

Brunswick County Va Dec 31st 1861

Dear Mort

I once more embrace this opportunity of answer^{ing} your letter of the 20th Inst to let you know that we are all well at present and hoping this letter may find you enjoying the ^{same} good blessing. I was taken with a flying out about 10 days after I got home from the mountains something like measles and was very sick several days but it could not have been the measles for none of the family have taken it from me - I was very sorry to hear that you all was ordered to Strasburg or in that vicinity I was in hope you would be ordered to Richmond but I suppose you must go where your services is most needed.

I see it advertised in the news papers that all the Professors belonging to the Lexington Institute have been ordered to go home the 1st of January and take charge of the school at Lexington and ~~with~~ ^{with} them is Col. Gilkane name I am in hope when he leaves you all you ^{will} not be forced to march so far.

Times are very dull in this part of the County the high price of salt and other necessaries of life have created a great deal of dissatisfaction with some people I had to pay about five dollars per bushel and I understand it is still higher than when I bought but not quite so high now as have been every thing that the farmers has to buy is very high and every thing they have to sell is very low except Pork is worth \$1.25 per hundred wheat about \$1.25 Corn \$2.50 per bush - I have been to 2 or 3 negro hires and I think they hiring very high for the time negro men from 75 to 80 dollars negro woman from 40 to 50 dollars I have hired Mr Owen Margaret again for \$25

Christmas is now over and we have had beautiful weather
and the young folks have been frolicing in the neighbourhood
Farker & Turner are now off on a frolicing expedition
I reckon will come home to day.

The War fever seems to be wearing off these rampant
Yankee killers when the war first broke out their wrist edge
have wore off and are now quit content at home
and some of them are trimming in their Boots for fear
that the war will not end before the present Volunteers
terms of service will be out and the militia will ^{be} called
out - The neighbours are all well so far as I know
Capt Dennis Children are at our House say their folks
are all well & all of our Relations are well

I want you to write ~~me~~ ^{to} often as you can and
give me the points take care of yourself as well
as you can

I expect to send this letter by Geo Weaver and would
send you things by ^{him} but he says he cannot carry any
Boxes with him - James Birdsong says he will take
all the Boxes on to the company in a few days
and I will send your ^{things} & Robert Kings Boots and some
other things for some of the boys which you can hand
to them it is getting late & I have got to go to Geo
Weaver this evening so I must close by saying I

Remen yours truly until death

W^m M Rawlings

J O Rawlings