

Dear Sister:-

Yorktown, Oct. 19th

I have delayed writing for too long already, for want of something to write, and still have nothing to tell you, only we are receiving additional reinforcements into this old place every month. Cobb's regiment of riflemen came in last night. I am always so glad to see any Georgian. It seems that all of them are old acquaintances I can't look upon them as strangers; it is reported (unreliable) a bout through the camps, that that regiment and ours are going to write and form a brigade, also that Col. Colquitt is going to run for brigadier-General. I hope that he will not get the position if he runs, through selfish motives:- to wit, I would not have any other Col. Over me, but Col. Newton, who occupies the place of Lieut. Col. I want them both to keep their places. We have got the very best of field-officers, - would not swap with any other regiment in Va.- They are very popular with the men on account of their treating them more like gentlemen than slaves. It is the custom among some officers to look upon the privates as no better than negroes. The men in the Polish Brigade say we in this regiment are perfectly free and that they would not be in Va. Two days if they had half as much freedom as we have got. There are not but four regiments about York Town besides the artillery men:- Cobb's regiment, the 13th Ala. reg. the 13th La. Reg. or Polish brigade and our own; all the others have gone down on the Peninsula. I hear that Cobb's legion had a fight down there day before yesterday, I was standing guard on the battery at the time of the reported engagement and heard that cannon fire about an hundred and fifty times as fast as possible for them to shoot. I heard cannon firing very rapidly down that way this morning. I have not heard anything about the cause of it yet, but will soon hear some great tale in circulation about it before dark, I expect. The accompaniment of the report of the fight is:- 60 Yankees were killed and 12 taken prisoner, I do not know, I have not seen any come in town yet. Only one, came as a deserter.

We are going to have a miserable time of it this winter I am afraid for Gen. Magruder informed us the other day that he had it from reliable authority that an army of Yankees, a great many thousand strong, with seventy eight rifle-cannon and five hundred cavalry is going to attack this place in short time with a sufficient for to take it (as they say) and go into winter quarters here, consequently we will be turned out of doors to shift for ourselves. Gen. M. - said he has too much confidence in the patriotism of our soldiers to think that they would desire a furlough to go home before the 1st of Jan. knowing such to be the state of affairs. Now this came from Magruder, himself for he had the information read before the regiment one evening on dress-parade. I do hope they will attack us, some excitement would do us some good I expect. I am so "bored" with camp life on account of its dullness.

We have moved back into town again in order to go into winter quarters, but it does not look like we are going to do the latter very soon, at least I do not see any preparations towards it. Col. Colquitt has got into his good, comfortable house and that is all he cares for it seems. Mrs. Colquitt is here now with her children. Fred,- is very sick with his [life?] up the river. I believe he has the [?]. Henry is down with the mumps, he was quite sick yesterday, had a high fever all day long, but is good better to day. I saw the tears in his eyes when he was so sick, he just could speak without crying. I know he was thinking:- I wish was where ma could attend on me. He told you he did not need anymore blankets and to prove his assertion, he had to take my own blankets to cover him with at night. Remember it is only near Oct. too and not near so cold as it is going to be. If we

would not need the blankets, there are a great many poor soldiers who will need them at this place. There are some in our company who have not but one blanket to save them. If you have an opportunity to send them do so if you please, for we can give them to somebody else if we do not need them, which I think is very likely will be the case if it is half so cold as the people about here represent it to be.

Henry got a letter from Brother M. yesterday it was very amusing to me to notice how his [?] changed when he read it. He was speaking about the girls not marrying any body that will not go to the defense of their country. All I have to say about that, is: if they do not marry those who will not go to war, they are not apt to marry at all, for there are not prospects of those who have gone to fight, even returning and if the war breaks up before our heads turn grey, we will be mere soldiers when we do return. I have given out the idea of ever being young enough to marry after the closes, though I have claims on my Rebecca Simmons, for a friend by the name of Laurie Hillyer gave her to me many weeks before we moved up the country, I will relinquish them though, if it will accommodate Henry. I am willing to take an other one not a great ways off from home. She is "the gal for me" you think you know who she is but you are mistaken. Brother Marcus formed the same opinion of her that I did, only not on so optimistic a scale as I did of course. I am very glad her formed so good an opinion of her and I hope you had done the same. That letter of Brother M's did me more good or enlivened my spirits more than anything else since I left home. not praising yours the less though. Brother M. spoke of my getting alienated from ease and grieved of home the longer I stay here, the more I crave the [gratitude?] and comfort of home, if I were to stay here a thousand years I would not want to go home a million time worse than ever.

The drum is beating for dress-parade and I must go.

Oct. 21st I went on guard day before and am on again to day. Every regiment has gone below except our own and we are to guard the whole of the place. I will have to stand every other day now, but I hope it will not be so long, for we almost certain of a fight in a very short. I heard a [?] Smith say this morning that he heard a member of of the ordinance department say that twenty-six [?] boats and five vessels are going to attack us from the river side of town simultaneously with the thirty-thousand men assembled at the same place, who are to attack us from the land side. How true the statement is, I do not know, Magruder has ordered all the sick men out of town and is sending all the available force below, but our regiment. Col. Newton ordered our men to shoot off their guns and clean them out good and I think ordered an inspection of our cartridge [lopes?] from the way the men ask each other how many cartridges they have got.

Henry, though he has got the mumps very severely, says he is going to stay if there is any chance. This may all be a false alarm like thousands of others such but it doesn't much look so from the way Gen. M. had the Negroes work on the battery at one o'clock last night and the La. reg. marching off at midnight. I hope it is all true.

I have not gloves, no shoes, no coat, nor any thing scarcely. I am in a hurry to go back to the guard house, so must close. Please send me some cat-sup from Twiggs with our things and a plenty if it too. I dreamed of a splendid supper I had at home last night, but just as I got my plate filled and went to put some in my mouth I woke up. I was very much disappointed, Goody bye. Love to everyone, girls and all.

Your brother.

Kit Cowan

