

Head Inst^{gth}. v. v. c

Dec 28th 1864

Dear Pet^r

It is not daylight yet and I feel very lonesome, and must write to you. I think you will not object to my writing every day will you? I would like very much to see you this morning and to get a sweet loving kiss from you and a sweet little hug. I expect you will feel like loving my cure for writing such stuff to my sweet little wife. I spend a great deal of time thinking how happy we will be ~~to~~ when allowed to enjoy each others company while we live. I trust your health will remain as good as it was when I left if not better. You must not get poor again but get as fat as the old fat girl. I am trying to quit using tobacco and a great time I am having of it.

I am like some christians I hope
I will hold out faithful but am
not quite certain of being able to
do so. I think I could if I had
you to help me. I have used it so
long that it seems almost necessary to my
existence. If I am ever going to quit it, is
time I was at it. I received a
good letter from Pa a few days a
go. He was really well when he wrote.
They seem to be doing very well
so far this winter and I hope will
continue to do so till I can come
home to help them. I hope
Eddy will not marry any one that
will suit him, for I think as you do
that it would be the most unfortunate
thing that could occur. Nothing
is better than to be happily married
and I would rather be alone than
to be married to a person I could
not love or respect.

The surgeon
desires me to finish up this epistol

by giving you his best respects.
and further he says he is willing
to certify that I have been a good
boy. I will not write any
more before to morrow for fear
your friends might think me
crazy.

I send you lots of love
and plenty of kisses, and hope
to hear from you soon.

Your loving husband
Steve