

Camp near Stafford C H March 15th 1863

Dear Parents Brothers & Sisters

With pleasure I take my pen to tell you how I am getting along yesterday morn I had about made up my mind to write but now I am glad I did not as I have some news to write now I can say I recieved that Box you sent me all right those Boots I think are super excellent (very nice) I also recieved your kind letter last eve stating that you had got the Box started at last and giving the reason why Burtches & Bacons things were not in as I was some what surprised not to find their things in the Box as their Box did not get here with ours Duff Edgerton got his Box some time ago and I got that bag of Fruit all right those apples and Fried cakes you sent are splendid

It does not seem as if it was 12 years ago that I played Sella with Feathers or 15 months ago almost that I packed my trunk to go out into the world and try to build myself up a name but time flies very rappidly doesnt it & it doesnt seem as if it was 12 or 15 years ago that were youngsters playing in the street together I am happy to say I am well & enjoying my self as well as I can and I can but think it is the kind protecting hand of a merciful Providence who has thus directed my steps and given me health & strength to endure the life of a soldier as long as I have to him I would ascribe the praise & ask him still to guide & Protect me and I feel to trust him for Protection for "he will not put my soul to shame nor let my hope be lost" I am glad to hear that you got that check how much did you have to use to get my share in that Box through to me all that is in it will come handy but I was in hopes you had filled an oyster can with Butter for me that is about the best thing I think as this army Pork eating is about played out with me The weather here is about as it is north during the month of march. If I should hear that you were Drafted Frank I should not have any pride to stay in service a week but the first chance I got I do believe I should get a discharge but we will trust in God for the right issue in affairs I should have been glad to have been there to that Quarterly meeting & love Feast I should have enjoyed my self I know we have had a good time as might be expected and a great deal better time than we expected when we crossed the Potomac Spring has not really opened warm & pleasant yet but I think that April will be a delightful month here To day has not seemed much like the Holy Sabbath but it seems as if we had as much Guard mounting on sunday morning as we have during the rest of the week This morning we have mounted no less than three Guards besides playing for Inspection & I have also had the pleasure of seeing Ed Blinn & capt Weld of Portland Ed is fat & healthy and the capt is about as fleshy as he was when he went to school but he looks tough & rugged I feel very sorry for Cousin Mary I fear that Doc B has not served her altogether right but about Pratt is the mans name Abell that served him in such a manner and his Father too or has Will Blighton been playing up some deceitful game****we will pass over without mentioning what might happen if we should find out that he had been the cause of an eruption in that Family I trust you will forgive me for opening as I do but it should be that the "Hypocrit" for I cant see

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him in any other eyes had done such a thing I never could forgive him & I do believe my idea of the man is that he is as base as the serpent that crawls in the dust all his actions have showed him to be deceitful but I pity poor Mary and cousin _____ he almost driven from home it is too bad but I will suggest a remedy Draft the men that can be so heartless & let them serve Uncle Sam for about 3 years & Hardtacks will soften the flesh if it does not the spirit forgive me I say again for I do not want to anathematise my relatives but such conduct should not be passed over unnoticed by relatives it is too hard hearted for me & I think I am a rough specimen as you will probably distinguish when I get home there are a Host of rumors in camp now but I will not say any thing about them now John Wilson & Perry Wheelock are well and so is most all the Westfield boys Newel Burtch has been quite sick but is getting better now please excuse & Pardon all maliciousness on my part & Burn this letter Give my best respects to Ella & Katie & Uncle & aunt and &c &c so on

Yours very truly
Charley

Love to all