

Dec 25th 1861

I have spent this day in camp. Have thought of home and dear ones many times and have longed much to be with you. This has been a pleasant day and I presume a very merry one in the city. We have spent the evening in social conversation and in singing some of the songs on our little books. No sickness in our regt. except a few cases of measles. Wrote a letter to Adelbert today.

Dec 26. I received a long letter from you Aurelia this morning which was read with a great deal of pleasure. I wrote you to Comeout(?) last Saturday in care of Rev A Burgess. I shall send this in my valise. It will cost you eight or nine dollars to come to Harrisburgh and eleven from here to Cleveland. You must use your own judgement whether you come or not. If you come you will go to Elmira first and change cars. On arriving at Harrisburgh you would go to the Park House and the Landlord would send me word to Camp. I would come to the city. Harrisburgh is a perfect cutthroat city and it is grab and gouge as much as they can and everything is put up a little higher than the law allows. I spent the day yesterday in Camp often thinking of you and the folks at home wishing that I might be with you and eat a good Christmas Dinner. We have had very disagreeable weather since last Sunday. Our regiment is to be filled between this and the 16th of January and then we will be ordered to advance. I am to have the position of Hospitale Steward. Col. Curtis told me the other day that I had the appointment but I have received no official notice as yet. I have been upon special duty ever since I have been in camp and consequently have not had to stand guard at all yet. We will get our pay in about 3 weeks when I will draw about \$40.00 and should have 13 more but I do not expect that I will get it. I am only drawing private wages as yet. If I had kept what money I had I might have made \$50 off it by letting it and waiting until pay day for it but as it is I think I have made more by letting you have it.

We have just received orders to move our tents upon the other side of the encampment today but as our men are all on guard we cannot move until tomorrow.

You cannot tell how much I want to see you and Ada. It seems that I would be willing to walk all the way on foot. I think that I can come to Allegany for about \$5.00 as soon as I get my pay I shall get a furlough and come to Cleveland if you are there or to Allegany if there, unless you should conclude to come and see me. If you come you had better come on a visit only and return to Allegany again after seeing the sights and you must reckon the cost. If we were shure[sic] of staying here my salary as Hospitale Steward would give you a good support here but I presume that we will not stay here more than 3 weeks longer and where we may go I do not know.

Write me as soon as you get this. I shall write as often as twice or three times a week.

Yours in love

N.F. Marsh