

My Excelsior Home Oct. 16th/62

Dearly Beloved Mother,

You seem to be lonely & desirous of my return home. It would be with much pleasure (if peace was restored) to be there & enjoy the comforts of life & home. But alas the time has not come for the soldiers to return to their friends at home. When the time will come I do not know but it is my prayer that there may soon be a termination of this war, that the Rebels may see their errors & cease their rebellion against this our Government. Times in the western part of the country seems to be a hard place for the rebels they meet with defeat & disaster on every side. I hope that the all wise being will throw dismay into the Rebel camp will go with our army as they advance & crown our arms with success. It seems to me that they will have to give up soon McClellan will soon give them a hard one I think but I know not. Cheer up mother I trust that God will comfort, console, & take care of you. We do not have any preaching in our reg. But I learnt day before yesterday that there is a prayr meeting in the 2d reg. Every Sunday night. I shall avail myself of every opportunity to attend the places of worship. I do not know, but it is as easy to be good in camp as any where. I am sure that I have time to read more in the testament than I did at [home.] I have read a good share of the time in my testament. I had a testament given to me on Staten Island I gave it to an old soldier he lost his at Bul run. I cary mine with me all of the time & I calculate to till I return home. I should like to be there & visit with miss Palmer. Tell her I would be highly pleased to be there & enjoy her company. I will go to see Mr. Palmer if it is so I can. I had a letter from you, Ella, John B. and Melissa to night I highly appreciated them. There is not a very bad scar on my face where I got hurt in the city A person will not observe it much. I am quite healthy I weigh 180 lbs. I have gained the boys say in flesh & look tougher than I did when I come here. I can stand some tramping any way. I come off from picket yesterday each regiment has to be out 24 hours once in 5 days. 5 reg. Of us in this brigade. We were called up to load our guns & be ready for a Rebel raid (Cavalry) We laid by our guns. 5 Cavalry men fired into some New Jersey pickets. They threw their guns & run. If they had tryed our men they would have found the 3d reg. With artillary ready for them, but they did not come.

You have sold the butter well I am glad of it. it will count some that money was sent by Mr. Kisley of D. I sent the \$28 By Mr. Goff of D. Probily it will go through \_\_\_\_\_ after a while. Let me know when you get it. I hope that it will be there soon. Where did Ed Haight see him. How is Haight now. What did Dr. Thomson want to pay in for that horse of mine. How dose that little colt get along pa's colt I mean.



*Electus W. Jones, October 16, 1862, continued*

Morning I am well & had a good nights sleep there are 2 that sleep in the tent they sleep together I sleep alone the drums are a beating for roll call. I have me a bed fixed so that it is comfortable to lay on. You spoke about dried fruit if you have a plenty some dried berries & cherrys would be exceptable \_\_\_\_\_ when I get into winter quarters. Dried apples would come in play if it did not cost to much to get it here. If you make much sweet Apple cider boil some for me. I would like to have some butter saved for me. I have not been troubled with my cold. It has been fine wether since I came here. There are a great many forts with in a short distance of here it would be hard for the South to get to Washington.

The boys have to work on a new fort now. There is a new one in construction west by south west from here. Who is member of the board of Election in my stead. Has Kidder paid father yet it is 75. Ira Hopkins 54 get them they will help some. Tell me how much the butter come to. I wish you had some cheese & honey to send me with the rest of the stuff. you need not get any Id rather you would not. Butter is .35 a pound here not very good at that. I have not bought any yet Jersey peach blowes & sweat potatoes are 40 a peck it is not profitable to by much. Good apples 05 for two onions 7 ct a piece milk 10 a pint can get it of some for 10 a quart that is quite reasonable. This Brigade is not full yet by a great deal. I am on fatigue duty to day I will keep this till night & send it out in the morning.

I got in from fatigue duty about 6 oclock. I have been to work a grubing stumps & clearing the bushes for a new fort a little ways from here. There are 2 forts just comenced up there. They are 1/8 of a mile a part I should think They are a great many in sight of those forts tomorrow they are a going to be some 15000 straglers to work up there at fort Ellsworth there are 15000 of them, they have a guard over them that makes them work. The boys that go from here do not have to work any harder than they are a mind to. I had rather go out than to stay in camp it is healthier I think to exercise & be on the hill & enjoy the frysh breezes. I am quite a hand for fresh air the nurse in N. C. Hospital thought so any way. We have a healthy situation here to camp on. Charley was out of his head when they took him to the Hospital. He was buried in a very nice place the boys fenced a lot of for a burrying ground & set out trees around it he has seader posts to denote the place where he is laid his name is on it. All of the boys say that they thought a good deal of him they speak highly of him, if convenient (that if so I can) I shall visit the place. McClellan is in Charlstown he is advancing he had some thing of a fight I do not know how much. It is the best of wether for the army to move the days are cool. I had borrowed 5 stamps to send letters off so I have not but 3 left if convenient please send some in your next. I owe 7 letters now write soon.

*Electus W. Jones, October 16, 1862, continued*

From your affectionate son

E. W. Jones

M. Jones

I have not got any pay from US, since I come here, but will probily next month. \$39.00 will be due me the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. I will send some home when I get it.

Mother this is long enough. Tell Chapin I will write to him soon. I will have to go out on picket next Sunday so you see while you are at church I shall be on picket. I shall come off Monday good night E. J.

Tell me all about the meetings, I would like to hear Bliss preach next Sunday. How does Mr. Miles get along. Tell him that I think of him often, I hope that his life may be spared that God will preserve his life & health for a great many years [of] usefulness. What would they do if he be taken from them he seems to be the staff of the church. Tell Ezra Hopkins I am trying to live up to his advise. Have him give my love to Frankey, tell him to be a good boy & when war is over if I should live I would like to have him for a S.S. scholar.

Norman Servoss has a letter to night. How do all of the people get along out there tell the young people that I send them my best wishes & love. Write to me all about them & excuse the bad mistakes I can not write much more in this

I shall get along with as little money as posible. I got a letter from Mira to night it went to Staten Island. I hope Mira she with the rest of them are up to see you. I have not heard from the 154<sup>th</sup> reg. Since last Sunday then I saw them.

I will write often to you.