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Bachelor's Creek N. C.

April 10th 1863

Dear Brother Wills,

Your most welcome letter came to hand last night, but the pleasure I felt in hearing from you is saddened by the news of the ill health of yourself and wife, may God restore the health of both of you, and give to you the happiest home in America, is the heartfelt wish of Pax.

I was much disappointed when I returned from picket, and heard about you had started(?) from Newbern, but disappointments don't alter cases, so I had to make the best of a bad thing by getting full of ale to your memory, drinking from the goblet you gave me, speaking of ale, reminds me of a little story as "Old Abe" would say about a week ago Bro Syile(?) complained to Baribbis that the men were getting drunk at the Sutler's, whereupon Baribbis(?) ordered a corporal's guard to

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arrest Poalk(?), Campbell, and the clerk, down went the guard, and caught poor Davis, and landed him in the Guard-house, Poalk it seems had got wind of what was up, and took the Nence(?) road, thinking to stay away until the trouble was over, but he didn't notice that the "moon was full" or he might have known that Baribbis wouldn't come to his right senses for a week. Anyhow both Poalk, and Campbell, came up on the cart(?) from Newbern that night, and Searp(?) was watching at the landing, as soon as the guard could get down they were both nipped and accommodated with a hearing before Baribbis, who ordered the whole party to the guard-house, until he considered the case, they were released in the morning however, but Campbell swears that nothing but seeing Baribbis broke will satisfy him for the insult, he has already made charges under oath, against Baribbis, for receiving four-hundred doll's from him for the position of Sutler, which if proven will make the old-man remove the Ranche(?). capt. Winn is back, and has already made five distinct charges against Barabbis, one of which is for letting a civilian have the countersign for a week at a time. I am a witness against Barallis too, I'll tell you

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how it came to happen. I was on duty as officer of the guard, the Col, and adjutant had both gone to Newbern, so that I could not get the countersign unless I took it from Scarl(?) so I made a distinction between a civillian and a soldier, and would not receive it from him, when he came back he asked me how it happened there was no countersign given to the pickets. I told him there was no Officer in camp to give it to me, he said, Horatio has it, I said yes, and he may keep it for all I care. So the matter stands at present.

Poalk has received his commission as quarter master, in one of the Massachusetts Regts in Newbern, and has announced his duties as such.

Leut Foster is up at (?) Washington and the Reb's have got him surrounded, they have sent reinforcements up to him this morning.

The new's (news) has just reached us, that our troops have taken Charleston, but I am afraid he believe it. Captain Rodger's is under arrest, and to be court-martialed, for inciting his camp to mutiny as the charges read, there is great difference of opinion as to how he will make out.

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Major Martin, and Brown and Metcalf are all up on Furloughs.

When you go to Phila. if you see Charley, I wish you would tell him I haven't had a letter from him since Feb 11th and I have written to him twice since that. Give my respects to all persons you know who know me – write soon, good bye

Believe me Sincerely Yours

Paxson

Everyboddy wishes you well. Old Ripke don't get any better, I am afraid his game is damned near out.

P.