

Headquarters 92nd July 30th 1862

Dear Friends,

I had the pleasure of receiving yesterday a whole batch of letters from home, from Mother, Mr. H[urlbut], Fannie & Emory [Hastings]. I was much surprised at Fan's writing I think she is learning very fast. Tell her & Em. that I will come home as soon as I can.

I am happy to inform you that I am still gaining in health and by the blessing of a kind providence hope soon to be able to do light duty. I am in the Hospital Tent of the Reg't and have been all the time. I can sit up all day and I walk round some but take care and not exercise too much. I think I shall try and get the ingredients for the medicine of Frank's to keep with me. It rains today and we shall probably have a long rain of it and I tell you it improves the air wonderfully in this hot climate.

We have a daily mail here. It comes in the morning and out in the afternoon and your letters all reach me I believe, etc & I think you receive all that I send. I have lost my fine comb and I wish you to get me one and send it in your next letter for they cannot be had here. And I assure you they are a very necessary article in camp, for to tell the truth lice are as plenty here as they were in Egypt on a certain occasion.

You may tell Mr. Hurlbut that I will answer his letter soon, by the way I should like exceedingly well to see that little black eyed recruit of his. I hope he won't take her to the war yet. My respects to his wife and the rest of the family and my thanks for your letters and I hope they will keep coming for they are always welcome.

I should have sent more money home but being sick I saved a good deal not knowing what I might want. In the hospital we have rice, cornstarch, barley, farina, beef tea, etc.etc. to eat but no soft bread. Nothing but hard crackers, but we buy soft bread with our money of the sutlers for 25 cts a loaf. (Worth about 5 cts.) Butter 50 cts per pound (& potatoes, one dollar per bushel of the Brigade Commissary) Now all this costs us money but a very little bread butter & potatoes goes a good ways with us and it strengthens us amazingly, and then we draw dried apples & potatoes from government twice a week and that helps some.

I have made up my mind ton get what I can eat while I am sick. When I am well I can eat anything. We have nice jelly furnished us plenty of lemons and ice water all the time, and onions boiled when we want them and I am getting so I really love a boiled onion with butter, pepper and salt on it but at home I could never eat one you know. Strange how circumstances will change one's views & habits. But I must bring my letter to a close for if my life is spared I propose writing quite often, and if I write too much now there will be nothing left for next time. Give my best respects to all friends and my thanks to Frank for his valuable recipe. Don't forget to send the comb and the postage stamps. My money

you know went only to Gouverneur Express Office. The De Kalb boys are all well, but Albert Stevens, he is off the hooks a little but not in the hospital. Be sure & put on my letters, 92nd Regt NYSV, You left off the 92nd on this last letter and it is a wonder how I ever got it. 2nd Brigade Gen Wessell's Division, this is a mistake. I may have directed you wrong and I will correct it. That God may spare us all to meet at home once more is the sincere prayer of your affectionate son & Brother.

John