out nearly the entire  
Boys on the old field, playing Prisoners Base. He  
challenged the Alabamians and put the South Carolinians  
against them. The first game the Alabamians  
took all the South Carolinians prisoners, the second  
game continued untill dark, when the South Carolinians  
were four prisoners ahead. He had a foot race  
some time ago for a thousand dollars, between two  
men from Alabama, one of them was very badly  
beaten. Tom Leonard arrived here yesterday  
evening. Also, a Mr Duncan and a young Brown,  
they came in charge of George Howard. They  
report the wheat crop, as looking finely, a good deal  
of it having headed out. I had no idea that it  
was so forward. I hope that the recent cold spells  
have not injured it. The wheat in this section  
of country, is not more than three or four inches  
high, just beginning to cover the ground. I  
have heard of no one planting corn yet. The only  
vegetables that I have seen up in any of the Gardens  
are onions. I feel very anxious about the

provision crop. This year, as I believe now, that our  
crop is this year, as I believe now, that our  
upon the ability of the South to supply the people  
and the Army with provisions with a good  
crop this year. I think that our estimate  
success will be certain. Oh, as your crop  
holding out, do you think that you will have enough to do  
you with what you bought from your people. What fields  
have you planted in corn and how much. Did you  
have what amount to sow all the fields in front of  
the house. I wish to know much from curiosity.  
It is impossible for me to give you any advice that will  
be much better, as it has been so long since I was at  
home, that I cannot tell how things look or what  
will be for the best, so far as passing a command  
your Pappas judgment is better than mine and I  
know that he will always advise you what he thinks  
best to do. I have had no letter from you now for  
several days but am looking for one every day.  
Every thing remains quiet now so far as I can  
hear. It was reported yesterday that Gen. Jackson  
had captured two Regiments of a Rebels Army  
one of them being the famous Stokes Regiment.

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My Dear Bettie:

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Tom Leonard arrived here yesterday evening. Also, a Mr. Duncan and a young Brown. They came in charge of Sergt. Howard. They report the wheat crop as looking finely, a good deal of it having headed out. I had no idea that it was so forward. I hope that the recent cold spells have not injured it. The wheat in

this section of country is not more than three or four inches high, just beginning to cover the ground. I have heard of no one planting corn yet. The only vegetables that I have seen up in any of the gardens are onions. I feel very anxious about the provision crop this year as I believe now, that our success in this present war, depends principally upon the ability of the South to supply the people and the army with provisions. With a good crop this year I think that our ultimate success will be certain. How is your corn holding out. Do you think that you will have enough to do you with what you bought from your Papa. What fields have you planted in corn and how much. Did you have wheat enough to sow all the field in front of the house. I wish to know merely from curiosity. It is impossible for me to give you any advice that will be of much benefit, as it has been so long since I was at home that I cannot tell how things look and what will be for the best, so far as farming is concerned. Your Papa's judgment is better than mine and I know that ~~x~~ he will always advise you what he thinks best to do. I have had no letter from you now for several days, but am looking for one every day. Every thing remains quiet now so far as I can learn. It was reported yesterday that Gen. Van Dorn had captured two Regiments Yankee Cavalry, one of them being the Notorious Stoke's Regiment. I hope that the report may prove true. I must get ready for Dress Parade and will finish tomorrow morning in time for the mail. So I bid you good evening for the present, and hope to dream of you and the dear little ones to night.

Sunday Morning, April 5th. This morning we have a heavy frost. The ground in every direction was perfectly white. Last night the Adjutant and several other officers gave Col. Manigault a Sernade. They sang some very pretty songs. They had two violins in the party. Adam Gass from **Columbus** was with the party. He has a Nephew who is Buglar for our Regiment. It was reported yesterday evening that a portion of the Third Georgia Cavalry Regiment were taken prisoners by the Yanks. That Regiment seems to be unfortunate. They were taken prisoners once before in Kentucky. There is nothing new in camp this morning. The Post Master is ready to go so I will have to close. Tell all the dear children howdy. I hope that you and they are all well. May Kind Heaven Bless you my dearest.

Good Bye,  
Your Devoted Husband,  
Newton.

I made a careless mistake and commenced my letter on the wrong side of the sheet. I have no stamps and you will have to pay the postage this time. I have written to Atlanta for some, but they have not arrived yet.