

Co^a Cos. 24th Ala Regt
Near Florence Ala. Nov 11th 1864

My Dear Betie

When I wrote you last I had but little idea of being here at this time, but true it is, that here in the army we know not what a day may bring forth. I thought then that we would be off to Tenn: in a few days, but I suppose that a screw got loose some where in the military machinery & we had to wait until it could be tightened up. I sent my last letter off two days after it was written by a number of my Regt who was discharged & who was going to Mobile. He may possibly carry it all the way to Mobile before he mails it, but I hope that it will reach you safely. On last Saturday our Division was sent out on the Huntsville Road to meet the enemy who were advancing upon that road. We met them about five miles from town when two of our Brigades were ordered forward to engage them. After a short skirmish, they retreated leaving their dead and wounded in our possession. The enemy lost three killed, six wounded & twenty prisoners. We also captured twenty Horses & Saddles. Our Brigade were then left out on the Huntsville road to do picket duty & the balance of the Division returned to Camp. We remained out there until yesterday evening, when we were relieved.

& came in to our present location. I have just discovered that I commenced my letter on the wrong side of the sheet, but I suppose that it will make no difference. We have had a very bad week of it indeed. It rained incessantly nearly all the while & this is the first fair day we have had for a week. Night before last I thought I would freeze. It rained out our fire & it was too cold to sit up & too wet to lay down. I did not know what to do so I tried to make a compromise of it by doing a little of both but I soon found out that would not do, so I went to bed & covered up head & ears & let it rain on. To day, it is clear & pleasant & every thing looks cheerful. I am sitting down now on my blanket in the sun & feel very comfortable. Some times I am almost tempted to wish that it would not rain again while the war lasted, but then we might have too long a dry spell. The River has been rising for several days past & our Pontoon Bridge has broken twice. Three Yankees came down the River a few nights ago in a little canoe for the purpose of cutting the Pontoon ropes but fortunately the Guard on the Bridge captured all three of them before they did any damage. I hope that Gen Hood will hang them all three

They are making some repairs on the Bridge to day
& I understand that as soon as the remainder of
our army can cross the river we will start for
Tenn: I almost regret to start for the weather
is getting so cold, that I know we will suffer
a good deal before we get back or go into winter
quarters. My health continues good & I am
getting along as well as could be expected under
all surrounding circumstances. I would like
it much better if I could hear from you often
but we change our position so often so that it
is very uncertain about us getting letters at all
Nest is quite well. He is down in the Regt cooking
a pot of Turnips & Onions. You know that he is a
great lover of Turnips. He seems to take the world
easy & enjoys himself about as well as any one
I know in the army. Joe is well. I believe
I wrote you that he had been transferred to my
Regt. Billy Coleman is sitting down writing a
letter to his "Sweet Heart". I understand that
Grief Wells has not gotten home yet. Poor fellow
he has had a hard time of it. I hope he will
be able to go home soon. I suppose that
Vic has gone home by the time and left you
all sad & lonely at her departure. Oh

now I do wish I could pay you a short visit, but that is utterly out of the question now. but still I shall live in hopes that I will be blessed with that happy privilege before many months. I hope you & Mother will both be able to get along well during the winter. Still I know you will have a pleasant time of it by yourself. Remembers me to her & all the family. The dear Children I hope are well & just as sweet & smart as ever. Tell them that Papa thinks of them very often & hopes they will be good Children.

May Heavens Bless you
Your devoted Husband

Friday Nov 25 1844

Since writing the above I have received two letters from you, one dated the 16th & the other the 23rd of October. I although very far from old still I derive much pleasure from their perusal, & received one from Sir also at the same time in which she states that she is all packed up ready to start for the old North State. The only thing I believe in your letter that requires a special answer is in regard to my poor coat. The only objection I can have to taking it is that it may possibly be too short. I would like one

Hd. Qrs. 24th Ala. Regt.
Near Florence, Ala. Nov. 11, 1864.

My dear Bettie:

When I wrote you last I had but little idea of being here at this time, but true it is, that here in the army "we know not what a day may bring forth". I thought then we would be off to Tenn. in a few days, but I suppose that a screw got lost some where in the military machinery & we had to wait until it could be tightened up. I sent my last letter off two days after it was written by a member of my Regt who was discharged & who was going to Mobile. He may possibly carry it all the way to Mobile before he mails it, but I hope that it will reach you safely.

On last Saturday our Division was sent out on the Huntsville Road to meet the enemy who were advancing upon that road. We met them about five miles from town when two of our Brigades were ordered forward to engage them. After a short skirmish they retreated leaving them dead and wounded in our possession. The enemy lost three killed, six wounded & twenty prisoners. We also captured twenty horses & saddles. Our Brigade was then left out on the Huntsville road to do picket duty & the balance of the Division returned to Camp. We remained out there until yesterday evening when we were relieved & came into our present location. I have just discovered that I commenced my letter on the wrong side of the sheet, but I suppose that it will make no difference. We have had a very bad week of it indeed. It rained incessantly nearly all the while & this is the first fair day we have had for a week. Night before last I thought I would freeze. It rained out our fire & it was too cold to sit up & too wet to lay down. I did not know what to do so I tried to make a compromise of it by doing a little of both but I soon found out that would not do so I went to bed & covered up head & ears & let it rain on. Today it is clear & pleasant & every thing looks cheerful. I am sitting down now on my blanket in the sun & feel very comfortable.

Some times I am almost tempted to wish that it would not rain again while the war lasted, but then we might have too long a dry spell. The river has been rising for several days past & our Pontoon Bridge has broken twice. Three Yankees came down the River a few nights ago in a little canoe for the purpose of cutting the Pontoon ropes, but fortunately the Guard on the Bridge captured all three of them before they did any damage. I hope that Gen. Hood will hang them all three. They are making some repairs on the Bridge to day & I understand that as soon as the remainder of our army can cross the river we will start for Tenn. I almost regret to start for the weather is getting so cold that I know we will suffer a good deal before we get back or go into winter quarters.

My health continues good & I am getting along as well as could be expected under all surrounding circumstances. I would like it much better if I could hear from you oftener, but we change our position so often that it is very uncertain about us getting letters at all.

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Newt is quite well. He is down in the Regt. cooking a pot of Turnips & onions. You know that he is a great lover of turnips. He seems to take the world easy & enjoy himself about as well as any one I know in the army. Jace is well. I believe that I wrote you that he had been transferred to my Regt. Billy Coleman is sitting down writing a letter to his "sweetHeart". I understand that Grif Wells has not gotten home yet. Poor fellow he has a hard time of it. I hope he will be able to go home soon. I suppose that Vic has gone home by this time and left you all sad & lonely at her departure. Oh how I do wish I could pay you a short visit, but that is utterly out of the question now, but still shall live in hopes that I will be blessed with that happy privilege before many months. I hope you & mother will both be able to get along well during the winter, still I know you will have a lonesome time of by yourselves. Remember me to her & all the family. The dear children I hope are well & just as sweet & smart as ever. Tell them that Papa thinks of them very often & hope they will be good children.

May kind Heaven bless you. Good-Bye.

Your devoted Husband,
Newton.

Friday Nov. 12, 1864.

Since writing the above I have received two letters from you, one dated the 16th & the other the 23rd of October & although they are pretty old still I derived much pleasure from these personals. I received one from Vic also at the same time in which she stated that she was all packed up ready to start for the old North States. The only thing I believe in your letters which require a special answer is in regard to my over coat. The only objection I could have to taking Jim's would be that it may possibly be too short. I would like one to be long enough to cover my knees when I am riding. Jim's would be plenty long enough to walk in, but it may not be long enough to keep my knees dry when riding in the rain. Still I am willing to try it, if you think it will do. But, I understand that Jim is going back to his command & if so he will want it himself. If you make me a new one I don't care much how you make it. Which ever way is the least trouble will suit me. I dislike very much to have you work & toil to supply me with the clothing while in the army & if it was possible for me to get them otherwise I would not let you do it. But "necessity knows no law". I often think of you at home toiling, striving and enduring pain & anxiety on my account & it grieves me to think of it & know that it must be so. Oh that God in his goodness & mercy would restore us to peace & happiness again. I am glad to know that you have made corn plenty to do you & that you have a prospect of making meat enough to spare. I was delighted to hear that Mother had hired an overseer. I hope that he will please her & that every thing will get along to her satisfaction. I have many other things to write but duty calls me away & I must close.

Jace encloses a letter to "June Bug" & you to send it to her the first opportunity.

Good-Bye.
Your Newton.