

10-4-1865

Richard Baxter Foster Letter to his wife (October 4, 1865?)

Richard Baxter Foster

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Monday morning - before breakfast -

I got no letter yesterday - It is now 8 days since I heard from you. Did you omit to write to me for so long a time as that? If you did I must scold you a little. I have not neglected to write for 8 days at a time, since I left home. nor do I believe that you have when well enough to write. Mr Tipton preached to us of the dress parade last night. His sermons are full of thought and instruction. He is an able man. And performs his duties more faithfully than most of the officers though it appears to me that he might visit the men & talk to them personally upon religion & good advantages. I suppose he is afraid of doing more harm than good by exciting a dislike and so losing his influence. We got no news yesterday in any shape only that a strengthening of the rumors that the force now here is going to move soon. I suppose one regiment or battalion will have to be left here but most likely a regiment of militia will be sent for that purpose. Twelve Regts of Enrolled Militia were lately called into active service. I see by the latest paper that Col Phillips situation in the Indian country is considered precarious. I would sooner think we are going in that direction than any other. This is the same Phillips who was the N.Y. Tribune's correspondent in the times of the Kansas troubles. I made a slight acquaintance with him in 1856 but he probably would not remember me.

I still think that I shall get a call to Mass-
before this week is gone - but perhaps not. It is a month
today since application was made for my discharge.
It ought to have come by this time if it is ever to
come. It will not be a great disappointment if
I do not get it, I am as happy and as
pleasantly situated here as I can be while
I am absent from you. And there will be
other chances. It is for your sake in great part
that I desire this that I can make you com-
fortable. but also for my own. that I may have
a fair chance to see & show whether I am any-
body or not, and also for the cause - I have
fidelity and devotion & faith in the policy of not
more ability than others.

I meant to speak last week about writing Lu-
ards name in the papers father makes out
in the same way that he wrote it in enlisting
Lucas R. Reed. If father writes it Allard the
claim wont be good. I suppose there is no need
of my speaking of it. but it can do no harm.
Our nights are cold and deep are hot.
It takes two blankets over us to keep warm. & that with
an overcoat was all I ever had in the winter.
My health is perfectly good - Our living is as good
as camp living on Govt rations can be. How is your
garden this year? How many chickens have you?
How much chum has mother made Louis all *Burton*