

*[No date but 1862 between January 22 and February 2]*

My much loved wife,

This is your own private letter to your self individually. The one accompanying this you can let them all read if you have a mind to. How I wish I could sit by your side and converse with you for an evening and then lie by your side for the night instead of talking to you by the pen and sleeping alone upon the tented field.

I always remember you in my prayers morning and evening and my thoughts are frequently upon you through the day. I can now fully realize how precious and dear you are to me. I miss you much. You speak of unkind words do not speak of them. I am the one that has always given you cause to complain. I feel as though if God should spare my life to again have the happiness of living with you in our own quiet home that I shall ever be more tender of you than heretofore. My love for you grows stronger I believe every day. Ah, how much happiness we have enjoyed unappreciated until the present. It seems that I must come home and see you and that before long I shall come as soon as I have the means to come with. How much I would prize your picture. I would wear it next to my heart and kiss it often but this would be a small comparison to your own dear self.

But I will not complain of our separation for God's ways are mysterious and all work for our own good in the end. Write often and believe me your own dear husband in love and affection.

Newton

P.S. You will send all letters hereafter to Philadelphia

?????

to N.F. Marsh

58th Regiment P.V. 138 South 4 Street

Philadelphia

??? ??? J.G. Backus

until I give further instructions

I think that I would enjoy camp life if I could have you near me all the time. I have got to do my own washing after this unless I can collect something that I have lent out. Did you carry my clothes or any of them to Ohio with you. I wish that I had of sent my shirts all of them home in my valise as they are a bother to me to carry around and I do not wear them at all.

P.S. We will not leave Camp Curtin until Monday next at 8 o'clock A.M.