

Camp near Falmouth Va. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> / 62

Dear Parents

how do the boys get along is aunt rebecca well I am hear on the ground that we were on before the attack of Fredricksburg. I am well & stand a camp life well. we come here yesterday we started to cross the river night before last about 9 oclock we had to double quick to the river. Some of the way there were 3 coloms of us marching together, our own pickets did not know that we were coming away till we had gone & they were taken off. the wind was favorable for our retreat. we had some 13000 wounded & killed our loss was heavier than theirs the Rebles have a strong position batterys are planted in such a way that when we take one there is another one back ready to fire on us. Monday in the afternoon the rebs under took to get a battery in posish to fire on us our battery opened on them made them go away on their horses some of the horses went away with out riders the former went the fastest of the two our men stove one of their cannons to pieces. there were 5 in our reg. wounded that were with the reg. & 3 that were straglers they were took in by the provost. those that were with the reg. 3 of them were wounded out on picket the other two were wounded near the reg. one by an accident while fooling with his revolver (a Capt) the other a lieut. was hit by a bullet from the enemy while he was puting a stamp on his letter none of them were fatal. 18<sup>th</sup>. I am well this morning. we got badly whipped I do not think that Burnsidess would have brought them in the position if he had not been ordered to we got over there some 20 minutes after the heavyest of the fighting was through. it looked rather hard to see them shooting at one another. in my opinion I do not believe that this can ever be settled by fighting we may whip them time after time then we are as far apart as before. Night before last I went over to the 154<sup>th</sup>. they were about 1 ½ miles from here the boys were well Uncle looks healthy he gets along well I guess they arrived there the day before. they left that night they packed up when I was there. they went a short distance that night I do not know whether they moved yesterday or not. I saw Martin Harmon John Crosgrave & Murry Benson they look healthy as ever I had a good visit with them it seemed like old times to see them. all of the falt I had to the visit was that it was not long enough I sent that money by Mr. Risley in an envelope sealed a postage stamp on it, directed to you. he said that he would put it in the P.O. at Dunkirk there was \$45.00 he will suffer if he does not pay it to you. it is a little out of the way to open a letter. C. Allen is well and enjoys himself very well. the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry went away yesterday morning at 5 oclock. the health of the army is good I think last night was a cold one Wm. Hall said that it was colder than it had been in Westfield. the officers think that we shall go to Alexandria soon but they do not know. write often

from your son  
E. W. J.

N. & M. M. Jones

N. Servoss is well. Fuller I do not know any thing about only he is at Alexandria in a hospital. I should think we would write home.