

long time before. She said she would gladly cook our provisions for us; that the rooms had no furniture in them, but there was plenty of fresh water, etc.

I returned in triumph to Burksville and brought back my entire party. We enjoyed the luxury of a bath and as we had an abundance of provisions we soon had a smoking breakfast on the table. I had kept three servants with me, so there was no lack of attendance. I passed here one of the most pleasant days of my life. We made a sort of a pic-nic of it, and enjoyed it beyond measure. We were "far from the madding sword," and had for the time at least no cares.

About 4 P. M. we packed up and went to the train, which soon after left for City Point. We arrived within a mile of the Point at dark, and here the engine left us and the conductor coolly informed us that the cars would be taken down the next day. But we did not mind; the cars were not crowded. We got out to cook our supper, and we sat around our camp-fire that night for the last time.

From the time of our leaving Charlotte until we got to City Point we were constantly thrown with the Federal soldiers as well as our own, and I do not remember in that time hearing an unpleasant word spoken on either side. The fighting men on both sides were the most tolerant.

In the morning the engine took us to City Point, where we were to take the boat to Norfolk. Professor and Mrs. McGuire left us here, and I discharged my last servants and sent them to their homes. At 10 o'clock the boat arrived from Richmond, and we went on board. It seemed strange to find myself on board with nothing to do. I could hardly realize it. About 4 we arrived in Norfolk and were at home again—just three years after our evacuation of it in 1862. So ended my career as a Naval Officer. "Farewell! Othello's occupation's gone."

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