

and this afternoon is the first dress parade they have had since I have been in camp Curtis & this I thought to be a most slimy affair. Col Jones represented himself to us to be a man of military experience but we find some to try him that he knows nothing about it at all he even upon dress parade came swaggering along swinging his arms with a step resembling a soldier upon land as near as any thing that I can describe it to. I think that he had better get some boy to teach him the first principles of the soldier before he aspires to a colonelcy. But he was very unfortunate for us mustered in as Col of the 55 Regt last Thursday, but I mean soon to be out of this. If I ever despise a man from the bottom of my heart it is Col Jones and I find this to be the case with all of the privates & officers of our wing of the regt I do not know of a man that can beat him.

I would much rather be at home by your side than here writing to you, but here I am, and may be obliged to stay here for what I know much longer than I could wish.

It makes me sick when I look out the side in this hospital and see how much they are suffering for want of a consistent course of treatment. It is a great wonder that there is as many lives to get back home again as there is. A many poor fellow has the foundation for a life of suffering aches & pains laid here from his course of treatment, perhaps made cripples for life if not carried to an untimely grave.

I am trying to do what I can to make them comfortable but I cannot contrast the treatment at the I have in one or two cases administered my own medicine in the place of that proscribed by the Surgeon unbeknown to him or the patient which has had a good effect. We have two or three here now which have offered to pay me if I would go down town & get them some medicines, but this I cannot do as it would be subjecting my self to dismissal from the hospital and placing me in the ranks if not in the guard house and also resulting in restrictions upon their privileges.

Mr. Sted thinks that his case is worse than mine as he has no plea or excuse whereby he can get his discharge. While he thinks that I will get mine, but he has made up his mind is at least so he talks that he will have to stay until the close of the war unless the Lord sees fit to grant him an honorable discharge by removing him from this vale here below.

I have not had an opportunity of approaching Col Jones since his return from Washington. If I wish to accomplish any thing with him I must have a little patience and wait until I can reach him through the circumlocution channel when he feels just right as he is a sort of fitz man. Why he was going to put a man in the guard house yesterday just because he very politely asked him if it would be convenient for him to change a five dollar note as he could not get it back in camp. What insolence (I mean in the Col)