

Richard Baxter Foster Letters to his Wife

[All indentions are meant to reflect those found in the original letter.]

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 [] well enough to write. Mr Tipton preached to us af – ter dress parade last night. His sermons are full of [] 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 to [good]advantage. 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 a strengthening of the rumors that the force now here is going to move soon. I suppose our regiment or battalion will have to be left here but most likely a segment of militia will be sent for that purpose. Twelve Regts of Enrolled Militia [] (tear in letter) lately called into active service. I see by the last paper that Cal 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. G. Tribune's correspondent in the times of the Kansas troubles. I made a slight acquaintance with him in [1806] but he probably would not remember me

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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 was 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 [] past that I desire this that I can make you comfortable - 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 zeal and devotion & faith in the policy if not more ability than others –

I meant to speak last week about writing Lu-and's name in the papers [farther] makes out in the same way that he wrote it in enlisting [Sirand] R. Reed. If [farther] writes it Allund the claim wont be good I suppose there is no [](tear in letter)of my speaking of it, but it can do no harm

Our nights are cold and days 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 [] living on Govt rations can be. How is your garden this year? How many [] have you? How much cheese has mother made Love to all Baxter