

C. S. Neuse

Kinston N. C.

July 18th 1864

Dear Sis,

I received your last welcome, letter some days ago but owing to the heat of the days and my engagements and duties of the evenings I have put off answering it until this evening. We had a tremendous rain four or five days ago and this "Raging" river (?) shows evidence of having received its share of the descending liquid. I had just started, with two young ladies, to pay a visit down town when in a minute "The sky was changed and such a change" and in fact it commenced to rain and we took refuge in the first house we came to. Now these people believed in the old saying "Early to bed &c &c &c" and although it was just 8'oclock were just retiring. We got in however and it poured for about an hour. About 9 it cleared off a little and we arrived at our destination. It commenced raining again and we could not leave until after 12: And then we had about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to walk, I assure you we had a time of it. I didn't even get my feet wet, having on thick shoes, but the ladies paid for their folly, having worn thin ones. On the whole though we had a nice time as it was "variety". We are going out on a boat ride, by moonlight, tonight if the weather is propitious. The young ladies I spoke of before, the Misses Bryan and Miss Moore, are going, they are all very nice ladies. You all must have a dull time plodding along in the beaten track, and seeing no one or nothing that is new. Now gentlemen could find much to do, in the country, that was interesting, but I don't see how ladies exist without society. It is strange to me how few amusements and comforts our people have, as a general thing; and I believe they get about as little for their

money as any people in the world. The “Gunboats” (as we are called here) have concluded to have as nice a time as possible and find plenty of amusements. We have the exclusive use of a tin-pin alley, where we exercise our “muscles” every morning. We pitch Quoits after dinner & have various diversions for the evening; such as boating, visiting, walking, &c. Every one expects a lively time about here, when the elections come off in August. A secret, treasonable league has been discovered in the state called the H.O.A.’s – (Heroes of America) they are in league with the enemy & are all Holdenites. Since the disclosures, made by some members who became disgusted with the society, the remainder have kept remarkably quiet. I wish President Davis would have Holden & his entire clan taken up & hung; that would stop such rascals quicker than any conciliatory measures.

19th – I did not have time to finish yesterday so I will do so this morning. I am glad to hear of Ralph’s promotion; he has improved a great deal & richly deserves it. You mustn’t be so hard on Bobby if he thinks he loves Miss Nina & talks about it a great deal I don’t see why he shouldn’t. I heard of an old Commadore who, while in the Mediteranian, bragged so often about a horse he said he owned, that he believed, after a while, that he did own one & bought a fine saddle & bridle &c & was very much disappointed when he got home to find no horse there. If a person tells a thing for the truth very often, he will finally believe it himself. I am truly sorry to hear of the condition of poor Uncle Dick’s family & I think they had better emigrate, as soon as the war is over, to some more favored clime. The crops here are all looking very fine since the rain. Watermellons & Roasting ears are now coming in. Every thing is enormously high & of course that is very unsatisfactory to a

man living on a salary which doesn't rise with the prices of provisions &c. Butter alone is \$7 per lb. I haven't heard from Pa or sister Jacque for four or five weeks, although I've written two or three times. Excuse this rather uninteresting epistle & write soon to your affect bro

R. H. Bacot

Remember me to all.