

My Dear Sister

Camp Elliott Hill

March 23^a

Yours of the 20th 1863

has just come to hand, and I avail myself of the
chance to respond. I also received ^{your} yours of
5th inst yesterday so I will answer both at once.

The one of 5th was detained in the way from some
I would have written last week but Virginia's spike
of writing and I thought I would wait awhile.

I am glad the Enemy did not come as far as
our house, as the people were treated very badly
along their route. I am feeling very unwell today
indeed and you must not expect much of a letter.

I was taken sick Tuesday night whilst in picket
lines have been unwell ever since though I have not
been to the Doc yet hoping to over it in a short time.

There is no news that I know of that is worthy of men-
tion. There has been several fights in C. O. in which
the Enemy were repulsed with considerable loss.

It was reported the Enemy had thrown most of his force
on this side of the river but I think it must be a
mistake. There was some skirmishing with Sheridan

on the ~~King~~ ~~road~~ ~~Monday~~ though everything
since has been quite as usual along the lines on
both sides of the fence. This is Election day and
I see from the papers that we are not at a loss
for men to rule us. Anything to exempt me from
the service he uses his County, even the smallest
offices are sought after by men now who a few years
ago would have thought themselves above holding such
petty offices. Our Worthy Colonel is a candidate
for the State Senate from Richmond with a good pro-
spect of his being elected. I see that our worthy
friend Mr. Woodson is also a candidate for the
Legislature. I reckon his neck will be a little stiffer
than it now is when if he should be fortunate enough
to get a seat there which I think exceedingly doubtful
I have but little idea of voting but if I do vote I
certainly vote for Mr. Rutherford, our present worthy
Delegate. Our Brigade has commenced deserting
again. As many as sixteen left Tuesday night
I look that as the greatest evil by which we are
afflicted and will tend more to break down our
Army than anything I know of. One of our
who deserted came back some time ago, giving a

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awful account of the treatment of deserters in
the Enemy's hands. He pretended like they freed
him in their Army and deserted back to us but
the truth of it is, he came back after his family.
I believe. They have commenced recruiting negroes
for the Army at last. They paraded in the Capitol last
evening it is said. I fear they will not be of much
advantage to our cause. I never believed it was
constitutional and always thought it bad policy and
was doubtful of its expediency. It was that which
we complained of the U.S. Government and caused
our separation from them. I hope they may be
made available soldiers and add greatly to our
military strength. I fear as many as they propose
to arm can not be trusted with arms in their hands.
I was in Richmond Sunday and in fact was there
necessarily week also. Both times in the block.
I had quite a pleasant time whilst up there being
with a good many Ladies. I was at Capt. St. James
Sunday night and heard a most excellent sermon
from Mr. Christian delivered for the benefit of
the soldiers. I intended putting in a pass to day to go
to Richmond but I shall probably do here in it.

We are having some very windy weather at present
drying up the rain very fast. It is a good time for plow-
ing & preparing the soil for planting, I will bring
this interesting almanac to close hoping this may
serve you all in the enjoyment of this World's blessing

So I remain as ever your devoted Brother
You all must
Whitehead
and Obley
D. S.

Samuel
P. Pelue DeLoek
Thursday, March
23rd 1835