

3-12-1863

William C. Nelson to Maria C. Nelson (12 March 1863)

William Cowper Nelson

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Head Quarters Percy's Brigade
Near Fredericksburg, March 12th
1863

My Dear ~~William~~ Mother;

of the 22nd ult. Your truly
welcome letter, reached me yesterday,
Need I say that I rejoiced to
learn that you are cheerful and
contented under the troubles and
that have surrounded, and the mis-
fortunes that have befallen you.
We ought to be thankful that
it is no worse, riches are but dross,
and but too often distract our
mind from the consideration
of better things, "A little with
(Contentment, and) fear of the Lord,
is better than great treasure and
trouble therewith," We still have
a home, and I trust will never

come to want, I was afraid that
the fatigue of household work, would
be a serious tax upon ~~your~~ both
your health and patience, I hard-
ly know whether to sigh or smile
when I think of your doing your
own cooking, I know I should
laugh to see you, milking, I ought
to feel sad, but I cannot help
being amused at the idea, of your
cooking, do you ever have dinings
I would like to attend one.
Mother, I think you had better
accept Sister's proposition to
send Milly to you, I think
she would like to come, and al-
though you may not mind the
chudgery now, yet it ^{will} soon become
wearisome to you I am afraid,
Milly is a good servant, and
I am confident would please you

I am still Acting Adjutant General,
of General Percy's Brigade, besides
attending to the duties of my own office,
still I have some leisure time,
for reading, writing and amusement,
When the General's sons arrive (which
he thinks but a few days hence,)
I will have still more time which
I can call my own, I have quite
a valuable little library of scientific
works, which I purchased previous
to my Examination for Ordnance Officer,
I intend poring myself thorough-
ly on everything connected with
my branch of the service, and
hope some day to rise, although
I do not allow ambitious feelings
to trouble me much. I am well
contented in my present position,
and have nothing to complain
of, the General is very kind to me,

Remember me to all friends. Frank Smith and all your friends
up here are well. I was in town a few evenings since to a party at
his house.

and I have all the comforts and some
of the luxuries of Camp life, if I
am deprived of the blessings, which
home alone can afford, I surely ought
to be satisfied when I reflect how
many are not only separated from
all they hold dear, but are also
subjected to hardships innumerable.
None but he, who has been a private
soldier know what they have to endure,
I am very glad to hear that Howard
Falconer is not dead, and his numerous
friends in the Army of Virginia will
rejoice with me. I was sorry to hear
of Roger Barton's sad misfortune,
hope it will not prove serious,
What has become of Hugh? Does
Mrs. Clark ever hear from Dickson?
Where are the girls? or at least
where is Lutee?

Good bye
Yours
Wm. Hill
John
Willie
Selmon.