

Camp N. Taylor Feb. 20th/63

Dear Parents,

I received a note from you in John's letter stating that you had got that \$45.00 also that \$30 I am glad that you have got it with out more trouble than you did have. got that box the 12th. it is a very good one indeed. the boy say they never saw a better one come into the Co. there was nothing hurt but 2 or 3 apples they were decayed. you have a good tast for arranging one for a soldier. those cherries are highly appreciated. as well as the Sugar. has aunt Rebecca got that letter I wrote her. you must have dryed a good many berries last summer I should think by the amount you sent me. the boots were or are a good pare but they are to small for me I could not get them one I do not know but they would have been big enough for me when I was at home but I think not. waring the government brogands so long it has made my feet some larger. you will say "that they were large enough before." the weather has been rainy & snowy for 4 days back to day is pleasant with a cool refreshing wind from the north west. we have target shooting 3 times a week. the 5th of march we are a going to shoot for a prise. the first best gets \$25.00 2d best \$15. the 3d \$10 Col. Stevens awards the prizes. the roads are very muddy it is hard work for the teems to get along with their loads. there is a large detail made out of this regiment every day; to build corduroy road. Sickles has got back from N.Y. City he is in command of a corps now. our division went out on a little tramp the 5th 6th & 7th. we went some 22 or 23 miles and back to camp. the ground was frozen & hard to travle on. I have not been excused from any duty yet, I have been with the regiment on every march that they have made since I joined it. M. C. Rice seems to think that we ought to move & drive the 15000 rebs away from the other side of the river. I wish that those brave & good Generals, & so down along, that are north would come down here & try their luck in the mud we would willingly look at the flying enemy from a safe position in the rear of the home guard. people may talk as much as they are a mind to, but we cannot move in Va. mud with our wagons & artillery besides there would be a great expenses of health in laying out in the rain & on the damp ground. how is the sleighing there this winter is there much. have you heard from Israel since that one you sent me. there was a death in our regiment a few days ago in Co. C. the 120th New York V. the 6th Excel. a new reg. has lost a great many by disesease a great many more than the old ones have. we have flour so that we make us 4 pancakes a day so you see that with a few hard tacks we get along very well flour is only \$5 per 100 lbs. according to the scales here I weigh 199 lbs. my flesh is hard as the adamant comparitively speaking. I expect that the young people are a having a good time there this winter.

the news of Frank Crosgroves death must have been quite hard for Mr. Crosgrove, but he has a comforting consilation that is he died happy. it is well with the christian let him die where he may. write soon.

Yours &c,
E. W. Jones

M. M. Jones