

No^d 24th Ala Regt
Near Patten Dec 30th 1863

My Dear Patten

Yesterday Mr Wells arrived and delivered your letter of the 15th. I rec'd also a pair of Wet Weather Coats, a Vest and a fur-cake. He was detained several days on the road on account of not being able to get his Box through on the cars. He succeeded finally in getting his box & without losing any of his clothing. The boys were all very glad to see him. I found something to surely stir remembrance of his company. Many of them were sending clothing boxes, but none of them that they are any well supplied. The Wet Weather Coats you sent me are very nice indeed. I like them much better than any that I have seen. The Vest fits me very well around the waist, but it is about an inch too short. I received the sweet cake just as I was sitting down to dinner, & the Assistant

Quinn's Master & myself eat them up in
a ~~very short time~~ very much as quite a
short ~~time~~ I am very sorry to
hear that you lost your ~~Quinn's~~ ~~Master~~
Cows are very valuable just at this time
I suppose that it will be impossible for
you to ever find out who took them.

You speak of having some boys killed the day
after you wrote. I hope you had good weather
for carrying it. When you see Mrs Petty again
give her my respects, & tell her that I am very
much obliged to her for her message.

She is very much mistaken when she thinks
that I will ever forget you. Your
memory is too deeply impressed upon my
heart for any sort of care, suffering
privation or even time to ever efface
And dear little Willie & Maggie. Their faces
not only live indelibly fixed in my imagination
I often see them pictured in my dreams
in all the innocence & beauty they possessed
when last I saw them. So West
is thinking about getting married.

Tell him I say that he had better wait
untill the War is ended. He is having
a good time of now visiting the young
Ladies. I suppose he thinks that it
is a difficult matter to get home any way
& while he is there he will waste your
use of his time. The Mail Carrier has
just arrived & handed me another letter
from you dated Dec 20th. I am certainly
in luck today. You mention the very
thing in your letter that I have been
thinking about for several days past
and that is for you to break up your
I intended to mention a subject in the
letter, but had not fully decided as to
the plan to adopt. I have no doubt but
that you will be much better contented &
enjoy more pleasure to break up
your business & live with your Peppa
while the War continues than to live
as you have been doing. I think
the better plan would be to sell all
the Hogs, Cows, Sheep, Mules

Corn would be a fact every thing that
you will not want to keep & send out
all the Negroes. All the Hogs, Corn,
Chickens in fact every thing will be
sold if you have no one there
on the place but Brandy & Soda &
Lard it will be a perfect den for
all the Negroes in the neighborhood to
show to at night. Every thing
now will bring a good price better
perhaps than they ever will again
and as to the money I have my fears
about that. If the money is never
worth any thing here will the
property & it will do us no good to
attempt to keep it. My idea is to sell
the land along & some things on the
place. I expect that it will bring
more now than it will ever bring
again. Should I be so fortunate
as to live through this war I don't
think that I will ever be satisfied
to go on again in Cai River

I want if possible to get better value
some where else. However I am
perfectly willing that you should
be guided by the judgment of your
Clerk & Master in the choice of
you should make of every thing
I don't want you to live in London
any longer by yourself. It is the
Custom & besides you will run the
risk of being continually annoyed by
thieves & having your things stolen
from you. My honest opinion is that
Confederate Money is going to be good
& it is now in the time to sell.

I expect that I had better take your
own words and make you a
good price for his share of some.

I am going 2000 for the 1000
more to attend to my own I will
offer you. My only fear is that you
will not be able to stand the
expense. Now I wish that I
could be with you more than I can

since I am to help you decide what
to do. But that cannot be. I will
be perfectly satisfied with anything
you may do. Pappi's advice is better
than mine about such things & I know
that he will advise you for the best.

A great many fur traders are
being wanted now. Nine
officers & nine privates have been
fur-traded from my Post this week.
They allow all the officers but two
in every Company to go home & one pri-
vate to every thirty men present in
the Companies. The fur traders are
given long enough to allow every man
10 days at home. They allow one
of the field officers to go home if
all are present. My quartermaster Major
Purvis is absent at home sick &
it is uncertain when he will be back.
I have written to him to return
just as soon as he is able. I
should have been home long ago if

my other affairs have kept well.

But some low or other one of them
has been or the sick list for several
months past.

Gen. Scammon has arrived here
and assumed command of the Army.
Gen. Hardee is going to Alabama
in a few days to get Murrells
Army thing here is quiet. Chertemps
are here very well. I managed to
get up a pretty good dinner on Chertemps
day. but since then have been
living rather poorly. I am glad
that Julia has returned from Don.
I know that she would have
been uneasy about him.
I neglected to tell you that I bought
a pair of Flannel Under Shorts two
weeks ago. It got so cold that I
could not go any longer without
them. I bought them from the
Government at 26¢ the pair. So
with the pair you sent me I will

be abundantly supplied. How
long does she intend to make
her visit with you. I hope
that I will have the pleasure
of seeing her before she returns

Remember me to the dear
Children & to Pappa Mather &
all the Family. I do hope
that it will not be long
before I will be permitted
to see you all again

May God in mercy Bless
you. Dear Sir

Your devoted

Friend

Newton

Hd. Qrs. 24th Ala. Regiment.
Near Dalton, Dec. 30th 1863.

My Dear Bettie:

Yesterday Mr. Wells arrived and delivered your letter of the 15th Inst also a pair of knit under shirts, a vest and a few cakes. He was detained several days on the road on account of not being able to get his boxes through on the cars. He succeeded finally in getting here safe & without losing any of his clothing. The Boys were all very glad to see him. He brought something for nearly every member of his Company. Many of them were needing clothing badly, but now I believe that they are very well supplied. The Under Shirts you sent me are very nice indeed. I like them much better than any that I have seen. The vest fits me very well around the waist, but it is about an inch too short. I received the sweet cakes just as I was sitting down to dinner, & the Adjutant Quarter Master & myself eat them up in a few minutes. They made us quite a nice desert. I am very sorry to hear that you lost your knives & forks. They are very valuable just at this time. I suppose that it will be impossible for you to ever find out who took them.

You spoke of having some hogs killed the day after you wrote. I hope you had good weather for saving it. When you see Mrs. Petty again give her my respects & tell her that I am very much obliged to her for her message. She is very much mistaken when she thinks that I will ever forget you. Your memory is too deeply impressed upon my heart for any sort of care suffering privation or even time to ever efface. And Dear Little Willie & Maggie. Their Dage-no type is indelibly fixed in my imagination. I often see them pictured in my dreams in all the innocence & beauty they possessed when last I saw them.

So Newt is thinking about getting married is he. Tell him I say that he had better wait until the war is ended. He is having a fine time of now visiting the young ladies. I suppose he thinks that it is a difficult matter to get home any way & while he is there he will make good use of his time. The mail carrier has just arrived & handed me another letter from you dated Dec. 30th. I am certainly in luck today. You mention the very thing in this letter that I have been thinking about for several days past and that is for you to break up housekeeping. I intended to mention the subject in this letter, but had not fully decided as to the plan to adopt. I have no doubt but that you will be much better contented & get along more pleasantly to break up housekeeping & live with your Pappa while the war continues than to live as you have been doing.

I think the better plan would be to sell all the hogs, cows, sheep, mules, corn, fodder, in fact every thing that you will not want to keep & hire out all the negroes. All the hogs, corn, chickens, in fact everything will be stolen if you leave no one there on the place but Anarchy & Tilda & besides it will be a perfect den for all the negroes in the neighborhood to flock to at night. Every thing now will bring a good price better perhaps than they ever will again and as to the money I have no fears about that. If the money is never worth any thing neither will the property & it will do us no good to attempt to keep it.

My idea is to sell the land also & every thing on the place. I expect it will bring more now than it will ever bring again. Should I be so fortunate as to live through this war I don't think that I will ever be satisfied to farm again in Pickens. I want if possible to get better land some where else. However I am perfectly willing that you should be guided by the judgment of your Pappa & Mother as to what disposition you should make of every thing. I don't want you to live in Pickens any longer by yourself. It is too lonesome & besides you will run the risk of being continually annoyed by rathieves & having every thing stolen from you. My honest opinion is that Confederate Money is going to be good & if so now is the time to sell.

I expect that I had better take John here with me unless you can get a good price for his hire at home. I am giving \$20 pr. month for a Boy now to attend to my horse & wait upon me. My only fear is that John would not be able to stand the exposure. How I wish that I could be with you now for a short time so as to help you decide what to do. But that cannot be. I will be perfectly satisfied with anything you may do. Pappa's advice is better than mine about such things & I know he will advise you for the best. A great many furloughs are being granted now. Nine Officers & nine Privates have been furloughed from my Regt. this week. They allow all the officers but two in every Company to go home & one Private to every thirty men present in the companies. The furloughs are given long enough to allow every man 10 days at home. They allow one of the Field Officers to go home if all are present. Unfortunate Major Pierce is absent at home sick & it is uncertain when he will be back. I have written to him to return just as soon as he is able. I should have been home long ago if my other officers had kept well.

But some how or other one of them has been on the sick list for several months past.

Gen. Johnson has arrived here and assumed command of this army. Gen. Hardee is going to Alabama in a few days to get married. Every thing here is quiet. Christmas has been very dull. I managed, to get up a pretty good dinner on Christmas day, but since then have been living rather poorly. I am glad that Julia has heard from Ira. I know that she must have been uneasy about him.

I neglected to tell you that I bought a pair of Flannel Under Shirts two weeks ago. It got so cold that I could not go any longer without them. I bought them from the Government at \$26 the pair. So with the pair you sent me I will be abundantly supplied. How long does Vic intend to make her visit with you. I hope that I will have the pleasure of seeing her before she returns.

Remember me to the dear children & to Pappa, Mother & all the family. I do hope that it may not be long before I will be permitted to see you all again.

May God in Mercy Bless You.

Good-Bye.
Your devoted Husband,
Newton.