

Duck River P. O.
Wickman Co Tenn
July 25th 1881

Prest Belnap

Dear Bro

It is with a sad heart, I am obliged to write you this letter, it is almost impossible for Bro Taylor, & myself to get along together, yesterday we had a serious quarrel going to meeting, & you will readily perceive that the "Spirit of God" cannot dwell where contention is rife, I will not attempt to vindicate myself, nor my course of conduct, as Bro Taylor tells me you know all about me, & that you told him that "no one could travel with me; that "poor little Joe Thatcher came to you, & begged to be sent anywhere so that he need not be compelled to travel with me, for I was so disagreeable, of course, if this is the character I bear with you, anything I may say will be unavailable, but I have too great respect for you Bro Belnap to think you ever said it. Bro Taylor must have misunderstood you in some way - neither should the Spirit of justification be encouraged - if I am of such a terrible disposition? it is my misfortune, & not my fault, & I ask my brethren to forgive me, & not to condemn me. I came here Bro Belnap to do my duty, to perform an honorable mission, & to return home, having done my duty in the sight of the Authorities, & God, retaining the satisfaction that I had performed my duty, at all times with an eye single to the "glory of God". I have been labouring to accomplish this, & now to find my object has been misconstrued makes me almost heartbroken, & I sincerely hope you will realize my position, & let me travel alone for I will

I think I
right - Bro
Belnap - that
my feelings
be taken into
consideration
At my day
precarious
state of health
if Bro Taylor
suffer from
the heat - I
also suffer
in a manner
only known
to myself - I
am willing to
go forward
uncomplainingly
and do my duty
At I hope you
will not consider
this letter written
in a spirit of
contumacious
it is not -
I would like
you to preserve
this letter, if
you please -
I am not desirous
of travelling alone
but that is much
to be preferred to
the way of doing
I am not desirous
of travelling alone
but that is much
to be preferred to
the way of doing

push up with anything so I may be left to enjoy the
Spirit of God in my labors, I am willing to assume any,
and all the blame that may be attached to this quarrel, and
to refrain from uttering one word in my defence - and will
willingly submit to any censure you may deem me
deserving of - if you will only relieve me of this very
unpleasant difficulty, I am willing to acknowledge,
(if it is right I should,) that I am, the very disagreeable
companions I am said to be, and to ask the forgiveness
of you, and Bro Taylor, but I beg of you as we are so
diametrically opposed in our dispositions, that we be
separated at once, as I am sure the work of the
Lord will be advanced thereby - This district is in
a prosperous condition a good spirit seems to
prevail, I went (alone, as the weather was too hot for Bro T)
to Pottys Bend last week preached two nights - found
them feeling good, and I am of the opinion that in
the very near future some baptisms will take place
there the Spirit of God is clearly manifest there is
the many anxious Enquirers, that come to me for
information a good work is on the eve of being done
there, all is quiet at Fredway's, we preached to a
very attentive audience there last Sunday week -
The debate is a thing of the past, nearly all have
forgotten it, or at least have ceased to talk about it -
Awaiting your immediate reply I remain your

Bro in the Gospel of Peace

I enclose two letters just arrived - Robt. S. Spence

I hope you will answer this at once, for I feel very bad