

Camp 3<sup>rd</sup> N. E. I.

Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Miss Ebb. I hope no apology will be necessary for surprising you with this letter. If you could possibly understand the dullness of a continued camp life, you could then easily appreciate the pleasure of communicating with <sup>friends</sup> by letter, whom we formerly had the privilege of seeing in person. I had not been on the soil of the good Old North State during the last 15 months until about ten days ago, when I was ordered to go to Raleigh on official business & required to be back at my post in ten days & attend to other business in Richmond. I prepared my time & spent two days about my home, during which time I made an effort to see you, which had been a cherished object for some time, in fact without that desire I should not have gone east of Raleigh. But alas! cherished hopes give but little satisfaction when doomed to sudden disappointment. I called at your father's - expecting the pleasure of

seeing you a few hours; But my  
hopes were all blasted in a moment  
by the information that you were  
gone to visit some neighbor~~hood~~  
You can easily imagine my sad  
mortification, but I trust you will <sup>not</sup>  
laugh at it. I almost wished you  
had never had a neighbor. My  
time was so near spent I was com-  
pelled to leave without waiting  
or going to see your neighbor - or  
involve myself in serious difficulties  
here. So I left & returned here at once  
& I do hope you had a pleasant visit  
to your neighborhood & that, that pleas-  
ure will last for a long time.

During so short a visit as this I could  
learn but little of the news in  
Wayne & Genoir. I found that  
some of our friends had busi-  
sied themselves by getting  
married about Goldsboro - an  
example which I should not be  
surprised ~~at~~ any time had  
been followed about Mosely  
Hall. Would you?

I hope at your leisure you will give <sup>me</sup> all the local news about you & else where you may think proper. I am anxious to go home again but Heaven only knows when I shall. I hope to do so some time during the approaching winter & think I can towards the ensuing Spring, but nothing is certain here. We have, in this Army, during the past season had an active and stirring Campaign which will soon close as winter approaches. The men & officers of this Army have become accustomed all kinds of hardships & sufferings & many a brave spirit last spring, now rests in death, or has been crippled badly for life. The war continues furiously with but little prospect of closing soon, but I am glad to see the cool determination of our soldiers to be free or die trying to be so. We all hope that this terrible struggle

will soon end - that we shall  
once more be free & permitted  
to return to our homes. to see  
our friends from whom we  
have been so long separated.  
Camp life is dull & our duties are  
tiresome and tiresome especially in  
the cold damp season of the year.  
Now Miss Ebb. I ask the privilege  
& pleasure of corresponding with  
you by letter - hoping that you  
will see no impropriety in it  
as I surely do not. Please sig-  
nify your willingness by letter  
or unwillingness by returning  
this note. I shall hope till I hear.  
 Hoping that with your philosophical  
disposition, you <sup>are</sup> enjoying yourself  
as well as misfortunes & the troubles  
of <sup>our</sup> distracted country will allow  
I must close - asking you to excuse  
mistakes, as it is scarcely possible  
to write a decent letter in Camp.

I have the pleasure to remain  
your sincere friend H.C.  
W. J. Faircloth