

Camp 1<sup>st</sup> Wagon  
Culpeper Va Dec 22<sup>d</sup> 1863.

Dear Cousin.

I Recd your  
very welcome letter last  
week but have not been able  
to answer before. I just came  
in from Ricket this after  
noon where I passed the night  
in the woods, and pretty  
Cold at that, The weather for  
the past week has been quite  
severe, some of the time hard  
rains, together with snow, made  
picketing quite disagreeable.

Still as long as my health  
is spared to me it is all I can  
ask Last week our Regt made  
a reconnaissance, starting near  
dark, & after riding some time

halted till three o'clock  
in the morning, when the  
order was given to mount,  
& on we started, rode constantly  
till we reached Camp, at three  
P.M. I find that one gets as  
tired riding, as walking.

I rec'd a letter from home  
a few days since all were quite  
well, Uncle Slick talked of staying  
long for your city, I know he  
would enjoy the fair you  
speak of very much, & probably will  
be in time for it. I would love  
dearly to spend a few days with  
you all, I hope the time is not  
far distant when I can have  
the pleasure of seeing & enjoying  
the society of my friends in  
civil life once more. Furloughs  
are being granted to Officers  
& Men often days. I have not  
applied yet, for the reason

There are a number of our  
officers who have not been home  
as yet. I thought it just to  
give them a chance first.

I perhaps may get home towards  
Spring. Some time after my  
last letter to you, I rec'd  
your letter containing your  
photograph together with Coz Lane  
which were very acceptable  
indeed, though not as good as  
the last, & still hope to receive  
a still better one. In writing  
to Libbie I sent her the one  
I rec'd last, May in her last  
letter. Said Libbie intended  
to go to housekeeping on a small  
scale. I think it rather a  
novelty to begin housekeeping  
in the Army. I have encl'd  
to wait till more peaceable  
times. Cur Livins has met  
with a great loss in the death

of Gen<sup>l</sup> Beauford. he was by far  
the best Cavalry officer in the  
army of the Potomack.  
we all had great faith in him  
I hardly know who will fill  
his place. You have my sym-  
pathy in your affliction, & I  
trust your health is much  
improved in this, my love to  
all. As my tent is so cold I must  
close, hoping your health may  
be spared to you, I am ever your  
affectionate Cousin

Sam<sup>l</sup>

Dec 22, 1863



Miss Lillie R. V. Johnson  
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