

Near Petersburg Va.
July 20th 1844

Dear Friends at Home:

I have just received Mary's letter of the 18th for which I have been waiting & expecting for several days. Was glad to hear you were all well as usual. I am enjoying pretty good health & feel as well as one can this hot weather. Yesterday & last night we had a delightful rain and today though the rain has made some wind & it is dreadful hot yet one feels more like himself for the air is so much purer. We have plenty of good water where we now are in fact our general good health is I think owing to good, clear cool water to use & wash in. We get water from those springs "Caston" speaks of

PAGE 1

Near Petersburg VA.

July 20th 1864

Dear Friend at Home:

I have just received Mary's letter of the 13th for which I have been waiting & expecting for several days. I was glad to hear you were all well as usual. I am enjoying pretty good health. I feel as well as one can this hot weather. Yesterday & last night we had a delightful rain and today though the rain has made some mud & it is dreadful hot yet one feels more like himself for the air is so much purer. We have plenty of good water where we now are in fact our general good health is I think owing to good, clear, cool water to use & wash in. We get water from those springs "Carlton" speak of

Those papers I was very glad to receive
I should like to have you send them
quite often. We got the N. C. Washington
& Philadelphia papers, one day after they
are printed. But I get the most
reliable news from the Journal
'Carlton' pitches into the officers & surgeons
& some of the agents belonging to the
Sanitary commission for luxurating
on the delicacies sent to the sick soldiers
but he just hinted at the truth

We draw rations every two days, today
we got a liberal quantity of potatoes
but one half were rotten. The Sanitary
Commission also sent us a lot of
nice ones and the boys were expecting
some nice boiled potatoes. But Co!
orders came to the brigade Commissary
to not issue them until the next day
of issuing. Now the reason was plain,
the officers wanted two days time to
take all they wanted. I do wish some

PAGE 2

Those papers I was very glad to receive I should like to have you send them quite often. We get the N.Y. Washington & Philadelphia papers, one day after they are printed. But I get the most reliable news from the Journal "Carlton" pitches into the officers & surgeons & some of the agents belonging to the Sanitary commission for luxurating on the delacases sent to the sick soldiers but he just hinted at the truth

We draw rations evry two days to-day we got a liberal quantity of potatoes but our half were rotten. The Sanitary Commission also sent us a lot of nice ones and the boys were expecting some nice boiled potatoes. But Lo! orders came to the brigade Commissary to not issue them until the next day of issueing. Now the reason was plain, the officers wanted two days time to take all they wanted. I do wish some

such a man as Calton would write something which would make a stir among the men of influence in the North. What an insult it is to the soldier to read in the papers what an amount of articles is distributed to the soldiers in the trenches when in fact just enough is issued to say they have issued it.

I was glad to receive the tea I will have a good mess of tea for my supper.

We draw tea occasionally but it is not very good. We have been pretty well supplied with dried apple for the last month (which accounts for the non-appearance of those pieces of nutmeg you sent in the paper) moral - don't insert anything in papers. I had a nice meal of new potatoes cabbage & turnips the other day.

I have a friend in the commissary department who will sell to me whatever I want. The other day I got the following article

PAGE 3

such a man as Carlton would write something which would make a stir among the men of influence in the North. What an insult it is to the soldier to read in the papers what an amount of articles is distributed to the soldiers in the trenches when in fact just enough is issued to say they have issued it.

I was glad to receive the tea I will have a good mix of tea for my supper.

We draw tea occasionally but it is not very good. We have been pretty well supplied with dired apple for the last month (which accounts for the non appearance of those pieces of nutmeg you sent in the paper) moral – don't inclose anything in papers. I had a nice meal of new potatoes cabbage & turnips the other day.

I have a friend in the commissary department who will sell to me whatever I want. The other day I bot. the flowing articles

1 lb. of sugar	17 cts	} I should have to pay at the millers for brown sugar 40 cts. White 50 cts Butter sells for 75 cts Cheese 6 cts
1 " White "	27 "	
5 " Potatoes	10 "	
3 " Dried apple	20 "	
4 Cabbage heads	11 cts each	

I am glad Emma & Frankie are enjoying themselves so well I would like to see them at play in the street. I have not seen any little girls & boys that reminded me of Emma & Frankie lately in Tenn. I used to see them quite often. While we were at Knoxville, 2nd Div Headquarters were at a large brick house owned & occupied by a Mr. Harris. He was a peccash & so was his wife they had three little girls aged respectively two, five & seven years of age their names were Jessie, Fannie & Emma. They were all pitifully smart & lively girls but they were awful peccash. I used to have a good deal of fun plaguing them by calling them ^{little} rebels. Emma was my favorite (perhaps you can guess the reason) she used to sit on my knee & sing peccash songs. But she knew minnie songs too I would coax her to sing a minnie song only sometimes. She used to try & hector me by singing the southern version of "Well rally round the flag boys. Oh rally in this wise (the horns)

~~Down with the yankee~~
~~And up with the boss~~
 Ceassion forever hurrah! boys, hurrah!
 Down with the yankee.
 And up with the boss
 Another beginning thus Oh! yes I am a southern girl
 - glory in the name

PAGE 4

1 lb. of sugar 17 cts
1 “ White “ 27 “
5 “ Potatoes 10 “
3 “ Dired apple 30
4 Cabbage heads 7 cts each

I should have to pay at the sutlers for brown sugar 40 cts, White 50 cts Butter sells for 75 cts
Cheese 50 cents

I am glad Emma & Frankie are enjoying themselves so well I would like to see them at play in the street. I have not seen any little girls & boys that reminded me of Emma & Frankie lately In Tenn. I used to see them quite often. While we were at Knoxville 2^d Div Headquarters were at a large brick house & occupied by a Mr. Barns. He was a secesh & so was his wife they had three little girls aged respectably twelve nine & seven years of age Their names were Jesie Fannie & Emma They were all pritty smart & lively girls but they were awful secesh. I used to have a good deal of fun plagueing them by calling them little rebels Emma was my favorite (perhaps you can guess the reason) she used to sit on my knee & sing secesh songs. But she knew union songs too I would coax her to sing a union song sometimes. She used to try & pester my by singing the southern version of We'll rally round the flag boys. It run in this wise (the chorus)

Secession forever hurah! boys, hurah!
Down with the yankee,
And up with the bars

Another beginning thus

Oh! yes I am a southern girl
I glory in the name

Fannie I could never cease to sing
anything but sacceh songs but they
were both good singers & frequently
entertained a crowd of ^{us} blue coats
The Sunday before I left Co. Little Emma
was in my tent & seeing my little
poros candlestick was very dirty she
said she would clean it for me but
suddenly recollecting that it was
she exclaimed Oh! I can't do
to day. But finally she said I
clean it Monday. Monday morning we
started north I had just time to bid them
good by. I showed them however, Emma
& Frankie's pictures Emma thought Frankie
was the prettiest she ever saw & wished she
could give me hers to sent to him.
Tell Frankie I carry a gun & shoot it too
We were relieved from the front line of
rifle pits last night at 9 P.M. I shot about
twenty rounds at ~~them~~ ^{their} gray backs & they fire
spitefully.

PAGE 5

Fannie I could never coax to sing anything but secesh songs but they were both good singers & frequently entertained a crowd of us blue coats The sunday before I left K Little Emma was in my tent & seeing my little brass candlestick was very dirty she said she would clean it for me but suddenly recollecting that it was she [missing] she exclaimed Oh! I cant its [missing] to-day. But finally she said [missing] clean it monday. Monday morning we started north I had just time to bid them good buy. I showed them, however, Emma & Frankie's pictures (Emma thought Frankie was the prettiest she ever saw & wished she could give me hers to sent to him.

Tell Frankie I carry a gun & shoot it too We were relieved from the front line of rifles pits last night at 9 pm I shot about twenty rounds at the gray backs & they fire [missing] spitefully [missing]

I don't know as I can write you much
of interest from the rifle pits. The front
line is about 50 yards from the rebel line
both lines are so well protected that few
are injured. Both sides keep up a cer-
tain fire especially at night we have to be
our turns at watching & as it is very hard
to keep awake we shoot through the loopholes
made between the sand bags on
the pits for exercise. Some of the boys
were rained last night just before we
were relieved several mortar shells fell
right into the rebel pits bursting with
a loud explosion. Our boys would set up
a loud yell hollering "look out for the
pieces from the rebel."

But I must close this as there is a
dress parade

Good bye Love to all

W. J. Crumpton

PAGE 6

I don't know as I can write you much of interest from the rifle pits. The front line is about 30 yards from the rebels line both lines are so well protected that few are injured. both sides keep up a constant fire especially at night we have to take our turns at watching & as it is very hard to keep awake we shoot through the loop holes between the sand bags on rifle pits for exercise. Some of the boys [missing] last night just before we were relieved several mortar shells fell right into the rebs pits bursting with a loud explosion. Our boys would set up a loud yell hallowing "look out for the piece Johnie reb."

But I must close this as There is a dress parade

Good buy Love to all
W. J. Templeton