

Camp Garret

October 21, 1863

Dear Del,

I have just closed up my tent for the night and seated myself to write a short letter to my dear little wife. Firmly believing that she will be glad to hear from me. Don't you think she will. I sometimes think I did wrong in coaxing you to marry me while I was in the army, though I do not know but you might have felt quit (sic) as uneasy about me if we had not been married. I enlisted under the firm conviction that my country needed my services and not only mine, but those of every American citizen who could go without to (sic) great a sacrifice. (sic) Now have I altered my opinion on the subject since. After this rebellion is over and the Union firmly reestablished the honorable men will be those who have shown by their acts that they were willing to sacrifice everything even life itself for the good of the country. So that you must not consider all the time I spend in the army as lost even to you Pet. I wish we could get a chance to fight the Vallandigham copperheads how I would ~~love~~^{like} to lead a charge on a regiment of them. The boys would very soon settle with them for they dislike them more heartily than they do the rebels. I was pleased to hear that ()? was elected though I never had much doubt as to the result. I was very much surprised to learn that Shelly was going into the army. Do you know how or through whose influence he obtained a chaplaincy. I trust it will

be all for the best though I have considerable doubt on the subject. I intend to be as careful of myself as possible.(sic) A few months since I felt as if it made but little difference what became of me. Now I feel that I have everything to make me happy and life desirable. For this I am indebted to you dear. And that I may live to prove myself worthy of your love will be sufficient to prevent my exposing myself unnecessarily.

Every time I have written I forget to ask you to send me your likeness on Ambrotype if you have one. The boys all want to see what you look like. I have a very fine pair of colts navy revolvers we captured on Lt Col Patton of the rebel army. I will keep them to look at in after years. I wish I be (sic) with you to night seated by a good warm fire but as this can't be its no use to wish for it, yet I will. My fingers are getting so cold that I cannot write any more to night but will write tomorrow unless I should have to leave camp.

Give my love to all at home and keep lots for yourself.

your loving husband Steve