

Camp Garret

December 18, 1863

Dear Del,

Your very kind letter of 14th is just received. I am very very sorry you are till (sic) so sick, and were it possible (sic) for me to do so I would come and see you at once but must wait till I can. I do trust you will be very careful. You should quit teaching and sewing at once for if you do not^t I fear you will only get

worse. I am very well fixed now with a good stove and ~~for~~^{every}thing else to keep me warm. It will not be very long now till my time will be out when I can come home for good if I am not drafted of which there is not much danger, and if I am drafted they can not hold me if I claim exemption. How I wish I could see you this evening pet but cannot. I will try and write very in (sic) the future if I do not write much. I received a letter from Shelly written on his way to his regt. He was well and in good spirits. The papers you sent me did not come to hand. Some one took them out of the office and forgot to deliver them. It is very cold here now^w so cold that I scarsely (sic) go out of my tent. I have not been very well for several days, but today feel usually well with^e (sic) the exception of the head ache which is troubling me. I will send this to the office tonight so that it will reach you by the middle of the week. Hope you will soon be better if not entirely well.

My love to all at home.

Your loving husband, Steve
Lots of kisses for my sweet little pet.

Steve