

Headquarters, 51st Mass Regt
 Foster Barracks Newbern N.C.
 Dec 4th 1862.

To the loved ones at home;

You will find it a noticeable fact that I don't forget you, however often I may be in your thoughts.

Frequently, very frequently, my fancy loves to carry me back to your midst, that I may see you and converse with you as of old. Do any of you ever come thus to Newbern?

If you do, you would find us all today shivering with the cold. The day is very wet and dreary. I imagined when I came to Newbern I was going to the "Sunny South".

And who's sure it is sunny enough sometimes by day, often hot, while many a night since we have been here small pools of water have been



completely frozen over. Is not
that a treacherous climate?

The water here, also, tastes very
well for drinking water but there
is a peculiarity about it that
breeds fevers. The men therefore
don't drink much of the river
water without previously filtering
it. Thus taking into consid-
eration the sudden changes in
the temperature of the atmosphere
and the unhealthy water, we are
most favorably situated to incur
disease. Of course you are not
to infer from this that we are all to
be sick; far from it. Any one may
take precautions, and if he does so
faithfully will stand a fair chance
of maintaining good health. Almost
all make it a practice to put on
their overcoats at sunset, for then
however hot the day, the chilly
air becomes penetrating, the cold

Dec. 5th / Today I have visited
 Newbern for the first time since we
 arrived, and I am free to confess
 I have no particular desire to see it
 again. I was completely satisfied
 with my observations, leaving it, as I
 may ^{say} disgustingly satisfied. The
 city, even in Herpalmy days, could
 not probably compare with one
 of our northern cities. The offensive
 negro quarter, situated as they were
 everywhere in the city, some of them
 with their wood-colored sides, gave
 in my estimation a repulsive air
 to the place. And now, when
 war has hurried over it, some buildings
 torn down down, others burned, and
 the whole going to "rack and ruin" the
 place is bereft of whatever ^{few} attractions
 it might have possessed. There
 are however still a few quite pretty
 residences, and these do a little perhaps
 toward redeeming the place from

its desolation; indeed in some gardens I saw red and white roses modestly blooming in spite of the lateness of the season; but there was something in the place uninviting and sad in appearance as is always ^{the case} when there is neglect and consequent ruin.

The city is situated between the fork of the Front and Neuse rivers, so that its water privileges are good, and considerable shipping is constantly floating on their bosom. Hardly any of the original inhabitants are now in the city. The best buildings are appropriated for the headquarters of the military officers in high standing and also for hospitals for the different Regiments. My chum wrote that he was in the Academy General Hospital and myself, Biscoe & Garvin took up our line of march for this place after arriving at the city.

The rain poured all the morning

other meals. Some come with bags of apples and sweet potatoes on their shoulders, others balancing baskets of gingerbread and pie on their head.

The soldiers have considerable fun with them sometimes, what they, at least, call fun; but what I call a malicious desire on their part to plague the poor creatures. As a general thing they are honest but ignorant. Some of them don't even know how to make change for their goods, and there is therefore a fine opportunity for many to cheat them out of their dues.

Dec. 9th Hurrah for a move! The 81st have received marching orders.

We are ordered to move day after tomorrow morning early by sunrise.

We don't any of us know what our destination is. We apprehend though that we are going North. Perhaps against Malden. I understood from the Major that some 20

Regiments were going with me, but
as the regiments were not full there
would probably be an effective
force of only about 18,000 men.

So now, sister, we expect to
see fighting. Play is over. Now
the leaden messengers will become
a reality. Your brother may be
one of the first to fall. If we
know that I feel doing my duty
and with a hope beyond anything
earth can afford. If you ever
pray, pray for me that I may be
sustained throughout all trials
I may meet.

Salun wishes you to tell
Pamelia that he has not time to
write now but will do so at his
earliest opportunity.

The drums are sounding and
I must close. Write soon.

Your aff. brother

Frank W Adams.

but I was too anxious to see Chum
to be deterred by that in the least. So
I put on my rubber coat cap & cape
tucked my pants into my boots and
braved the storm. But we couldn't
see Samma after all. He left about
half an hour after we got there. So
he was wholly unconscious of our
efforts to visit him. We amused
ourselves by traversing the city, and
finally started for the camp of the
"44th" where were Albert Howe and
Sam Perry. We found them both
well, and Howe liking the business
very well, while Perry was somewhat
sick of it. Their camp is 1/2
mile from the depot on the banks
of the river Neuse. We remained
there an hour or two, and then began
to retrace our steps. At the city
we felt that the inner man needed
a little replenishing and sauntered
half over the city before we could

find an oyster saloon. At last we
came upon one kept by a darkey,
and while waiting for our stew
I wandered round the room examining
the paper pictures on the walls, and
came across the enclosed notice when
I took down when his back was
turned, and send it for your edifica-
tion.

It did not rain quite
so much on our return, and we con-
cluded, although we had been disappoint-
ed in smelting our friend and in the
general appearance of the city, that
we had enjoyed ourselves hugely.

Dec 6th I think you would be interested
to step inside our encampment. There
are many things that would please you
much. Aside from other peculiarities
you would probably notice first of all
the great number of darkeys on the
ground, the majority of whom are
women. They make their appearance
in flocks generally at noon-time and

heavy dews fall abruptly, and by
bedtime, it is necessary to pile
all the clothing upon the bed, you
can "rake and scrape". We have
a single fire-place in each of the
barracks but these are hemmed in
on the sides, and let the sun stand
before it two or three files deep, and
all the ^{heat} generally makes its way up chimney.

About 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning
is the coldest part of the night and
many are obliged get up and warm
themselves by the fire which is kept
burning all night. But perhaps I
have said enough in regard to the
climate; certainly enough to let you
know I am much disappointed in
it. Yet after all I comfort myself
with the thought that around you the
snow is perhaps a foot or two deep.

At the same time the darkies tell
us that the coldest part of the
winter here is just before and

after the tenth of December.

Perhaps you are already aware that I have two Classmates, Biscoe & Harris, in the Grapton Company in this Regt.

Tonight Biscoe received a note from my Chum Samson Stoddard, who was sick in a Hospital at Newton. He belonged to a New York Cavalry Co. and having nearly recovered from his illness expects to be removed by boat to Portsmouth to recruit his Health somewhat. I was astounded when I learned he was in this vicinity, I had before received no intimations of his whereabouts and he probably knows as little about me.

I tried to get off tonight to visit him but the Col. allows no commissioned officers in the City over night. So I suppose I must wait until tomorrow, although I am very impatient to see my old friend.