

Camp 25th Va. Regt
Burton's Farm

My dear Pat,

Winston has petitioned to go to see his wife, and knowing that you are always anxious to hear from me I will attempt to write you a short letter, though I have nothing particularly to write about. I am however anxious to hear from you and how matters are getting on at home. I am fearful they are terribly behindhand in their preparations for the coming crop, as there has been such an amount of bad rainy weather. I am as desirous to go back to see you again as ever, and should like to see how everything is progressing there. I should like to know too whether the horse Fanny has gotten well or is dead. I am expecting to hear however that she is dead. If she is, have you gotten the other horse from Dick to work in her place? I am very much afraid that we shall fail to make a good crop of corn this year unless the hands are farther advanced in preparations towards it than I expect them to be. Our fall tax is to be tremendous, and unless something considerable is made to sell, I do not know where the wherewith is to come to pay it off. I expect my state and confederate tax will amount to somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300 next fall.

Write me about the matters I mentioned in my last letter. I see in the papers that only the non-interest bearing confederate notes are to be taken in payment of taxes, and as there is every effort made by the Gov't to get in the 8 per cent notes, ask Cousin Jack what we had better do with the money on hand, had we better keep it on hand or invest it in something. Tell him to do as he thinks best about it. I have not been able to hear a word yet from Wm. Phillips as yet about the Fuller affair. I hope it is most time for the Surgeon to come back when something can be seen about it.

Report came to us yesterday evening that there had been a rising among the women of Richmond in great numbers that had broken open the stores and had demanded what was necessary for their sustenance. This looks bad for a Southern community - but I reckon the poor creatures are really suffering for the necessaries of life and a dark future being before them they have resorted to extreme measures. This rising is against the speculators and extortioners, I suppose, and if such be the case my sympathy is with them. The speculators are ruining the country and some visitation upon them of this character may be proper, as the Gov. will not stop their extortions. I don't know what the poor are to do, for starvation almost seems evident. In fact I can't see how we are to maintain our great army in Va. and I am very much afraid that our State will have to be evacuated. I hope we may not be reduced to this extremity, but oh how dark our future now appears - not that we need men and material of war for a successful defense, but provisions. What is our army to do for something to eat for the long, weary months to come before the new crop comes in? I am very much afraid we shall be starved out of Virginia. I thought of writing to Cousin Jack about this matter, but you can tell him to write to me. We are expecting Gen. Elzy today and I will stop until the inspection is over and then conclude.

Well we have had the review and have seen Maj. Gen. Elzy. There is nothing remarkable about him - in fact I should rather think him an indifferent looking personage. He has nothing of the appearance of a great military character, as I suppose he is not.

Our supply of provisions that I brought from home has become exhausted, and we are living very low now. At a suitable time you can send the things over - you will have to be the judge of that.

If there is any sole leather to spare send me a pair of half soles - not without it is to spare though.

Now I must send my love to the chaps and tell them not to forget me, and that Papa often thinks about them. And do you, dear Pat, often remember me for I am afraid we all shall have a hard time this summer, with marching and hunger and many privations. May I be mistaken and may Heaven continue to bless us both as in the past!

My best and warmest love to you, with my continued prayer for health and strength to sustain you amid your many trials. And may a better and happier time await us.

Yr. affectionate husband

Jos. L. Pollard

By Mr. Owens.

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