

7 Oct 1861 P.M.
Camp Curtis Dec 30th 1861

Dear Wife

The life of a soldier is full of changes & variations and all things are uncertain. One hour we are ordered to do one thing but the next it is countermanded and a new order given. Yesterday the 114 Regt. was totally demolished and smashed up and all of the officers left out in the cold. To day the 114 yet lives & is likely to become embolent & ~~live~~ to be a full grown man.

After writing to you yesterday evening we were ordered by Col. Curtis to hold our position and obey our own officers as before until further orders from him. We immediately started for Washington to see Secretary Cameron.

We have received a telegraph dispatch which is favorable to our cause. I do not know the full import of the dispatch. We have the whole camp on our side & they condemn the thing & call it an outrage and an insult to grievous to be tolerated.

If Col. Curtis is successful on this mission I think that it will ruin Col. Murray & cause him to be cashiered. Col. Murray is an Irishman & a Catholic.

You cannot imagine my feelings when the order was read to us on yesterday. I had plans laid and in my own mind had almost seen you my dear wife here and had looked forward to that time which I anticipated would be within the next 10 or 12 days. All this wrenched from me in an instant and all my fond hopes destroyed. It seemed to me I could not give them up. But I cannot describe my feelings suffice it to say it was a grievous disappointment to me. I think I have it arranged now so that I can come home if the 114th is broken up. If it lives I am sure of my position and there is no danger there. I feel willing to face the cannon mouths, I had no fear but I was disappointed.

I do not fancy Col. Murray & I think would never serve in any capacity and under him. The transfer yesterday