



Fayetteville, N. C., April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1861

Dear Stephen:

Your kind letter has been received. We were all glad to hear from you—learning at the same time of your good health and of the health of the friends. Your letters are welcome visitors here.

We are all well except your aunt, and she is better. She has been able to be about the house a little for the last few days.

The excitement is intense down here. We have taken the U. S. Arsenal at this place, with a large amount of cannon and small arms, and any amount of ammunition.

We have four Companies formed here, beside the militia. One of our old Companies—the LaFayette Light Infantry leave to-morrow morning for Raleigh, and the other will follow in a few days. They number one hundred men each, and

will do faithful service.

War is the watch word here now. What a gloomy state of things. This once happy and prosperous nation rent asunder with fanatical excitement. But it is not ~~worth~~ necessary to keep the concealed, we are in the midst of a civil war, and we must meet it like men, and defend our rights or be run over by fanaticism and abolitionism.

Lincoln is taking northern troops on to Washington by thousands. It is supposed there are 25000 troops there now.

I hope this will find you all well. I will write to your step mother in a few days. The reason I have not ~~been~~ to her before this was owing the fact that I thought one letter would answer for all. The girls and Lizzie join me in love to you and all the

the friends.

Fanny says she is trying  
to learn fast, so that she can write to  
you. Write as often as you can.  
I must close. It is getting late, and  
I am both tired and sleepy.  
I remain,  
Yours truly,  
J. J. Mather.



United States National Park Service  
U.S. Civil War Heritage Digital Collection

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## Letter from J.J. Prather to his nephew (April 29, 1861) -- Transcription

Fayetteville, N.C. April 29th 1861

Dear Nephew:

Your kind letter has been received. We were all glad to hear from you--learning at the same time of your good health, and of the health of your friends. Your letters are welcome visitors here. We are all well except your aunt, and she is better. She has been able to be about the house a little for the last few days.

The excitement is intense down here. We have taken the U.S. Arsenal at this place, with a large amount of Cannon and small arms, and any amount of ammunition. We have four Companies formed here beside the militia [militia]. One of our old Companies--the Lafayette Light Infantry leave to-morrow morning for Raleigh, and the other will follow in a few days. They number one hundred men each, and will do faithful service.

War is the watch word here now. What a gloomy state of things. This once happy and prosperous nation rent asunder with fanatical excitement. But it is not [[1 word]] necessary to keep the [excitement] concealed. we are in the midst of a civil war, and we must meet it like men, and defend our rights or be run over by fanaticism and abolitionism.

Lincoln is taking Northern troops on to Washington by thousands. It is supposed there are 25 000 troops there now.

I hope this will find you all well. I will write to your Step-mother in a few days--The reason I have not [[1 word]] to her before this was owing [to] the fact, that I thought one letter would answer for all. The girls and Lizzie join me in love to you and all the friends. Fanny says she is trying to learn fast so that she can right [write] to you. Write as often as you can. I must close. It is getting late, and I am both tired and sleepy.

I remain,  
Yours truly,  
J.J. Prather

### Transcription Convention

[word] after a word indicates the correct spelling of a word misspelled in the original text OR explanatory text

[[ ]] indicates a deletion or crossed out word in original text

Transcribed by: Josephine S. King, M.A. M.A., July 2001