

Sunday Evening, May 31st, 1863
Camp 26th Va. Regt.
Burton's Farm

My dear Pat -

I am warned that it is time for me to write to you again as the week is spent, and if it does not go by tomorrow's mail you will not get this until next Saturday. I am anxious to receive one from you, to know how matters are going on at home. It is truly harrowing to my feelings to spend this fine weather cooped up here in camp, when we could be more profitably employed at home, and so much better contented. Oh how vastly different have things turned out to what we expected when this war broke out! Who expected to spend two years in camp with now no better prospects of this war ending than when it first commenced? Truly I had not anticipated its duration to this time, and such vast destruction and desolation.

We had a fine sermon this morning from the Rev. Healy. A service on "God manifest in the flesh". It was a brilliant discourse, and as he admitted too "intellectual" to create any very serious impression or to do much good. It was not a sermon suited to the soldiers, to call forth their thankfulness to God, to impress them with their great responsibility to their kind benefactor and to arouse a response in their hearts to the call which He has upon them.

I suppose you have received before this the letter I sent by Mr. Samuel, with the 100 dollars. Be sure to get Cousin Jack to attend to the matters therein stated as soon as possible. There is another matter I overlooked - Wm. A. Wright had a claim of mine against the Boughtons for 75 dollars. It would be well to see what has become of it. He had the wheat receipts and the account he got from Boughton. It would be well to see if they have been lost and to see whether the money can be got.

I shall have to beg you for some more soap to be sent by first opportunity. The gov. doesn't furnish any.

I suppose all of you, as well as we here, have been greatly disturbed and uneasy about affairs around Vicksburg. That is a very important position and if the enemy gets that he will strike us a very serious blow. At one time we had almost given the town and defences up for lost, but late reports here put us a little in hope that yet he may drive the Yankees back and hold the Mississippi. We have heard that it has been officially reported that Gen. Grant is in the retreat, thinking his situation too hazardous, as Johnston is threatening him somewhere in the rear. It is to be hoped this may prove correct. If this be so, advance any farther on the side of the enemy is stopped and there can be no more general fighting this campaign unless our Generals advance upon the enemy.

I sent to Richmond for the Messengers but Bernard Eubank said he could not find them in any of the book stores, and Randolph told him there were none of these months to be got. We have had a very fine spell of weather, elegant for farming and I suppose the negroes here advanced considerably in hoeing corn and killing the grass. I expect the weather

General, I have had
this letter from
the State...

I am sorry that I have not been able to
reply to you sooner. I have been very
busy with my work. I will try to
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has been too dry for your garden. A report has come up to us that there are ever so many transports in the York on their way to West-point and the inference is that Hooker is going to change his base. But we can't place any confidence in these things.

And now, I believe, I have written all the news and reports and must conclude as it is nearly time for the mail.

My best love to you and the children, and may God smile upon you all in bestowing health and contentment, and in giving you abundantly of His Holy Spirit.

Your affectionate husband,

Jos. L. Pollard

has been found for John Smith. The name is not listed in the records of the State of New York. The name is not listed in the records of the State of New York. The name is not listed in the records of the State of New York.

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