

To Annie Collins, At Hillsborough from G. P. Collins

Plymouth, N.C.
Friday, May 26, 1865

My Darling,

We reached this place last Monday after a tedious though on the whole pleasant trip through the country, meeting with much kindness from friends on the road as well as strangers all seemed pleased to help, us because we were Confederates.

I was glad that we passed Hurry Scurry as we found there about 30 of the negroes that had been left because the wagons could not bring the children & baggage. I met Patterson the road & he seemed delighted to see me. I am very much attached to him. Cous. Wm Eaton met us very cordially he had advertised the corn & all the moveables on the place for sale.

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as he had been plundered by the negroes after the departure of Bateman & the rest & we thought that it was the best that could be done under the circumstances, in passing Tarboro I left with McNair the things I told you that I should. We heard at Hurry Scurry of the capture of our negroes wagon etc. & at Mr. Chessons where we staid all night we learned that the negroes had been sent on but that the mules & wagons had been detained, so we came straight into Plymouth drove up to Hd. Qrs & after being introduced to the Col. Commanding laid our case before him we found him very much of a gentleman & inclined to do all he could to help us. We were detained all day but succeeded in getting back six mules & two wagons Czar, Lady Fairfoot, Estelle

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& her colt. Somerset had been sold to a man in Bertie, but I am to get an order for him so I hope to get him yet. I came back here yesterday to get the others, I find two mules & one wagon here. 3 mules have been lent out to people in the country but have been sent for & 2 can not be found any where. I hear that the wagon master sold them before they reached the Qr Mrd office. I have also found some leather, a few hoes & some other articles but much has been appropriated by private parties that I shall never see, the Col. was absent at the time & Major (Fuller) who was in command was drunk so that everything went as it pleased. Bateman was very harshly treated, put in the guard house etc. & the negroes nearly starved. I find things at the Lake in

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a deplorable condition fences all down ditches overgrown & filled up, canal leaking etc. etc. the negroes have planted about 400 acres of corn & if the fences were up I could still put in quite a crop but fear that I can do very little more for this year. I have not yet determined on my course of action but shall let those negroes who were at home all the time work their crops on shares the res I do not know whether I shall work in a body or not, they are well behaved but extremely indolent except in a few instances, the undertaking is truly appalling. I think I can borrow meat & bread enough to do for this year. We have collected quite a quantity of furniture from the houses of the negroes, I do not think at present that I can

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come up country as soon as I first thought but must leave that for circumstances to decide. I want to see very much & to hear from you as I am anxious to know how you are getting along under the present state of affairs whether you have yet gotten a nurse & many other things, when you write next send your letter to care of Mr. Chas. Latham Plymouth, via Newberne as the communication is quite frequent in that way.

Goodbye, God bless & keep you my dearest, kiss my babies & give best love to all.

Your devoted
Husband

Try both routes for sending letters