

In the trenches, Nov. 2, 1864
Near Petersburg

Dear Pat-

I received your letter and the eatables you sent by Geo. Owens. They were very acceptable. Tell Willie "Papa" is very thankful for the chestnuts he sent. I should have written by Owen's boy, but when they arrived we were about moving to another portion of the line, and ever since I have been here I have been as busy as I can be, it being the last of Oct. and all the Company papers had to be made out, such as pay rolls, muster rolls, monthly returns etc. I should certainly have written before this, but on account of the matters stated above. I feel that I do not write to you often enough, that I do not repay you for the long letters you write to me. To tell the truth, dear Pat, I can't write long letters in the trenches - there is so much firing with the pickets generally, and then oftentimes shelling is going on that I can't bring my mind to the matters I wish to write about. I know you feel slighted frequently but you have little idea of my situation. The potatoes are very fine, and the butter goes most excellently. I am very well - but we have been expecting a fight nearly every day for a fortnight, and the expectation and nightly watches and my other duties weigh mightily on my mind, that I feel sometimes almost crazy.

I received another letter from Bob the other day. I will enclose it to you.

There has been some fighting on our right since I last wrote to you, in the neighborhood of the Wildon Road, the enemy was most signally repulsed. You have seen this in the papers. Likewise 200 picked Yankees under the pretence of deserters entered the lines of this Brigade a few nights ago, and carried off a Col., Lt.Col., and Lt. Ryland. They were charged out when found out by our men, some escaped, some were taken prisoners, and some killed. It was a very daring affair.

Winston will do as well as any to send to Richmond, but when you send him give him some meal to carry as the gov. feeds very badly. I am glad to hear that you will make so much molasses. I thought you were mistaken in the piece of land I had layed off, especially if we had a good stand. Kill the bull for a beef. I want you to send by Guy Schools the jacket you have with you, and the handkerchief you gave me when I was sick. I am nearly naked for a jacket and can't draw one - very few clothes are being furnished to our troops. We are having some very cold weather for this season of the year, and we suffer a good deal with cold. You have better sell your brandy as soon as possible or you might loose it.

We are situated now on the right of the celebrated "blow up" under the shelling of some very heavy batteries of the enemy. They have already opened fire on our batteries, a thing they daily do. Be sure to doctor James up, have his leg regularly bathed, and tell Harrison he is to pay particular attention to him. Have the mule broken to the plough, that she may be ready for work next spring. If you have a yearling suitable for a small beef you had better have one killed, that its hide may furnish leather for the white family next winter. And now, my dear wife, farewell - may God still bless you, and my little children. My best love is sent to you all.

Your affectionate husband

J. L. POLLARD

Dear Sirs

I received your letter... I have been very busy... I am sorry that I cannot give you a more detailed answer... I will try to get back to you as soon as possible...

I am sorry that I cannot give you a more detailed answer...

I have been very busy... I am sorry that I cannot give you a more detailed answer... I will try to get back to you as soon as possible...

I am sorry that I cannot give you a more detailed answer... I will try to get back to you as soon as possible...

I am sorry that I cannot give you a more detailed answer... I will try to get back to you as soon as possible...

Your obedient servant

J. P. ...