
William Knight Civil War Letters, 1861-1863

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Knight, William W., Letter to Mary Knight August 10, 1863

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Camp Near Norton Miss August 10th 1863

Dear Widow I will try to drop you a line once more which I recon will surprise you. I have been waiting for a letter from you long that I have concluded you think I have no old man left to write to so this is to jog your memory or inform you I would like to hear from you once more if you are able to write or have any thing to write on or with I am quite hearty and very fleshy all though when the sun shines fair against me I make no shadow I have had a slight touch of diarrhoea now for a month and a half but thanks to strenghting effect of our beef we get I can still walk alone. I am weak from the diarrhoea other ways I am well. Jonathan has had it very bad but is getting better so he is able to attend to his business. Lt. Baxter is at home on furlough I wrote a note to your Father asking him to pay what money I have at home my debts I want them paid as far as it will go there is enough to pay all the debts I owe when I come off in the service if any of them refuse to take the money

I want him to count out the money and tell them I will never pay any interest on it after that day and keep the money to itself. Mary I hope to be able to pay all we owe before the war closes if ever does for when it does close it will be impossible for poor men that has been in the army to pay their debts and the wealthy class for they are all speculators will get what little they have for it will be sold to pay debts. This is the rich man's war and the poor man's fight there is but few rich men in the army and that few are all in office none are in the ranks if they could not get office they could substitutes and they put them in or staid out and got some office at home to keep them out of the army or stay out under the twenty negro act or some other such excuse I am tired of the way things are done in this country it has brought us to the worst ruin and there is no chance yet and I am afraid there will not be time enough to do any good for the country we have our worst enemy among us and they will go back in to the union for fear they they will lose their property. Mary write soon as you get this if you can your faithful husband
kiss the children for me and if we can meet again I will try to pay the debts.
W. W. Knight

1863-08-10

Camp near Marton Miss., August 10th 1863

Dear Widdow[sic], I will try to drop you a line once more, which I recon will surprise you. I have been waiting for a letter from you so long that I have concluded you think you have no old man left to write to, so this is to jog your memory, or inform you I would like to hear from you once more, if you are able to write or have any thing[sic] to write on or with. I am quite hearty and very fleshy, all though[sic] when the sun shines fair against me, I make no shadow. I have had a slight touch of diarrhea now for a month and a half, but thanks to [the] strengthening effect of our beef we get, I can still walk. Also, I am weak from the diarrhea, other ways I am well. Jonathan has had it very bad, but is getting better, so he is able to attend to his business. Lt. Baxter is at home on furlough. I wrote a note to your father asking him to pay what money I have at home [to] my debts. I want them paid as far as it will go. There is enough to pay all the debts I owed when I came off in the service, if any of them refuse to take the money...

I want him to count out the money and tell them I will never pay any interest on it after that day and keep the money to itself. Mary, I hope to be able to pay all we owe before the war closes, it [it] ever does, for when it does close, it will be impossible for poor men that has been in the army to pay their debts, and the wealthy clap, for they are all speculators [and] will get what little they have, for it will be sold to pay debt. This is the rich man's war and the poor man's fight, there is but few rich men in the arm, and that few are all in office, none are in the ranks. If they could not get office, they could substitute and they put them in or stand out and got some office at home to keep theirs out of the army or stay out of the army under the twenty-negro act or some other such excuse. I am tired of the way things are done in our country. It has brought us to the very [edge?] of ruin and there is no change yet and I am afraid there will not be time enough to do any good for the country. We have our worst enemy among and they will go back in to the union for fear they will lose their property. Mary, write soon as you get this if you can. Kiss the children for me, and [know?] we will meet again. I will try to pay the dept.

Your faithful husband,

W. W. Knight