

Bachelor's Creek, N. C. April 17th 1863.

Dear and respected friend!

Your
welcome letter dated March 29th did arrive in due time and
I would answer sooner if I did not expect every moment another
letter from you, acknowledging the reception of the humble test-
imonial signed for you by the members of Comp. No. 10; I was
very anxious to know if the above paper was in your hands,
and I was much pleased yesterday in receiving your letter
stating it was all right.

I hope these lines will find you in better
health; the change of climate is probably the cause of your
sickness; but the tender care you are surrounded with and
and summer days being near, I sincerely hope you will
promptly be relieved.

News here are scarce and as you know, they
are often very contradictory; you probably know that Gen.
Foster was at Washington (N. C.) with about 4500 men and
that he was attacked by a great force of rebels; many

Yours
Aime

times he was summoned to surrender but he answered that he considered such summons as an insult and that he would not be insulted long more. - Foster sent to Newbern for reinforcements and Genl. Spinola's Brigade went to assist him, but it is said that those militia men did run away at the first fire and Spinola had to come back to Newbern. Foster kept his position there and the night before last he turned the blockade and arrived safe in Newbern after leaving his men in Washington; he took 4 regiments with him, also some artillery to attack the rebels by the rear; he was in our Camp yesterday afternoon and after his interview with Col. Jones he left with his men for Winston. - Shortly after that our regiment was ordered to be ready for march with 2 days rations, and our men left at twelve last night. As I was on picket I am left in Camp. At the present time (noon) we hear a heavy firing and when our regiment come back I will, perhaps, have some interesting news to send you. - Since your departure we have lost five men in the regiments; four of Comp. I were taken prisoners on the Neuse road and one of Comp. F was killed when on fatigue, by the fall of a tree.

Captain Clay is well and in good spirits, but Lieut. Clay is in camp, officer of the Guard and
he

he do not feel very well; I heard that their intention was to resign but it is not a certainty. In regard to the vacancy of 2^d Lieut., it was said that Sergt. Major Wood was chosen by Capt. Clay but it appeared Wood had another place and it was reported to me that the Adjutant did propose Soaley to Capt. Clay, but without success; then the Adjutant said to Capt. that he will have to promote one of his sergeants; the answer was that he would not do it. - A few days ago our Company sent a petition to Col. Jones, stating our company would be disgraced if an a stranger was sent to us to fill the vacancy. What will be done? I do not know.

I w-w-i-s-h th-th-is w-w-w-a-w-a-w-b-b-b-e over, I g-g-got s-s-some p-p-p-particular b-b-b-us-b-us-b-ness to do home.

Patience is the mother of all the Christian virtues and it is a great consolation to know that everything has an end.

All send you their best respects, but in particular Sergt. Merrick, Hoffa, Hanson (the baby), & Corp. Greene.

I hope you will write to me often and in bringing my letter to a close I assure you that I remain
your true friend

∴ Charles P. Riker,