

Picket Camp 4th Brigade
Saturday June 13th 1863

My Dear Peter

Owing to unavoidable circumstances I have delayed writing you two days longer than I intended, but I trust that this will be the more welcome by being a little later. My last letter was written to you on Sunday last in which I enclosed you one hundred \$100 Dollars and of course I feel greatly interested in it reaching you safely. I dislike to take the risk of sending money by Mail but I have no other alternative. I have either to send it in that way or not send it at all. Every thing has remained quiet during the week until yesterday. Early yesterday morning our ears were greeted with the familiar sound of Musketry at the front and soon after a courier came in and informed us that the enemy were advancing in large force and had driven in our Pickets. Orders were issued to our Brigade to cook our days rations immediately and hold themselves in readiness to meet the enemy. We were thus kept in suspense until late in the evening when a second courier came in and informed our Brigade Commander that the enemy had retired. It proved to be nothing but a foraging party sent out by the enemy. There are some fine wheat and clover fields on the line of pickets between us and Manassasburg and the Ganks are very anxious to appropriate them to their own use. This morning every thing is as quiet as usual. All nature is as beautiful and calm as if the sound of War had never been heard in the land.

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My Dear Bettie:

Owing to unavoidable circumstances I have delayed writing you two days longer than I intended, but I trust that this will be the more welcome by being a little later. My last letter was written to you on Sunday last in which I enclosed you one hundred \$100 Dollars, and of course I feel greatly interested in it reaching you safely. I dislike to take the risk of sending money by mail, but I have no other alternative. I have either to send it in that way, or not send it all all. Every thing has remained quiet during the week until yesterday. Early yesterday morning our ears were greeted with the familiar sound of musketry at the front and soon after a courier came in and informed us that the enemy were advancing in large force and had driven in our pickets. Orders were issued to our Brigade to cook one days rations, immediately and hold themselves in readiness to meet the enemy. We were thus kept in suspense until late in the evening when a second courier came in and informed our Brigade Commander that the enemy had retired. It proved to be nothing but a foraging party sent out by the enemy. There are some fine wheat and clover fields on the line of pickets between us and Murfreesboro and the Yanks are very anxious to appropriate them to their own use. This morning every thing is as quiet as usual. All nature is as beautiful and calm as if the sound of war had never been heard in the land.

Capt. McCracken's Company was ordered back to the Regiment on last Monday and another Company send in its place. Newt looks as well and hearty as usual. He received a letter from home yesterday which he gave me to read. It was written on the 4th Inst. They urge him to get a furlough and come home. I would be delighted if he could do so but under existing orders, it will be impossible for him to so. No furloughs are now granted except in cases of protracted illness. Applications are constantly being made in this Army for furloughs and they invariably come back rejected. Yesterday I was put in the mill and ground over again and came out a full blooded Col. Col. Buck's resignation came back a few days ago accepted and I was ordered before the Board to be examined for promotion to the Colonelcy, of the Regiment. It was the closest examination I have had yet but I came out "right side up". I hope that we will be relieved from picket duty next week. We have been on duty here so long that I am getting tired of it and besides our duties now are very heavy. We have 100 men detailed from our Regiment every day to work on the entrenchments, besides heavy details for guard duty. I am expecting Dunlap now in a few days. I hope he will call to see you before he leaves. I hope that you are still getting along well at home. Are you still needing rain. We have had very heavy rains up here recently and perhaps they have extended all the way down to you. Have you heard from Jim & Ira since they went to Vicksburg. We all waiting anxiously the result of operations at that point. Some are of the opinion that if we are successful there, that propositions for peace will be made by the Federal Government. I don't think now that we will have a general engagement up here until the fate of Vicksburg is settled. Remember me to Papa, Mother and all the family. Hammie & his pop corn,

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Willie and her little garden and dear little Maggie all growing and doing well I hope. Give them all a kiss for Pa. May God in Mercy bless and protect you is the prayer of your devoted Husband.

Newton.