

Camp Curtin Jan 22 1862

Dear Wife,

Once more I am permitted to write to you from Camp Curtin. How many days I will remain here I cannot tell but think I will not leave before Saturday. I am all alone in my tent this afternoon the boys having all gone to Harrisburgh and I thought it was a favorable opportunity to commune with one that I love and cherish with fond memories of the past. It was ten weeks last Monday since I bid you good by at Adelberts, how long this separation seems to me. Oh, that I had the wings of a dove how soon would I see you again, but I have to be content to look forward to that time when we will have a happy meeting yet in the future. It is a pleasure to me to let my thoughts take a stroll to the time when we shall meet again which I hope and trust may be ere long. Ten weeks separation from my wife can it be possible yet I find it is so. Time that swift winged messenger flies when away with the recollections of the past and waits for no one, bearing us all on towards eternity, eternity. We are apt to count our lives by days months and years, but

“Why should we count our life by years
Since years are short and pass away
Or why by fortune’s smiles or tears
Since tears are rain and smiles decay

O count by virtues they shall last
When life’s short fitful race is o, re
And they when earthly joys are past
Will cheere us on a brighter shore”

As all our virtues will be counted to us when we leave this world and try the realities of the future let us so live that we may be counted worthy to enter into the mansion prepared for us by our father in Heaven.

I finished reading by course the old testament this afternoon and shall commence to read the New testament again by course. I have had considerable time to read since I have been here much more than I will have when I enter upon the duties of my position.

My health is extremely good at present. There has been a good deal of sickness in camp mostly measles and two deaths have occurred in our Regt one in Capt. Backus(?) Co and one in Capt Rodgers Co. There are some 10 or 12 now in the Hospital here from our Regt two of which are dangerously sick.

You did not tell me what it cost you to go to Cleveland. Nor what the expenses were on my valise. Nor whether you got those prescriptions compounded that I sent you.

We have had a very long and heavy rain. It commenced raining last Friday and continued until last evening when it commenced snowing. This storm is what is keeping us we are obliged to wait for the tents to dry before we can take them down as they are to be packed away for the Winter and they would spoil if wet.

I hope that we may get some pay before long for I want to come to Cleveland very much to see you.

I have been upon extra duty all the time that I have been in Camp and should draw extra pay but ?? Holmes neglected to return me as such on the pay roll and I may not get it altho he will try and bring it in some other way.

I think that we will all get our discharge within the next three months or at least I think that the War will be ended. It has this appearance now. If there should be an attempt by the Rebbles to invade Ohio our regiment would in all probability be ordered there and in that event we would probably pass through Cleveland.

Next Friday God sparing my life will be my 33 birthday and if in this Camp I will in all probability write you again. I have not as yet attended church in Harrisburgh. There are a No. of good looking churches upon the outside and I understand two fine ones on the inside.

It is difficult for the soldiers to get out of camp on the sabbath. I have attended worship in camp five or six times. Would like to attend in Harrisburgh once or twice before leaving.

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

Newton