

Camp of 100th P.V.  
Newport News, VA  
March 19. 1863

My dear Jane

When I wrote you yesterday from my quiet seat by the hospital fire, and said that I preferred being on the move to remaining still I had little notion that I should have had my wish so soon. I had not put your letter many minutes in the mail bag, before we received orders to cook five days rations, and march at six o'clock the next morning. The reveille was to be at 4. The announcement took every one by surprize, for although we were beginning to think that we might soon have to leave, we were not prepared to find the time so near at hand. I was up till three o'clock packing up the drugs, splints, bandages etc belonging to my department. When I went back to my old quarters for my knapsack etc the rest of them were asleep and I did not disturb them. I went back in the morning and got my knapsack etc, but am here still. If it had been required to pick the worst day in the year for the movement they have succeeded very well. We are enjoying a grand exhibition of rapid changes from rain to hail, from hail to sleet, from sleet to snow, and then back again to rain. The men started promptly at the hour, leaving their tents standing, but a party of men from the other regiments was sent to take them down, which they did very quickly, and they were loaded in wagons and sent off. The men took their little shelter tents with them, and will have to sleep under them at night. It will be a dismal night to spend on the sand. They will march to Hampton to day. The artillery is gone too, but the rest of our Brigade is here still in their old quarters, but may be ordered off at any moment. The object of our regiment being started first is not known by us, but as it was done by Col. Leasure we are satisfied it is for some reason that will result to our advantage, as he always directs the Brigade movement in favor of the old 100th. We are to go on board vessels again, and that is all we know. Guesses are numerous, but no one can give more than a guess. I have just bid good-bye to Had. M'Bride. He leaves this evening for Phila. on a ten day furlough. He knows where we are going as he is the Colonel's clerk, but has been forbidden to tell until he reaches Baltimore. He said our destination however, would surprize some of us, and not a bit more could we get out of him. While I was writing the last sentence the quartermaster came in and he has discovered that we were bound for Baltimore and there to take the cars. Then of course we are bound for the West to reinforce Rosecrans. I can't tell which road we will take, may be by Wheeling but is just as likely by Pittsburg. We will not get off from Fortress Monroe yet for another day, and perhaps two, and the delay at Baltimore will be two or three days. Now you know

nearly all any one here about knows about this matter.

I don't know when I will have an opportunity to write to you again, but am not apprehensive that I will be prevented. As far as I can see I will have opportunities enough to write to you, but will not for a good while be able to hear from you on account of our wandering again. It may however, like everything else so far turn up better than we expected. I will write to John Haworth to day to stop any package you may have sent if not too late.

Yours truly

W Taylor

### Confidential

I intended sending you some information in regard to changes and such things here in a few days, but hasten to do so now as it might happen to be a good while before I can get a chance to write to you again.

The reason I am left behind the regiment this time is on account of being detailed as Clerk for Quartermaster Justice in place of your brother Johnny. Johnny has been promoted to be Sergeant Major and he will have to go back to the regiment. You must understand that since the Quartermaster was promoted and Johnny with him they are not considered as in the regiment proper but are acting for the whole brigade: their duties being for the benefit of all the regiments in the Brigade. Now Johnny goes back to his regiment, but he will only be Sergeant Major a little while, and then he will be made first Lieutenant of Co. E, and N. Maxwell will be Captain. Capt. Bently will resign soon, or will have to. He has not been doing right. He can't keep sober any more. You must not let any one know of what is in these confidential letters. None of it should be written as you will find it all out soon enough from other people, but it can only do harm to those who write it. There is much more doings by different men that would not look well in writing. Capt. Cornelius has resigned also. When Johnny was to leave I was to take his place. He will remain a day or two yet, and I along to learn the business. So this morning I left the drug shop as the Surgeon rode off with the regiment. Poor fellows out in the rain today and I would like to be with them for all, for it is very dull and lonely here a few of us behind and the bare chimneys only standing to mark where so many were lately. We cannot leave until the whole Brigade starts - we bring up the rear. I was also made a Sergeant yesterday. A position of no account or honor but only on the road to it. Willie will also be detailed to the Brigade to help us in some way or other, as I wrote you before, but not likely till we get through our next rail road trip.

I have no time to write any more to day darling, but will probably write on my way up the Chesapeake from the boat and mail it at Baltimore.

Hoping this may find you well & happy.

I am ever

Yours affectionately

William

Direct hereafter to Care of Lieut. J. Justice  
Quartermaster - 3d Brigade 1st Divis - 9th Army Corps  
Washington, D.C.

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