

Camp Meadow Bluff Monday Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 1861.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> October was recd. on Saturday, as also one from Pa dated 28<sup>th</sup> at Staunton. I had intended writing to you yesterday, but went to sleep in the evening, and in the morning attended service. This was held in the open air, although it was very cold. The minister, a corporal in Capt Ingraham's company, from Roanoke, chose for his subject "Godliness", preaching a short but pretty good sermon. He said there should be a weekly sermon prayer meeting every Thursday night in our camp.

Lieutenant Pearce went out about 5 miles from camp, on Saturday, to spend a few days, in order to recruit his health, which has been bad lately. Lieut Elliott of Charlottesville is now occupying his place. On Saturday morning a party of men under Col. Smank went up on a hill to the right of our camp and cleared off a piece of ground for our "Winter Quarters". Today 120 men were sent up and are now busily felling trees for the cabins.

huts. The Artillery who commenced over a week ago have, already erected 4, 2 of which are covered. I was in hopes we would go east but it seems we shall have to remain here. The position we now occupy is a low marshy one, and consequently very muddy during rainy weather, a specimen of which we have had in the last day or two. I suppose Pa is with you by this time, enjoying your company and that of sweet little Maggie. On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> I commenced a "journal", which Pa made for me while at Mr. Alexander's. I write in it again this morning. We are expecting daily, Col. Clarke and Lieut. Col. Cauley, (an old army officer) appointed to this regiment. I got some clothes washed a few days ago by Mr. Wasmack, one of our mess, for which he charged me 40 cts, (being 5 cts. a piece). They were not ironed of course, but boiled, and scrubbed until they looked very white. Col. W. Taylor about whom you inquire is the father of Capt. Taylor and a private in this company. He is 57 years old, but the most industrious, and laborious man I almost ever

saw. He attempted to raise a company of "Seniors" in Greenbrier but failed, and then determined to join his son's company, which he did while we were at Camp Tyler below Charleston.

Who do you mean by Clayborn Green; is he the lawyer who lives in Charleston, or his brother from Manchester? I have heard of three other candidates from our county, Wm. Sugar Jr, Andrew Hunter, & Alex. Boteler, I hope and believe Wm. Boteler will be elected. He is the most talented & gentlemanly man of the lot, as well as the truest to the South. The "inglorious" own of McPherson's Cavalry" is represented in the paper as a most glorious and noble achievement, such as to do honor to those engaged in it. We have had some experience in running on a much larger scale. If it had been left to Genl. Wise however we would have stood our ground. There is very little news stirring, hardly enough to make a letter as you may see by the way in which I am drawing <sup>out</sup> this letter.

There is a good deal of sickness in camp, and  
2, or three deaths occur almost daily in our regt.  
These are only 342 privates fit for duty in  
this regiment, some 270 being "Present-Sick".  
The whole Legion reported "fit for Duty" a few weeks  
ago - 2800 men, out of an aggregate of about  
3500. The Sun is now shining very pleasantly, &  
affords a very agreeable contrast to the freezing  
mornings and nights. Pa. writes that he bought  
me a fine blanket in St. Antonio for \$10.00. It  
could not be purchased for any price.  
We can purchase apples in camp almost every day  
at 10cts pr. doz, very seldom 5 cts. At 1st we were  
charged 15 cts, but the mil. authorities fixed the  
maximum of 10 cts. Onions also sell at 10cts -  
Cherries 10 cts a pint. Kiss Meppie for me  
& give my kindest regards to Benjamin Lippie  
I will endeavor to write him a  
letter soon. I have been intending for  
some time to write to the Misses Maxwell  
but have not yet done so. I will however soon.  
This letter is very interesting I know, but it  
is the best I can write at this time. Good  
bye - I remain as ever

Yours sincerely devoted Son

Cyrus T. Cordell

Act. Sergeant Major

3rd Regt

11th Legion