

Deserted Camp of 100th Reg. P.V.
Newport News, Va
Monday, March 23d 1863

My dear Jane

I have not written you since last Thursday as contrary to my expectation I have not had opportunity. George arrived here on Friday afternoon after the regiment had gone. It stormed terribly. We had as bad a snow storm as any this winter. The snow remained on the ground and did not disappear till yesterday. George was much disappointed at not seeing the Ninth Army Corps, but he saw what campaigning was. On Saturday he thought he might still see Willie before he got on board if he could get to Hampton. Mr. Brown lent him his horse and he rode down and saw the boys at Hampton. The weather was bad, and they had again only their shelter tents, but he was surprised to see how good natured they took things. This is the first time I have been in the rear, and I don't like it much. Johnny is still with us, but must go with the regiment the first time he can overtake it. George got back last night, and is here yet. He will leave in this evenings mail boat and I will send this by him to mail in Baltimore or Philad. as our mail is done for here. We will not get any more letters till we get to Baltimore, and perhaps not then. All of our Brigade is gone, except Lieut. Justice, Johnny and me. We will go with the last of the baggage and horses. Probably to day. Perhaps before I get this finished, or may hope not till tomorrow. The 100th went off last night in the Steamer John A. Brooks.

Our regiment united in asking a general furlough of five days when they get to Pitts. The Colonel promised to try to get it for them, but I can't guess whether he will succeed or not. It will probably depend on how badly Rosecrans needs help. If he is in a tight place we ought to hurry - we would not like help sent to us if we were in a scrape to stop to see their friends while we were being whipped. It is pretty certain we will go through Pitts, but as to stopping there I am not so sure. We will be along some time this week.

I am glad Uncle William got that deed for Allan's place. I had forgotten all about it. He should now at once have a new one made in Aunt Ann's name. Wadsworth can do it, and so save the trouble of going a distance from home. It can be acknowledged after it is made before any squire, and then recorded at any convenient time at Butler. It is important to have the deed made by Uncle William at once, for should anything happen to him, it would be in a worse fix than before, for his estate would fall to minors, and nothing could be done till his youngest child was of age and not even then unless with the consent of all his heirs.

I may not have an opportunity to write you again while on the move, but will try to.

I hope you get my letter in time to stop sending the keg. We will go to Cincinnati by the cars.

With much love

Your affectionate husband

William

Confiscated pictures for the children