

Headquarters Reg C 47PB

Beaufort, SC

11-5-62

Rev. M. Rhodes

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 gently upward my eye fell upon your letter of the 12th ult. which was received just previous to our starting in our late expedition.

You will excuse me for not replying to it before this, but I have been kept busy in settling the accounts of and providing for any brave boys who were killed and wounded in the late Battles of Frampton and Pocatalico.

I am at all times pleased to receive words of friendly greetings from the friends at home, and letters are especially welcome. I well know the interest an over affectionate mother manifests on 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 love and admiration for that Mother. When in the midst of dangers of field and flood, when in? the battlefield and in the midst of the pestilence? I have felt her prayers were ever ascending on my behalf and that their influence seemed as a Guardian Angel over me.

The demoralizing effects of war my dear Sir, are best little known to the uninitiated. 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 over 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 injurious chaplains, and being cut off from all society, by which the ____ are left somewhat in check.

Good advice should never be rejected and where given as yours is, the importunity 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 the heart. However, reckless or callous, there are moments when even the soldier is given to thoughts of futurity when his mind recurs to the promises and threats contained in the Holy Grail, and many are of the Resolutions to pay more attention to the welfare of the immortal part of man. I hope 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 Frampton. Our regiment was pursuing the Rebels through a woods and were shooting and bayoneting 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 on 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 General Mitchell has caused general sorrow amongst us. He was well liked.

The fever seems to have ceased its savages. No new cases have recurred 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,

JC Shindell Gobin

Cptn Co C 47th Reg.