

Capt. A. Tolson
Mr. Laybright
that Mrs. N.
Mr. Hay was
to preach to
us on the
5th Sunday
of August.
Bring him if
you have
any thing to
say to him
of a particular
nature -
Very well this
morning

Camp, 2 miles from Keistow.
August 4th 1862 -

Being again established in camp my first inclination and duty is to write to you of myself. I am perfectly well, my love, in body, and as easy in mind as usual; as much so as I can be under the existing circumstances, my absence from all I love on earth. Yesterday I received your letter of Wednesday 1st inst, telling me of yours & the childrens good health - and many things that I like to hear from you, and as all of your letters do the assurance of your dear affection.

I was so glad to hear of my little daughters rapid improvement both in health and in her considerations for her mothers patience and powers of endurance. For I really thought when I was at home the trouble the children gave you would wear out your life too soon if continued - This often troubles me now, my love, already I fear your health has been affected, and the worry of the children has taken away much of my sweet wifes vivacity, and sprightliness. Can husband say anything in his absence to cheer you up? One thing you may ever rely on, my darling, the sincere love of your husband; and I believe the children will be affectionate loving daughters that will soon be great assistance to you and I hope a source of pride to us both.

My dear wife, while I am away I want you to beguile
the time by all the ways that will make it pleasant; play
those tunes I use to think you played so sweetly, and don't
forget your music for it will be a source of pleasure to us
& the children when we can be together again - walk about with
two children in the same old haunts we use to frequent
together when you were my sweet cousin, - read, and don't
confine yourself to those old books you have read so often
but send to Raleigh to Pomeroy for anything you want
that is new or that you have not read - do anything to
dispel the gloomy thoughts of our unhappy separation, &
relieve your mind from the continual anxiety about our
dear children - They can run & play, walk & talk to mother
and be happy while you too will be less care worn, and
will have many things to tell husband - Mother & Sister will
have great cause to blame me when we see them, if I
suffer my darling & their darling to pine away two lives
which was once supported by the most joyous & happy spirit
I ever knew - If my letters can aid away in restoring your
liveliness, & I believe you put more stress on them than
I think they are worth, I will write as regularly as I can
cheer up my sweetheart, this war cannot last always &
I believe I will be spared to you, though the other two have
been taken away, which formed the happy trio at College -

I was very sorry to hear of our friend's, Dr M^d. illness -
He has ever been a friend, a good one, to me and used to be
an admirer of you & always believed. Our country has
no better man than he is, and the country as well as
the family will lose a valuable man if he should
die - I hope he may be left to the already afflicted
family - Last Sunday I saw Lt Cook of Fayetteville
a school mate & roommate at Sumnerville, and Sam
Pipkin both of the McNeill Partizan Rangers - you know.
Sam seems to be in good health and says he can stand
the service, thinks he will bring Mrs P. down to his Aunt's
in Duplin, where she will be only 20 miles from their
camp. They are at a place called Richlands in Onslow Co.
Atkins Cameron was amongst those who had to run
from the Gankers & also Mr Foy, Dr John McKays wife's brother.
Lt Baker of our Regt was long with a few men of his, Capt
Strangis Co. and had started on a scout - met the Gankers
and had to run - Five men kept just far enough ahead
to watch them, Foy was one, the rest ran their horses all
the way to Trenton - It was below Trenton on the east side
of the Great River - and near the same place where we
lost the first man we had killed - The Gankers followed
them nearly into Trenton and did come on and occupy
the town after firing one shot & one shell into the town -

Sam says, Bill McKay is the most homesick man in the company and says he wants to see Lucy and the baby. A few days ago he found him leaning on the well curb and asked him what was the matter he said he was "very serious, that he wanted to go home". Sam says, Bill does not like to go out on a scout and will change horses with any one that has a horse not fit to ride, to keep from going on.

I opened up, trunk to see my clothes this morning and found that a pear had rotted in the folds of my Confederate coat and badly soiled it in several places. I had never worn it, was keeping it so as to wear it down to see you (for the first time) unless some extraordinary occasion called for use sooner. I will take it to Kingston tomorrow and see if I can have the stain extracted - the worst stain is on the breast & back where it will show most prominently. I am sorry for this but hope it will come out. Tell me what to use to clean it - Many clothes are a disadvantage in camp - as they are so apt to get soiled and mildewed - by getting wet when moving -

Our Camp is not below Kingston but two miles east I believe or north east - of the town and in a nice old field pine grove - This is a cool pleasant evening - autumn-like and makes me feel like being at home - Old Mr Andrews came down a day or two since and is here now. He is somewhat sadder but has the resignation of a true Christian - Capt A is again in command - So pleased you know Col W. is sick in Goldsboro & likely to die - What a hard time the Regt has -

Now darling I must close - My love to all - The family - we will go on picket again in a few days - I will write again first and also to some of the rest - Kisses for Mother & babies - An embrace from your loving Husband