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## William C. Nelson to Maria C. Nelson (29 October 1861)

William Cowper Nelson

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Camp Bragg, Florida  
Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1861

My Dear Mother;

I wrote to both Father and yourself by Luther Caldwell, since which time nothing of importance has transpired in this region of the Confederate States; it is true, the long roll was beat, and we were all called into line, night before last; but we were immediately ordered back to our quarters with the injunction to sleep on our arms, the cause of the alarm was the firing of several guns whether from Fort Pickens or the vessel lying outside the harbor, it is not definitely known; reports says, that a little expedition was sent off from Fort McRee for the purpose of setting fire to the one Federal man of war, which now comprises the blockading squadron, but that they were discovered before they reached the vessel, and were fired at both by Pickens and the vessel, neither of the shots however taking effect. I can't vouch for the truth of the above statement, I only give it, as I heard it.

We have heard of the Leesburg fight, but have received no particulars of the engagement, save that the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Regiments were engaged, and behaved very gallantly. I do hope that none of our brave boys were among the killed, or wounded, though, I very much fear such may be the case, some of the Officers were killed I suppose, or it would have been mentioned in the newspapers. If you hear anything from Cousin Claude, let me know.

We have not commenced building winter-quarters yet, and are still in our tents. We have Battalion drill, morning and evening, two hours each, a little fatigue duty occasionally, and guard duty about once every five days, which is not very heavy, on the whole. We are having a tolerable easy time of it.

There has been a rumor in camp to the effect that we will be moved to a point on the Rail Road about 20 miles above Pensacola so that we would be convenient to either Pensacola or Mobile, in case of an attack at either place. Genl Bragg's department now includes Mobile, whose troops are under the immediate command of Genl Withers.

We ought to get our pay next week  
but I hear that we will not be paid  
off till Christmas, I don't know how  
it will be, but I hope that they will  
not put it off. The drum is beating  
for guard mounting and I must  
close. Good bye, Love to all friends

Your Affectionate Son  
Will: C. Nelson.

October 31<sup>st</sup> 1861,

We were all mustered to-day preparatory  
to receiving our pay, a forgo which is al-  
ways gone through with, when that impor-  
tant and interesting period rolls around,  
boats from Pensacola come to Camp almost  
every day bringing oysters potatoes, butter  
eggs &c, the two latter of which they sell  
very high, the potatoes they sell now at \$50  
pr bushel, oysters 75 ct, pr hundred in the  
shell, I expect I shall learn to love oysters  
this winter, as yet however I have no use  
for them, but shall probably indulge when  
I get my pay, Col. Watter goes to Mobile  
to-morrow to attend a Court Martial, he is now  
Judge Advocate, Kinloch is his clerk, his rank

and pay are the same as before  
but he has an easy time.

November 1<sup>st</sup> 1861.

I intended to have sent this letter by  
Mr. Golrick who took Bate Hill home a  
few days ago, but he went off without  
my seeing him, on the morning he  
was at, I was on guard that day  
as Corporal of the Guard, a capaci-  
~~ty~~ in which I have acted  
the two last times I have been  
on guard, it is a good deal  
pleasanter than being a regular sentineel  
as you have only to go around and  
post the sentineel, and then stay at the  
Guard house. The weather has turn-  
ed quite cool here within the past  
few days, (that is, the nights) it is quite  
pleasant in the daytime, but at night  
it requires a good deal of covering to keep  
one warm, I would like for you to send  
me a comfort as soon as you can, you  
can probably send it by Mr. Craft, if you  
have no other opportunity, I would  
also like to have a pair of suspenders,  
and also a pair of good buckskin  
gloves, these I believe will be the only  
articles which I need.

Your loving Son,  
Will: Nelson