

Dear Del

Camp Garret Oct-21st/863

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 causing you to marry me while I was in the army. Though I do not know but you might have felt just 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 great a sacrifice. Nor have I altered my opinion on the subject since. After this rebellion is over and the union firmly reestablished the

honorably men will be those
who have shown by their acts
that they were willing to sacrifice
everything even life itself for the
good of their 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 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 ^{am} ~~am~~ ^{am} pleased to
hear that Hulse 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. A few months since

I felt as if it made but little difference
what became of me. Now I feel that
I have every thing 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 despising myself unceasingly.

Every time I have written I forget to ask
you to send me your likeness or Ambrotype
if you have one. The boys all want to see
what you look like. I have a very fine pair
of Colt's navy revolvers we captured on Lt Col
Battin of the rebel army I will keep them
to look at in after years. I wish I
be with you to night - seated by a good
warm fire but as this can't be it's
^{need to} wish for it; yet I will. My fingers
are getting so cold that I can not
write any more to night - but will
write to ~~you~~ ^{you} unless I should
have to leave camp

Give my love to all at home and keep
lots for yourself your loving husband
Steve