**Richard Baxter Foster Letters to his Wife**

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

Ison Mountains [\_\_]

March 7 /63

Dear Love,

We are lying

here yet doing nothing and not knowing yet what we are going to do, There are a good many rumors flying about camp. none of them [\_\_\_] yet, & I write to tell you what [\_\_] of them are that you may be prepared for any event as I try to be. I [\_\_]already informed you that the 24th and 25th [\_\_] which have been in our brigade have been sent off & stationed near the place where they were raised where they will have a chance to visit their friends & recruit their ranks. I hear also in a [\_\_] that I deem reliable that Col

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Harding who has been in command of our Division for some weeks, reported the 2nd Brigade – [\_\_] the 24: 25 & 1st [\_\_] - as unfit for duty and fit subjects for security.

It is furthermore reported by those who ought know that Livingston has been nominated for Brigadier General. If this report is correct there will no longer be a Colonel over us who will try to run us to death in order to get a star on his shoulder (a star on [\_\_] shoulder straps is a brigadier general’s mark – 2 stars a [\_\_] for generals) as Thayer & Livingston have always done. These signs all indicate that we may be sent back to [\_\_] if there is any [\_\_] there to do or may rest awhile

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some where: but we have no or-ders yet and it altogether uncertain. On the other hand there are reports every day that we are going down the river to Vicksburg or to Rosecran’s [\_\_], but if we do not go back to Nebraska the most [\_\_] supposition in my opinion is that we shall go back to Batesville, over a road already marked by our sufferings and hardships. I am reliably informed that the Iowa brigade the 21: 22: & 23 are going that way & we may be sent too – put into [\_\_] brigade or some other. I write this brief note because it is possible that we may start on so short notice that I would not have time send you word. I suppose you will get this letter a week from

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that is on Sat the 14th \_

When you get it I may yet be here. I may be far on my way over rocks & hills towards Arkansas, I may possibly be getting nearer home but I do not expect that.

I shall of course write to you as soon as I can after knowing what we are going to do. If you do not get a letter for a week or ten days after Thurs, you may think we have gone to Batesville I cannot say that I dread [the] trip, It is a [\_\_] country. I have proved that I can stand the hardship. I do not like to go where it will take so long to hear from you, but a soldier cannot expect everything to his mind. I rejoice in the passage of the conscripton act. Nothing but ~~mat~~ (scratched out) act and a vigorous enforcement of it could save our army

(This sentence written on the left-hand margin of page 4)

from wasting away. Tell me as soon as you know how ruby

(This sentence written on the left-hand margin of page 3)

The President calls for from Nebraska. I think if they

(This sentence written on the left-hand margin of page 2)

would send [\_\_] [\_\_] back to Nebra it would be filled up

(This sentence written on the left-hand margin of page 1)

& save the necessity of drafting am I right? Yours Faithfully, Baxter

(These sentences were written upside down in tiny writing on the front page)

I do not hear yet from the money I sent you

It is said by the officers this afternoon that we are going to St. Genevieve tomorrow morning. St. S is on the Miss. river. What we do next I do not know. Perhaps go to Tenn