

Camp Curtis Philadelphia
Sunday evening Feb 9th 1862

My Dear Wife,

Feeling very lonesome this evening I thought to pass my time in writing to you. If I could have the unspeakable pleasure of your company it would suit me much better, but as it is I must be content with the penn[sic].

Our camp geographically speaking is situated in the very center of this great city with that noble structure Girard College in front about 90 rods distant. This consists of a large marble building with marble columns all around of Ionic or doric architecture and four large marble buildings plain and one granite all of which are surrounded by a granite wall nine or ten feet high. On our right is the Spring Garden Waterworks and reservoir for water. The largest portion of the city numerically speaking is south and east of us and indeed all of Old Philadelphia is. The city takes in an area of about 20 miles in length and some 10 or 12 in width but it is not all solid blocks for this distance. The upper part of the city and all above where we are encamped consists of numerous villages and country residences and parks etc. I have not had an opportunity to visit as many of the places of interest as I would wish as I have been upon special duty all the time I have been here.

We had our hospital pretty much empty this evening but it us full again to night. Nearly one half of the men of the Regt. are absent on furlough. I want to get my discharge as I cannot see any possibility of my getting any position at all. If I cannot get it I will get a furlough and come to Ohio in the course of two or three weeks. Col. James still is making promises to do something and thinks that he will get me appointed as Assistant Surgeon but I have no faith in it. He says at any rate I never shall go into the ranks. I think I will send you my Photograph this week (dress that of a private). If I had a picture of you and Ada here I would get them Photographed as I can get them large sized with a gilt frame Oval for 89 cts. apiece. They charge 51 cts for the 1st and 38 cents for every copy after and three shillings for the frames and glass which is very cheap. C.D. Webster is just as bad off as I am and not half as likely to get a discharge as I am. He thinks that he is fast(?) for \$13 per month. The Col has promised him Sergeant Major. He has also promised one or two more the same position. I wish I could see you tonight I could tell you more and better about the state of things than I can write them. I sent you last week five dollars in money and Ada a little Book. If I do not come to Ohio within three weeks I will send you 10 or 15 dollars more.

I miss the baths here that we could get at the Asylum at Harrisburgh. Webster and I however went out today and got a good bath for 12 cents. I think I will invest a shilling once a week very profitability in that way saying nothing about the comfort to be derived from a good warm bath.

If I only was able I would have you here in less than a week. I would so like to show you this city. We are laying in camp doing nothing. I have not seen a single man drilling since we left Camp Curtin. I believe this whole Regt. to be a farce and a cheat that it is not the

intention of the officers to even leave Phila unless forced to do so. We are not full as yet and I do not believe that we ever will be. I think that we could have filled up the 114th Regt just as quick as the 58th Regt will fill up now that we have consolidated. All I can say is that I wish that I was at Home. I would not care what became of this regt. as I have no sympathy for the 58th but would have done all in my power for the 114th.

Adjutant Holmes took me to the Alhambra Theater one evening since we have been in Phila. There are some four or five theaters in this city and any number of free concerts. Every Beer saloon has a free concert every evening. I have not disgraced myself as much as to attend one of them yet.

My health is generally good but I feel somewhat discouraged and do not know hardly what course to pursue here. I am only earning \$13.00 per month unless I am more more[sic] fortunate in my extra pay than before and the prospects are that the next six months will be the same if I remain and if I come home I have nothing to start in business again with. I feel more for the future than the present but I am willing to put my trust and confidence in the Lord and be governed by such circumstances as he in his good providence shall direct by me.

Kiss Ada and except a kiss for yourself and believe me your in love.

N.F. Marsh