

Camp Copeland
March 11. 1864

My dear Jane

It is now longer than I expected to have been without writing to you. I have been very busy and had not time. When I arrived in New Castle I found Lieut. Justice very sick. He sat up a little while that evening and was considerably the worse of it. I slept there that night and found him still worse the next morning. We left at six o'clock that morning for Pittsburg. I heard from a soldier who arrived here to day that it is the smallpox that he has, but I can hardly think so. I was kept very busy in Pitts till we got a train to take to camp and had more than ever to do on arriving there. It is as bad a place as it was represented, and I hope we will not have to stay here long. Johnny has been appointed acting quartermaster till Lt. J. comes. Some of our recruits had been sent on to Louisville before we arrived here. Col. Leasure went on to Harrisburg to see about that and our destination. He returned to day. There is some difficulty between Burnside and Halleck. Halleck insists on sending all the troops back to Tennessee that were there. Burnside wants to get all his old Corps along with him. Col. L. thinks we will have to go West again. The order will come tomorrow, and we will have to start on Sunday or Monday.

Part of our regiment is in the barracks and part have procured tents and pitched out in the fields. I am among the latter and have a pretty good location. Johnny did not come out to camp till yesterday, but as soon as he came I went in and got the dentist started at my teeth. He will have them finished today. I will probably get a chance to get them before I go. I also got your seeds, blue moss etc. I also got a book for Willie as he is so fond of reading it will be a variation for him. Tell him if he keeps on I will send him more. John Haworth will send them in a box with Hugh's things, but not till next week. I did not have time to have a settlement with him, but left the account with him, and he will examine and compare with his. I also gave him a memorandum stating that our accounts were settled and the note I held was void etc. so that there could be no difficulty should any stranger have to settle our accounts. I stayed in Pitts. all night and came back here this morning. Johnny and Willie went in as soon as I came out. More than half of our men remain in Pitts. and I would too if I had not the business of the regiment to attend to, but while that is the case I cannot be away. Johnny is not doing anything - he wants to bring me out. The mud is deeper in this camp than in the road opposite our house at home. However, we will soon get away from it. We get plenty of rations. The men don't like things however and are anxious to get out to the front again.

I will try to let you hear from us again as soon as possible, but it may be some time. As I am beginning the QM business I am under the necessity of giving all my attention to it. After a while I can take it a little easier.

You must not write till I can send you word where to direct to.

With much love

Yours
William