



since the first of March. It is a very respectable Hotel  
and I shall be very glad just to get out of it. We are among  
the other members of the Board, and I shall have to get  
off again. Here I am sitting at night here through  
the dark months around you, and I shall be forced to  
bring into requisition an old tallow candle which does  
not burn as sweet as a pink and gives out a dim light  
at best. But it is the best that the Confederacy can afford at  
present and as I am anxious to get my letter expedited to  
night so as to mail it in the morning I shall have to do  
the best I can with it. I received your favor of the 14  
Inst yesterday just as I reached Camp Green Springs,  
perused it, to my sacred, times with much pleasure and satis-  
faction. All will at home I go to our consoling, worthy  
and I humbly pray God that they may continue, keep my ears  
from every epithet I receive from you while our separation  
shall continue. My waking thoughts and sleeping dreams  
are of thee and the dear children of our affection. I earnestly  
desire to see you all, some if not for a few days, but  
even if that desire was granted I very much fear that the pleas-  
ure I would enjoy would be very much marred by the thought  
of so early and painful separation. I agree exactly with you  
in regard to Portugal. I think married men have as good a  
right to go home to see their wives whom they fondly love and  
cherish, as young men have to go on a hunting expedition for one  
that they probably never saw before. I am glad to hear that  
Uncle Sam is enjoying himself again, but suppose that you have con-  
sidered that it was not well to put all our eggs in one basket  
and bowed down on account of Jones' absence.

Camp 24th Ala. Regt. on Duck River.  
Near Shelbyville, Tuesday June 23rd, 1863.

My Dear Bettie:

I have been quite anxious to write you for the last two days but owing to a prep of other duties I have failed to do so. I have not written as regularly to you recently as I desire to do, but I hope that I will be able to better after we get every thing fixed and settled quietly in camp again. Yesterday we were relieved from duty out on picket and returned to our camp on Duck River.

It was late in the day when we arrived here and I have been quite busy since superintending the arrangement of our camp. I have not gotten through yet still I have concluded to commence a letter to you with the expectation of being interrupted every five minutes by some one coming for orders or instruction. Here comes a courier now with orders of some kind so I must stop to see what it is. Well, Gen. Bragg, Inspector General has arrived and wishes to inspect our Brigade, so I must issue an order to the Regiment to prepare for the inspection and then get ready for it myself and hence the probabilities are that it will be late in the evening before I will be able to resume my letter again, so adieu for the present.

Well here I am again seated at my little desk. The inspection is over and I have only a few minutes to write before I will have something else to do. The Brigade Commander (Col. Manigault) has just send me word to convene the Examining Board of which I am President to examine some officers who have applied for promotion to fill vacancies which exist in some companies in the Brigade. I expect that I have examined fifty officers for promotion since the first of March. It is very responsible duty and I shall be very glad when I get rid of it. Here comes the other members of the Board and I shall have to quit off again.

Here I am again but night has thrown her dark mantle around me, and I shall be forced to bring into requisition an old tallow candle which does not smell as sweet as a pink and gives but a dim light at best. But it is the best that the Confederacy can afford at present and as I am anxious to get my letter completed to night so as to mail it in the morning I shall have to do the best I can with it.

I received your favor of the 14th Inst. yesterday just as I reached camp from picket. I perused its, to me sacred lines with much pleasure and satisfaction. "All well at home" are to me consoling words and I humbly pray God that they may continue to greet my ears from every epistle I received from you while our seperation shall continue. My waking thoughts and sleeping dreams are of thee and the dear children of our affection. I earnestly desire to see you all even if but for a few days, but even if that desire was granted I very much fear that the pleasure I would enjoy would be very much mored by the thought of so early and painful separation. I agree with you exactly in regard to furloughs. I think married men have as good a right to go home to see their wives whom they fondly love and cheerish, as young men have to go on a hunting expedition for one that they probably never saw before. I am glad to hear that Mag is enjoying herself again. I suppose that she has concluded that

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it was no use to put on a long face and go mourning and bowed down on account of Jim's absence. Miss Lizzie and Jimmie Anderson are good company and I suppose have quite a number of admirers every where they go. When I saw them last they were little girls wearing short dresses. If you should see them as they are if they have forgotten Cousin Newton. Capt. Godling is having a good easy time of it. His Company was in a heavy skirmish not long ago and lost several men, but I have never heard who they were. I am glad to hear that you have had a good shower of rain and that your prospects for a good corn crop are so flattering. You ask in your letter if I do not want some more over shirts. I would like very much to have two more jackets like these you sent me by Lieut. Dunlap nearly a year ago. They are made like the body of a ladies dress. I like them better than any thing I have ever seen since I have been in the army. I wore them all last summer and have been wearing them all this spring. But I doubt very much if you can get any thing now to make them out of. Goods of every description are very high and scarce. The shirts you sent me are so heavy that I am afraid they will be too warm for the summer. I suppose I shall have to do without under shirts this summer. It is impossible to get any here. My old ones are all about worn out. I guess I shall manage to get along some how. Newt is well and lively as a cricket.

You wish to hear something about Jephtha Jones. He was sent off to the hospital some three months ago. I think he is either at Atlanta or Rome, Georgia. He was taken sick soon after he came back to the Regiment. When I ascertain positively where he is I will let you know. I think it was a great pity that he was ever sent back to the army. He will be of no use here and he would be of some service to his family if he was at home. Tell Papa that I will make the effort to get a furlough for Newt just as soon as I think there is any probability of getting one and ditto for myself.

Little Willie has put her veto upon eating any more corn bread. Good for her. Tell her that Papa says that she may have just as many biscuits as she wants. What do you all do now for Sugar and coffee or do you ever have any at all.

Everything here is still quiet at the front. No fighting for several days that I have heard of. The news from Vicksburg is still cheering, also from Virginia. Our prospects are evidently beginning to brighten up. A few more days will evidently decide the fate of the Walnut Hill City. My candle is about to give out so I close. I fear that you will be puzzled to read what I have already written. Kiss all the dear children for Pa., and remember me to all. May God in mercy bless you my dearest. Good Bye.

Your Devoted Husband,  
Newton.