

Head Quarters Co. C. 47th P. I.
Beaufort S. C. Nov 5, 1862
Res. Mr. Thomas
Dear Sir,

Tattoo has sounded, which is the soldiers' hour for retiring, but as I sat in my tent, heels elevated, watching the ~~smoke~~ of my pipe as it curled lazily upward, my eye fell upon your letter of the 12th ult., which was received just previous to our starting on our late expedition. You will excuse me for not replying to it ere this, but I have been kept busy in settling the accounts of, and providing for my brave boys who were killed and wounded in the late Battles of Hampton and Pocotaligo.

I am at all times pleased to receive words of friendly greeting from the friends at home, and letters are especially welcome. I well know the interest and over affectionate mother manifests in the welfare of her son, and can readily

appreciate your position in acting for
her. If there is aught of good in me,
or a feeling that predominates above all
others, it is a love - an adoration for that
Mother. When in the midst of dangers
of field and flood, upon the battle field
and in the midst of the pestilence, I have
felt that her prayers were ever ascending
in my behalf, and that their influence
seemed as a Guardian Angel hovering over
me.

The demoralizing effects of War
my dear Sir, are but little known to
the uninhabited. Human life becomes
to be regarded as a matter of little
or no importance, and you ^{become accustomed to} regard the
future interests of yourself and men
as a matter of almost secondary import.
The cause of this it is difficult to state
conclusively - but partly owing to the
appointment of inefficient, frequently
impious Chaplains - and being cut off
from all society, by which the passions
are kept somewhat in check

Good advice should never be rejected, and when given as yours is, upon the impertunity of one whose welfare is mine, it comes with full force. I am always an attentive listener to it, and if not acted upon it is an error of the head - not of the heart. However reckless or callous, there are moments when even the soldier is given to thoughts of futurity - when his mind reverts to the promises and threats contained in Holy Writ, and many are the resolutions to pay more attention to the welfare of the immortal part of man. I would sincerely the prayers and advice, of which I am the humble subject may not be in vain.

I witnessed a very affecting sight at our last fight at Groamston. Our Regt was pursuing the Rebels through a woods, and were, shooting and bayonetting quite a number of them. One was shot by one of my men, a short distance in front of the line and fell to the ground. With his last breath he pulled from his pocket a small Testament, and lay it in his breast, rightly

Presuming it would even cause his body
be respected. I noticed some of the most
daring and reckless gaze with a sort of
veneration, upon the body of one who thus spent
his last moments.

The death of Gen Mitchell
has caused general sorrow amongst us.
He was well liked. The fever seems to have
ceased its ravages. No new cases have occurred
for three days at the Head, no cases at all
have yet occurred at Beaufort, unless brought
from the Head. My wounded men are all
doing well. With love to all friends
and acquaintances

I have the honor to be
Most Respectfully
Yours Obt Servt
L R Smith Gobair
Capt Co. 47 R. I.