

Camp Curtin Dec 26th 1861

My Dear Wife,

Your kind letter of the 23rd just was gladly received this morning and perused with a great deal of interest. Your letters are always welcome messengers and they always make me cheerful. Oh how I long to see you. The Surgeon told me today that my appointment to Hospitale Steward was a shure thing. I may be able when that position is obtained to secure a situation for you where you could pay your way as Nurse if we should be so unfortunate as to be obliged to stay in Camp Curtin all Winter.

Perhaps you had better go to Ohio and make your visits first and then come from Cleveland to Pittsburgh and from Pittsburgh to Harrisburgh if such a chance should turn up. Use your own judgement in the matter. I sent my valise by express today to Allegany. The key is tied to a string and slipped inside and the string attached to one of the buckles on the straps. You can spring it enough to get it out.

You must be sure and go and see Naomi on your way to Cleveland as you can do it without much of any extra expense. You had better leave(?) the cars at Maddison and get someone to carry you up and Barrett(?) will carry you to Tanesville(?) where you get ready to go on. I meant to have sent you a bit of hard bread such as we have to eat but I forgot to put it in my valise. If you could eat it you would make a good soldier. They are hard as a rock. We have 14oz of good soft bread and 5oz of those hard tacks a day. We can boil the hard bread for two hours and then it will be hard as you could bite. I do not say this to complain because I think our fare is good for we have a plenty of good bacon - fresh beef twice a week and Beans 4 times a week. Rice 2 times a week coffee twice a day or we can draw tea a part of the time if we choose. But we prefer the coffee except once in a while. You will find one or two letters in the valise.

Yours in much love.

Newton