

Camp near Shelbyville, Tenn
Thursday May 7th 1863

My Dear Father

I wrote you a few days ago giving you all the news there afloat and I fully expected that before it came time for me to write again that I would have a letter from you, the receipt of which I would have the pleasure of acknowledging. I have had a considerable disturbance in the mail between here and Montgomery for the last few days and I suppose that your letters are delayed somewhere on the road. They will doubtless turn up all right after a while. The Rebels have destroyed the Rail Road in several places between Tusculum and Rome and created quite a panic in that region of country. Fortunately for us Gen. Forrest has succeeded in capturing the entire party with but a small loss on his side. Gen. Cragg received a dispatch from him two days ago informing him that he had captured this entire force, numbering about seventeen hundred (700) men with all their arms and equipments. Forrest fought them hard for several days before they would surrender. That

will put things easy in that section again
for a while at least. We have just ac-
cived information of another great battle in Va.
in which Gen Lee is said to be again victorious
Doubtless before this reaches you, you will have
received full particulars through the press
I suppose that our turn will come soon.
The Grants have taken Charleston, Wicksburg,
Port Hudson and Richmond and have failed
in all. If they fight us here in our present
position they will be badly whipped but if we
have to advance upon them and attack them in
their position there is no telling what the result
will be. It will doubtless be the most disastrous
battle which has been fought during the War.
The troops here all seem to be anxious for the fight
let it come when it will. Bragg's Army is evidently
in a better condition for a fight now than it ever
has been since he has been in command.

Capt Sawyer the Senior Captain in our Regt
has been examined and has been promoted to
the Majorship of our Regiment. I received
a letter from Col. Bush yesterday in

which he stated that his his health still
continued bad, that he was going to Mobile
and if advised by his physicians there, that
he intended to send in his resignation.

I should regret very much to have him resign
notwithstanding it gives me a chance for promotion.

He is a good Officer and liked by all the Officers
of the Regiment. His health is very delicate
and I think it very doubtful if he will be
able to stand another summer campaign.

We are having a very pleasant time of it
at our new Camp. It is the most pleasant
place we have been at for some time. If
the troops do not have good health here, it will
not be for the want of a healthy location. We
are about four Miles from Shelbyville on the
Louisburg Pike. Capt McCrackens' Company
was ordered away a few days ago to work
on the entrenchments in front of Shelbyville. Gen.
Bragg is having a line of entrenchments thrown up
reaching from here to to Wartrace on the Rail
Road a distance of two Miles. I cannot
imagine what the object can be, unless it is

to make his position here, impracticable, so
that he may be able to send off a large
force to meet the Yankee Marauders below.

It has been raining slowly for the last
twenty four hours and it has no appearance of
stopping yet. It is quite cool and disagreeable
and it is something but pleasant to be cooped up in a
tent all day long. Sometimes I go to bed and crawl
up to sleep warm. I received a letter from
Pa. & Mother to day. At the time you were
at your Camp and told them how you had
been and Mary. Be sure you have some
more clothes made for the winter season from the
Yankees. I have just learned through parties over
Shiloh that Gen. Adams had succeeded in
capturing the whole of that Yankee force in Mississippi
with the exception of some two or three Companies. I hope
that is true. Tell Papa & Mother that I think
of them often and would write to them but I know
that they see and read all my letters to you, which
answers the same purpose. Remember me to them
with the kindest recollections. My love to all
the family and regards to all inquiring friends.

Camp Near Shelbyville, Tenn.
Thursday May 7th, 1863.

My Dear Bettle:

I wrote you a few days ago giving you all the news then afloat and I fully expected that before it came time for me to write again, that I would have a letter from you, the receipt of which I would have the pleasure of acknowledging. There had been considerable disturbance in the mails between here and Montgomery for the last few days and I suppose that your letters are delayed some where on the road. They will doubtless turn up all right after a while. The Yanks have destroyed the Rail Road in several places between Tuscumbia and Rome and created quite a panic in that region of country. Fortunately for us Gen. Forrest has succeeded in capturing the entire party with but a small loss on his side. Gen. Bragg received a dispatch from him two days ago informing him that he had captured their entire force, numbering about seventeen hundred (1700) men with all their arms and equipments. Forrest fought them hard for several days before they would surrender. That will put things easy in that section again for a while at least. We have just received information of another great battle in Va., in which Gen. Lee is said to be again victorious. Doubtless before this reaches you, you will have received full particulars through the papers. I suppose that our turn will come next. The Yanks have tried Charleston, Vicksburg, Fort Hudson and Richmond and have failed in all. If they fight us here in our present position they will be badly whiped, but if we have to advance upon them and attach them in their position there is no telling what the result will be. It will doubtless be the most disastrous battle, which has been fought during the War. The troops here all seem to be anxious for the fight let it come when it will. Bragg's Army is evidently in a better condition for a fight now than it ever has been since he has been in command.

Capt. Sawyer the Senior Captain in our Regt. has been examined and has been promoted to the Majorship of our Regiment. I received a letter from Col. Buck yesterday in which he stated that his health still continued bad, that he was going to Mobile and if advised by the physicians there, that he intended to send in his resignation.

I should regret very much to have him resign notwithstanding it gives me a chance for promotion. He is a good officer and liked by all the Officers of the Regiment. His health is very delicate and I think it very doubtful if he will be able to stand another summer campaign. We are having a very pleasant time of it at our new camp. It is the most pleasant place we have been at for some time. If the troops do not have good health here it will not be for the want of a healthy location. We are about four miles from Shelbyville on the Louisburg Pike. Capt. McCrackens' Company was ordered away a few days ago to work on the entrenchments in front of Shelbyville. Gen. Bragg is having a line of entrenchments thrown up reaching from here to Wartrace on the Rail Road a distance of ten miles. I cannot imagine what the object can be, unless it is to make his position here impregnable, so that he may be able to send off a large force to meet the Yankee marauders below.

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It has been raining slowly for the last twenty four hours and it has no appearance of stopping yet. It is quite cool and disagreeable and it is any thing but pleasant to be cooped up in a tent all day long. Some times I go to bed and cover up to keep warm. I received a letter from Dr. Peebles today. At the time he wrote you were at your Papa's and little Willie had gone home with him and Mary. He writes me that there is no news afloat except the general scare from the Yanks. I have just learned through parties now at Shelbyville, that Gen. Adams had succeeded in capturing the whole of that Yankee force in Mississippi with the exception of some two or three Companies I hope that it is true. Tell Papa & Mother that I think of them often and would write to them but I know that they see and read all my letters to you, which answers the same purpose. Remember me to them with the kindest recollections. My love to all the family and regards to all inquiring friends. Tell all the dear children howdy for Pa and remember me with a kiss to them.

May Kind Heaven Bless You and Protect You is the prayer of
your

Devoted Husband,
Newton.

I enclosed you fifty dollars in my last letter and I enclose you fifty dollars more in this. Please acknowledge receipt when it comes to hand.

N.