

Camp Curtis Friday evening Feb 14th, 1862

My Dear Wife,

Yours of the 9th instant came to hand this evening for which you have many thanks. I perused it with a great deal of pleasure and interest as indeed I do all of your much loved letters.

This great metropolis is now all alive with excitement and exultations over our late achievements and successful victories. Flags are seen fluttering from every public building and place of business and the papers are watched with much interest for further news. One or two more such achievements as Fort Henry and Roanoke[sic] Island and secession will be completely crushed out. It is plainly to be seen that the south are already beginning to falter. May God speed the time when this Rebellion may speedily terminate in the triumph of the union.

We have been having a few fine days but this evening the sky is clouded as the air feels much like rain. Last evening was a very beautiful one and as I sat in the hospital I could not help but let my thoughts wander away towards you and our darling Ada. I have been up until 2 o'clock every night this week with ??? in the hospital. It makes me fairly shudder sometimes to see the treatment which the poor soldiers get it is enough to kill almost any well man let alone those who are prostrated by sickness. But it is not in my power to help them. All that I can do is to administer as directed. Many times I am tempted to throw the medicine in the fire and would do so if I had anything to administer in its place. My mind is made up to come home. I do not think my country needs my services and our whole Regt I believe to be one great farce.

I have no confidence whatever in Col Jones he is not a man that can be relied upon at all. He is a double two faced man. A bundle of self conceit and arrogance. I do not know as he will grant me a discharge. I have got to approach him cautiously and use some considerable strategy in order to get it. There is a perfect volcano being concealed and forming in our regt and if I am not deceived it will burst forth ere long and if so it will make some of their dry bones shake. There will be an overturning of things. Our major is a self conceited insolent little puppy. Our wing of the Regt are down upon all the offices of the Jones wing.

I felt much last evening like being home sick. I cannot hardly wait for the slow process of time to proceed until the proper times for me to act for my discharge.

When I reflect that I am doing nothing for my country and that there is not the slightest possibility that we ever will (more than to draw our rations and our pay) it makes me sick of staying for \$13.00 a month. If my country needed me and we were in service and gaining victory after victory I would feel different but as it is I feel that I might do more good somewhere else. I believe it is the intentions of Col Jones to crush out all the offices belonging to the 114th Regt if he can. He represented when he came to Harrisburgh himself to be a man with military experience that he had some 500 men and the facts are that he knows nothing about military and that he had less men than we had. We have foiled him in all his plans[sic] thus far and I think that we will be enough for him unless he comes up to his word and is fair and honest in all his transactions.

Last evening two of Jones men tried to runn[sic] the guard for the purpose of deserting. The sentinel commanded him to halt three times and then fired his piece at them missed his man and they both made their escape.

I do not believe that before the consolidation that there was a man under Col Curtis that would have deserted him if he would have given them permission to have done so. There are already over 40 of Col Jones men deserted him. When our wing desert we will all go in a body offices and all.

Col Jones says that he is going to make an assistant surgeon of me but I know that is impossible for him to do as the power does not lie with him. I think the Surgeon of the 58th Regt is a fine man but I do not like his practice at all for he carries out the old hunkerish(?) practice of the army.

Webster got a letter the other day containing Mrs. Webster and Leveys(?) likeness. They look quite natural. I expect that Mrs. Holmes will be here in a few days. I should think that he would feel pretty poor as he got no pay at all only for the 7 of December. The offices receive pay only for the time they were mustered into service while the privates receive their pay from date of enlistment.

If I do not get my discharge I will be Home before we leave Phila but I think I will get it without a doubt.

Excuse the poor excuse for a letter and believe me yours in love

N.F. Marsh