

My dear Parents,

Mr. Parkins of the 17<sup>th</sup> Va Cavalry (now stationed here) a brother of the former editor of a paper published in Berryville some years ago, expects to start for the Valley, day after tomorrow, and consequently I have seated myself to write this to send by him. He will go to the White Post or at least in that neighborhood, so I feel almost certain that he can forward this to you by some opportunity. I had recd. [received] from you but two letters in the last two months, the first of which was dated Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, the last Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. I have written you during the same period, I suppose about four. Col. [Colonel] John C. McCausland our Brigade commander, appointed me on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, Provost Marshal and Commandant of the post. Capt. [Captain] Wm. [William] A. Gillian, the senior Capt. [Captain] of our Regt. [Regiment] who had discharged these duties precious to that, was received at his own request. On the 25<sup>th</sup> January, Genl. [General] Jones sent an order here for a Lieut. [Lieutenant] to go to Bristol. I suppose to act as Asst. Prov. [Assistant Provost] Marshal there. Col. [Colonel] McCausland picked on me, but as he told me afterwards he concluded that he wouldn't send his good officers away, for he knew that they would keep them, so he sent him the worst officer in the Brigade Lt. [Lieutenant] Chandler of the 36<sup>th</sup> who they say can't write anything but his name correctly. I was sorry that the Col. [Colonel] had changed his mind, for Bristol is a very nice town, and I could have found agreeable society there as well as a comfortable place to board. The above is the first instance in which Col. [Colonel] McCausland has enpressed [sic, impressed] himself favorably towards me, at least that I know of. I believe that vanity has not led me to write this, but as I have ever endeavored to faithfully perform my duty, so also I like to please my Commanding officer, and gain their appreciation. My duties are very confining. I have no desk or assistant; consequently, I have to remain here (in the Post Office cabin where I have established my office) the greater portion of the day. My office hours are from 7 AM to 1 PM and from 2 PM till sunset. My duties consist in examining the paper of transient, and detailed soldiers and citizens, and giving them passes where there absence is satisfactorily explained, and in signing all quartermasters & company papers, provision and hospital actions &c. & c. [et cetera] and in general to assume all the responsibility of commds. [commands] of the Post. I do not object to the confinement, and constant employment, except for this reason – that I do not have my Sundays to myself as I used to this consideration my force me to resign the position, impress Col. [Colonel] McC. Gives me a clerk which he has heretofore refused to do.

I heard from Mr. Harding during the latter part of January. He told me to direct to him after the 25<sup>th</sup> Jany. To Demopolis, Ala, where he expected to be at that time. He says his views in regard to the war judging from the present status and the prospects of the future are very despondent. But you know his nature is to be either very hopeful or despondent. In one letter he thinks our prospects exceedingly bright in the next, he writes in the most gloomy manner.

I bought two bushels and a peck of potatoes and some cabbage a day or two ago. You can imagine how high we are living on the strength of it. The govt. [government] furnishes in nothing but flour, beef, and salt. I hope my last letter was satisfactory. We hear reports continually of Early and Stuart being in the Valley. Our account indeed states that the former is building winter quarters at Winchester. I don't think there can be any truth in them however or I should see some accounts of it in the papers. Where is Bushrod Washington. George wrote me that he had been promoted to a first Lieutenancy.

I was disappointed on Saturday in getting my boots. They will be done probably the latter part of this week. I am studying Chemistry. I recite to Dr. Noel. I find it almost impossible however to study much here, being so often interrupted. Archie Alexander, a nephew of Mr. William Alexander, is now in the 17<sup>th</sup>. He told me that I was expected to spend my Christmas in Greenbrier that they looked for me at

that time. He offers me the use of his house at any time. I am afraid to get a pass for any length of time for fear it may interfere with my furlough, and I would not part with my chance of going home for anything in the world. Oh! If our army could just occupy the lower Valley for two months how glad I should be. Dr. Noel seems to have given up the idea of going home with me. He is very anxious to go to his own home, in Essen. Mr. Harding seems to think that he cannot get off this winter, as he has no one who could discharge his duties during his absence. I have nothing more to write at present. My best love to my cousins and regards to all my friends. Your devoted Son.

E. Fautleroy.

I should write to my Cousin B. but Mr. P. will leave tomorrow (4<sup>th</sup>) and consequently I shall not have time to do so. I note one letter to them by George, which was not answered. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1864.

P.S. Major Mitchell, Commissary of Genl. [General] Echols, passed here a day or two ago, on his way to his Brigade. He was ~~to be~~ Prefect at the E.H.S. [Episcopal High School] my first session there. He inquired whether I could send a letter [illegible] to Wheeling (his home) for him. I told him that I could enclose it to you, and thought you could send it on. Please write and let me know whether you could send letters for him to Wheeling, if I were to enclose them to you: also whether letters coming from his relatives at Wheeling could not be directed so that you could get them, and forward them to me.

You remember that I wrote you of an adventure which I had in Fayette Co. [County] last August, in which Corpl. [Corporal] McCallister of my Company, (who was with me) was taken previous. He was afterwards taken to Camp Chase where he is now. He wrote a few days ago to his mother, a poor widow in Fayette that he was without money and clothes – and in a suffering condition. Could you not relieve his wants in some way? By getting some one in the enemy's lines to supply him with money. I feel that I was in some measure the cause of his being taken – and therefore I write to make this request. By assisting him in any way, I would feel that it was as great a favor as though I were in his place. He is a Christian, and one of the best boys I ever saw. Although uneducated, he is a boy of noble principles. When his father was dying, he applied for a pass of 10 days. Although this was refused, he stuck manfully to his Company. Knowing that it was his duty although the men advised him to go and I believe there was not another man in the Co. [Company] who would have remained, situated as he was.