

Camp Burnett Dec 27th 1863

Dear Del.

Your dear good letter of the 22nd came yesterday. And as you sometimes say "it was more than welcome." There is nothing that can do me as much good as one of your kind loving letters and especially such a long one as the last was. I wish I could see you that I might thank you for being such a sweet little pet for I know I shall not be able to write anything that can justly be called an answer. But must and will show my good will by trying. You say you can not command the quality, this you need not do, but send the quantity, and I will risk the quality. I do not know of anything you could write that would not be interesting to me. You mention it as one of the trials a Christian young man like my self must meet and overcome. Well I do hope it is and that there are no worse ones, for then I shall surely get to Heaven. I trust that the Lord will put it into your heart to send such trials very often. Hereafter I shall make this the burden of my prayer. As a Christ map, gift your letter was very acceptable & assure you

It came one day too late, but that
did not injure it a bit. (You say
that if I don't send you as long
a one in return you will think
your gift was not acceptable. You
should have your ears pulled for
writing that, and if I do not
forget it - I will pull them (just
a little), when I come home.

And that if I do send you such a
one you will prize it more highly
than any thing else. This I can not
hope to do, but will do the best
I can in the way of a letter, and
when I come home bring you some
thing better. I wish I could be there
on Christmas morning I know
I should enjoy it very much, but
as that can not be I can only
wish you a happy new year. I spent
my Christmas in camp. It was a
beautiful day, one of the finest
I ever saw at this time of the year
I had several invitations to dinner
at different places but did not feel
like going and stayed at home.
I should have liked very much
to have been at uncle Edward with
you and the rest of our friends for
I know I should have enjoyed
it very much. Uncle was indeed
not only very thoughtful, but very
kind in thus affording you an
opportunity of seeing your friends

all together once more. As in all human probability it will be the last time you will have such an opportunity in this uncertain world. I trust your visit will not only be very pleasant, but that it will improve your health. I feel very uneasy about you, and firmly believe that you are injuring your health by not taking exercise enough in the open air. I do not think Allegheny a good place for you under any circumstances. You should I think be much better in the country where the air is pure and healthy. Though it is a fact (strange as it may appear) that people do die in the country the same as they do in the cities.

And so you do not want me to re-inlist for three years. You say you do not know whether I will or not, but that if you were meditating any thing which you ascertained was contrary to my wishes as my re-enlistment is to yours, you would abandon it at once. Well that sounds just like you sweet little pet that you are. Nor do I doubt what you say, but on the contrary believe my word of it. And when I think only of our present happiness and of ourselves alone, I think and reason as you do. But there are other considerations that sometimes

lead me to think otherwise. In the first place it is right that we should think only of ourselves. For the exclusion of every other interest. Do we not owe part of our time to our friends country and to the advancement of civil and religious liberty and if so should we not discharge these duties. (But you say that I have done enough, not done more than others have, but is this any reason why I should stop. Supposing all the officers in the army were to reason thus what would be the result. Should not the rebels soon have it all there own way and you and I be no better than slaves, would we be deserving of a better fate. It strikes me that the better qualified a person is to serve his country to more obligation is he under to do so. But that every man should or can with justice leave the service as soon as he has become qualified by experience to be useful I can not believe.

And the fact that many act thus makes the more necessary that others should not follow their example.

The reason that would induce me to resist are simply these that I am in duty bound to do all that I can for my country.