

Newport News Va. Mar. 23^d 1863

Dear Friends at Home:

I received No. 4 mailed the 20th last night, by which I learn you have started me a box, I am glad it is coming now for we shall probably want soon & I can save enough for our journey. I received a letter from Josephine and a letter last Saturday. That speech of Edmund Bacon was the sentiment of a true Patriot. I was very much pleased in perusing it, it pictured the life & feelings of a soldier more perfectly than any thing I have ever seen before. It seems Mr. McClintock has not forgot how to lie out, I really thought as he had got a new wife which would require his attention he would find no time for manufacturing stories about soldiers. But it seems he is at his old trade again. I am as well satisfied that Charles never wrote him, what he says in regard to me, as I know I never wrote Charles one word in any letter that could be construed into meaning that I was sick of the war, or ever despaired of whipping the south. It makes me indignant to see how low & mean tricks the traitors in the North resort to, to gratify their spite towards the Government & its defense. I really wish every sympathizer with the South in the North was forced to go within the rebel lines for then we could fight them in front & they would not trouble us in the rear. At times for a few months after the battle of Gettysburg I work with the rough weather was enough

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Dear Friends at Home:

I received No. 6 mailed the 20th last night, by which I learn you have started me a box. I am glad it is coming now for we shall probably move soon & I can save enough for our journey. I received a letter from Josephine and a Mirror last Saturday. That speech of Edmund Bascomb was the sentiments of a true patriot. I was very much pleased in perusing it, it pictured the life & feelings of a soldier more perfectly than anything I have seen before. It seems Mr. McClintock has not forgot how to lie yet. I really thought as he had got a new wife which would require his attention he would find no time for manufacturing stories about soldiers. But it seems he is at his old trade again. I am as well satisfied that Charles never wrote him, what he says in regard to me, as I know I never wrote Charles one word or syllable that could be construed into meaning that I was sick of the war, or ever despaired of whipping the south It makes me indignant to see how low & mean tricks the traitors in the North resort too, to gratify their spite towards the Government & its defenders. I really wish evry sympathizer with the South in the North was forced to go within the rebel lines for then we could fight them in front & they would not trouble us in the rear.

At times for a few months after the battle of F_____ our fare & work with the rough weather was enough

to discourage any mortals, Many of us would frequently be obliged to go on picket with only a half dozen hard tack & a little coffee with no sugar then perhaps it might ruin the whole 24 hours
I have written that I allways had enough to eat. I think I always had enough, at every meal but it was owing more to my ingenuity than Uncle Sam's generosity, when the sugar ration had been ^{newly} all sold by the commissaries or eaten up by the officers when the hard tack was poor & scarce the pork & beef still poorer, then most always happened to be a bag of corn meal or rice in our tent which would make us some good meals. I have forgotten what I wrote Charles but I recollect we were pretty hard up for rations about that time & I guess I told him so & probably talked pretty hard about the contractors & officers & the management of the war generally, of which Charles may have written which is enough to start a story. I am glad there is a man at the head of the Potomac army who has the courage to haul the contractors & officers over the coals. If the soft bread, vegetables & full allowance of rations have the same effect on the army of the Potomac as it has had on the troops here, Joe Booker will be very popular with his men there is nothing which will touch a soldier's feelings quicker than for his rations to be stolen out of his mouth through the negligence or connivance of his superior officers. or on the other hand if the Commanding General seems to take an interest in the welfare of his men, they will take an interest in him for this reason I predict success for Gen. Booker I suppose we shall be under Burnside's charge for I understand we are ordered to report to Burnside at Ball's Bluff

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to discourage any mortals. Many of us would frequently be obliged to go on a picket with only a half dozen hard tact & a little coffee with no sugar then perhaps it might rain the whole 24 hours I have written that I allways had enough to eat. I think I always had enough, at every meal but it was oweing more to my ingenuity than Uncle Sam's generosity. when the sugar ration had been nearly all sold by the commissaries or eaten up by the officers when the hard tact was poor & scarce the pork & beef still poorer, there most always happened to be a bag of corn meal or rice in our tent which would make us some good meals. I have forgotten what I wrote Charles but I recollect we were pretty hard up for rations about that time & I guess I told him so & probably talked pretty hard about the contractors & officers & the management of the war generally of which Charles may have written which is enough to start a story. I am glad there is a man at the head of the Potomac army who had the courage to haul the contractors & officers over the coals. If the soft bread, vegetables & full allowance of rations have the same effect on the army of the Potomac as it has had on the troops here; Joe Hooker will be very popular with his men There is nothing which will tuch a soldiers feelings quicker than for his rations to be stolen out of his mouth through the negligence or connivance of his superior officers. or on the other hand if the Commanding General seems to take an interest in the welfare of his men. they will take an interest in him for this reason I predict success for Gen. Hooker I suppose we shall be under Burnside's charge for I understand we are ordered to Burnside at Baltimore.