

(Note: This letter was very difficult to read. It is written on blue paper and the ink has faded considerably.)

Camp Curtin Harrisburgh, PA

Dec 12th, 1861

My Beloved Wife,

I received your favor of the 8th inst with great pleasure but was sorry to learn that you were feeling so miserable. I think you had better add to the ?utralizing mixture a little Goldenseed and a little gentian(?) and Brandy also dissolve 2 drachus(?) of Citrate of Iron in 2 oz. of water flavor with Wintergreen or anything to suit your taste and take 1 teaspoonful 4 times a day.

Ah! How I wish that you were here to see us on dress parade. It is a grand sight, 5000 soldiers all dressed up in dress uniform with the Commissioned Officers in full dress all drawn up in regular line of of [sic] battle with glistening bayonets all keeping step with the music when marching by regiments. We are marched up on to the parade ground placed in our proper positions then comes the command of parade rest. When the musick all marches down and back the whole length of the parade. The Brass bands playing one way and the martial music playing back to the Col commanding the Encampment when they salute and then comes the ??? of arms. Then the Orderly Sergent go into the center to the Commanding office and report. They march in and back on double quick. Then comes the Orders for the next day and the men are detailed for guard and police duty. Then the Captains are called to the Commander to mark their report. They form in line in front of the soldiers march to the Commander and salute when the parade is dismissed and we all march to our quarters in double quick time which is 160 steps per minute of 33 inches in length measuring from heale to heale. We have some 2 or 3 full Brass Bands in this encampment and every company has 1 drummer and 1 fifer besides and each regiment is entitled to a band of 24 musicians. I mailed a letter to you last Saturday containing \$30.00 which you probably will receive before you get this. I got \$55.00 for my services while I acted as Surgeon. I ought to had 85 and might just as well as not if I only had have known just how to of pulled the ropes. If you can get along and save \$10.00 of the money sent to you to replace \$10.00 that mother sent me me [sic] while there at Camp Crossman do so. If not I can send it when we draw our pay.

We are under marching orders to go to Washington. There is some talk of moving this week but we cannot tell much about it, not more than 4 or 5 hours before we march. It would be nothing strange if we should march/move(?) this afternoon. We may stay here a week or 10 days. I cannot tell.

I would like much to come home for a day or two if I could get transportation there and back. Altho I would like to get my instructions(?) first so that I could get my uniform.

Quarter Master Holmes has ??? his uniform made his appearance in it yesterday for the first time. He looks well and has a very commanding appearance.

Remember me to all enquiring friends. Tell Ada I think of her everyday and want to see her very much. Tell her to see how many of those little Hymns she can learn to sing to me when I come home. Kiss her for me and except a kiss for yourself and except these few lines with much love for an affectionate wife.

Your husband,

N.Marsh