

Annapolis, MD
April 1. 1864

My dear Jane

I have been expecting a letter from you for some time, but some how there has none reached me here except a note from George to whom I telegraphed when in Baltimore. He says he intends coming down here to see us, but cannot for the present on account of Kate. He is daily expecting her to be taken ill. Robert he says is improving. The mail came to day, but nothing in it for me, although most of the letters had been forwarded from Camp Copeland. We are now fixed up here comfortably. It is precisely like where we were last spring at Newport News, except the James River and bay in the distance. We are about a mile out of town and out of sight of the river, or rather the two rivers for we lie on a neck of land between them. We are fixed up well. The men have large A tents. We have an hospital tent which is occupied by Willie, Henderson, Dick Holmes and Cochran Leslie. Lt. Justice and I have a wall tent and a good bunk. The Lieutenant is not very well yet. He has had several chills since he came here, and is not like himself. Willie has a sore throat, and I found a little touch of it too, but not of any account. I think mine was occasioned by half swallowing a little piece of tobacco - the nasty stuff! I rather think that the location is not over healthy, and there is some sickness in camp, particularly among the recruits. The only occupation we have now is drilling - principally of the recruits. Our regiment is nearly full now. We have about six hundred men present, and some are arriving every day. I think that by the time our recruiting parties are called in we will have the full number. Some of the companies are more than full. Ours numbers now one hundred and five, and many more are to come to it yet. Of course they cannot all be allowed in it, for one hundred and one is all they are allowed to have. The supernumerary will be turned over to other companies who need them. There are so many new men now with us that the regiment don't look like itself. The recruits are in the majority and know it, but the old ones keep them rather under. None of the officers of Company G. are here. Capt. Blair has not come on at all. My impression for a good while is that he never intended to. In fact I have been informed that he has resigned. Lt. Kirk is yet behind on recruiting service, and our orderly Sergeant is home also. The second sergeant was in charge of the company, but was not competent for the job. The Captain ordered me in Pittsburg to assist him all that I could, but I did not, preferring to work for Lt. Justice. Since we came here and the company so large, the Second Lieutenant of Co. K. has been placed in command of our company. The ultimate object I think is to have him where he may become captain of it. If I was now with the Company, I would

probably be in the way of promotion. If the Col. is waiting for Lieut. Justice's promotion before doing anything for me, it will never come. But Col. Dawson is in earnest I believe. He has written to Col. Leasure, and if he does not object, he will appoint me Lieutenant at once. This is the only way I can become quartermaster until Lt. J. is promoted. It was only this week that Ashton's dismissal was officially proclaimed, thereby making a vacancy in our company. If that is the case, and Capt. Blair resigns I will soon thereafter be first Lieutenant. Next Lt. Kirk intends soon to resign and I will be in the usual routine made Captain. I don't care for this run of affairs, for a Captain I could not be quartermaster, and would be in the line, where it would be easier to be a private. All this is only a guess however, and we must wait for the developments that time may bring forth. It would also be highly imprudent to say anything about these things to anyone, as it may all turn out very differently. I don't think any one knows anything about it yet except Lt. J. He told me yesterday that we would soon have to part - that I would have to go through the same process of Sergeant Major that Johnny had before he became Lieutenant. Our old Sergeant Major was buried the day we went to N. Castle on our way out here, and our new one will in a few days be promoted to a vacant Lieutenantcy in his company. Then if Col. Leasure's letter is all right, I will take his place. There is now nothing but Col. L. in the way. I do not very much like the idea of leaving Justice now, and if I would consult my feelings alone, would prefer remaining with him till the end of our term.

Since I commenced writing this Hugh came in. He arrived in the evening train, and will stay here till Monday. He might have staid longer, but he has to meet the Examining Board on Tuesday. He looks as strong and hearty as ever. He sat up to a late hour with us. After a few days among the boys again I think it will be easy to take him along with us. If the board of examiners don't find any fault with him I am pretty certain he will join our expedition.

From present appearances our expedition is going to be a failure as an expedition. At least its original destination is changed. We are ordered here by Genl. Grant. He is not the man to make an attack on Lee with the Potomac army, and have fifty thousand men somewhere else. He will of course take as large a force as he can, and we will no doubt go with him. Besides he has regiments of cavalry arriving here in too large numbers to find transportation for. We are only six days march from the front of the Army of the Potomac, and probably as soon as we are all gathered together, will, if Grant is ready, go on and join him. There is not a single vessel here yet to take us anywhere. The balance of our Corps is now on its way home across the mountains

of Kentucky. The first of them have reached Cincinnati and will be here next week. Johnny knows more about when they will be on than I do. You will probably know from him when we are to move. Perhaps he will be out at N. Liberty again.

This is now the second of April. We are enjoying a heavy rain and snow storm. The ground is white as winter. It is cold and damp. We have a stove in our tent and plenty of wood, and don't concern ourselves about out of doors.

I am called and must close.

With much love
Yours William