

Manapas Junction Dec 26th 1861

My Dearest Devid Wife

Christmas has

passed & this is now the day after. You I hope had a merry Christmas but with me there was none only the day. The poor soldiers tried to enjoy themselves as well as they could, but I don't think any of them had much pleasure. Some of them may have had a good time but I could see from the countenance of most all that time was dragging sluggishly along. Dear Wife I thought of my dear ones at home I hope they spent the Christmas cheerfully & merrily. Bob & Brother & myself had a little egg tag but it was not a good one, enough about that. Our healths are very good. Brother Bob has, though, been complaining for several days. He is tolerably well today. He is now preparing some dinner. You may have heard that some from each Company in the Confederate service were allowed a furlough for 30 days. Such was the case & I had applied for one & would in all probability have gotten it. but the order was countermanded by Congress & now no one can get a furlough unless it is absolutely necessary that he should have one to attend to some important business. No one can get leave of absence merely to visit his family & friends so you need not expect me to come home until my time expires which will be about 3 months yet.

I had fondly hoped that I could see you & my dear little children shortly but now I know that I can not. Oh how I would enjoy a visit home. But the time will soon come when I can be with you again. I have no news at all to write, nothing but the same old song. Tell Father I received the blankets sent us by Mr R. F. Lewis & was much obliged to him. As for the soap I am of course obliged to him but we have plenty of it we draw soap with our rations.

We have a pretty tough time out here, we have nothing but beef & flour, no sugar nor coffee sometimes we get rice, but to live on beef all the time is hard living indeed to me sometimes we get a little bacon but that is seldom. I have not drawn any money yet but I am in a few days. But if I had thousands it would do me but little good when every thing is so scarce & so high. Butter 50¢ Coffee \$1.00 Sugar 30 Molasses \$1.25. but I think I must get something of this kind at any rate when I draw money. I cannot live on beef all the time & no coffee milk nor any thing else to drink. But these are the hardships that a Soldier has I hope you will be repaid some time, for all our labours & privations. There is a happier day coming.

Brother Rob sends his love to you + Sister
Lavinia + Matilda Brother Billie sends his to
you + the little ones. Now dearest I must close
I hope you will continue to pray for me. God will
hear our prayers + answer them. My love to your
father's family + also to my father. Give my little
ladies for me + my dear ones richest + dearest
blessings ever be thine, dearest one. God bless you
Your devoted husband I S Taylor

Ms. S Taylor

Manassas Junction
Dec. 26, 1861.

My dearest Devoted Wife:

Christmas has passed & this is now the day after. You I hope had a Merry Christmas, but with me there was none only the day. The poor soldiers tried to enjoy themselves as well as they could, but I don't think any of them had much pleasure. Some of them may have had a good time but I could see from the countenance of most all that time was dragging slughesly along. Dear Wife I thought of my dear ones at home, I hope they spent the Christmas cheerfully & merrily. Bob & Brother & myself had a little egnog but it was not a good one, enough about that our health are very good. Brother Bob has though been complaining for several days. He is tolerably well today. He is now preparing some dinner. You may have heard that some from each Company in the Confederate service were allowed a furlough for 30 days. Such was the case & I had applied for one & would in all probability have gotten it, but the order was countermanded by Congress & now no one can get a furlough unless it is absolutely necessary that he should have one to attend to some important business. No one can get leave of absence merely to visit his family & friends, so you need not expect me to come home until my time expires which will be about 5 months yet.

I had findly hoped that I could see you & my dear little children shortly but now I know that I can not. Oh, how I would enjoy a visit home. But the time will soon come when I can be with you again. I have no news at all to write, nothing but the same old song, Tell Father I received the blankets sent up by Dr. R. F. Davis & were much obliged to him. As for the soap I am of course obliged to him but we have plenty of it, we draw soap with our rations.

I have a pretty tough time out here, we nothing but beef & flour, no sugar nor coffee sometimes we get rice, but to live on beef all the time is hard living indeed to me, sometimes we get a little bacon but that is seldom. I have not drawn any money yet but I may in a few days, but if I had thousands it would do me but little good when every thing is so scarce & so high, butter 50¢, coffee # \$1.00, sugar 30¢, molasses \$1.25, but I think I must get something of the kind at any rate when I draw money, I cannot live on beef all the time & no coffee, milk, nor anything else to drink. But these are the hardships that a soldier has I hope we will be repaid some time, for all our labours & rations. There is a happier day coming.

Brother Bob sends his love to you & Sisters Lavinia & Matilda. Brother Billie sends his to you & the little ones. Now dearest I must close. I hope you will continue to pray for me, God will hear our prayers & answer them. My love to your father's family & also to my father's. Kiss my little babies for me & may heavens richest & choicest blessing ever be theirs. Dearest one, God Bless you.

Your Devoted Husband,
T. S. Taylor.

Mrs. Sallie Taylor.