

Hospital No 18  
March 14/64

Beaufort S.C.

Dear Cousin

Under the excitement of joining the expedition to Florida, I have forgotten whether I answered your last letter or no, so have concluded to write anyway, taking it for granted, that you will find no fault with me "if it is not my turn." I suppose you have heard of the Battle of Olustee in Florida. Well the 113<sup>th</sup> was in that, and got badly cut up too. I received a wound in my right shoulder, the bullet passing through, and making an ugly wound, a bone was fractured, but for all that, I am getting along fine and if I have no drawbacks, hope to be able to rejoin the Regt in about a month. We had a hard time in Florida before the battle. We marched every day but two before we had the battle and marched 18 miles on that day fought two hours and half. Then retreated back the whole 18 miles. I walked 15 miles after I was hurt and then managed to get a horse to ride the other three miles. The battle was on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February. The next day we were taken to Jacksonville and carried on board the Cosmopolitan and brought here. I came to this hospital about 11 o'clock on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, just three weeks ago tonight. The Doctor has just been in and dressed my wound and took another piece of bone out. The name of the bone fractured is the Clavicle (or Collar) the part fractured is where it enters the Scapula (or Socket) Now you have the nature of the wound so far as I am able to explain it. We lost our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutnt and one of our best Sergts both shot dead and also one Corpl and one private in the same way. How many more have died of the wounds since I do not know. There were about 22 wounded, We had our full complement of Sergeants (5) and only one came out all right.

The weather is very pleasant now. How I wish I could be out and enjoy it but I must have patience and I may be able soon. Our forces have all retreated back to Jacksonville but it is reported that they will make another advance before long. Now I must close. Please write soon and direct –

LM. Loper  
Hospital 18  
Beaufort, S.C.

From your Affectionate Cousin  
Milton