

Camp near Salmoth Va Jan 2<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Wife and Boys

I guess it is the best thing I can do to spend a little time in writing to you as I have a few moments time to myself I am well at present<sup>no</sup> and tough as a bare you know my common weight was 165 lbs when at home but I now weigh 185 and still gaining so you see I am doing pretty well in that respect - at any rate we are here in the same place we were when I last wrote to you and I know not but we shall stay here some time yet the prospect is fair for it at present we think we shall get our pay now in a few days at most but we can't tell until we get it in our hand and hardly then but we hope for the best and that is all we can do but you shall have it as soon as possible for I suppose you need it very much and if I do not get it soon I will get you some in some other way if I can and I guess I can in some way. Now Estlin I want you to write as soon as you get this and let me know how you get along and if the Doctor has said or done any thing more about the house if he says any thing more about it tell him that you will write to me about it and do as I say be it what it may and then let me know what he says and I will write to him myself and see what affect that will have on him I guess I can stop him till the first of Apr if not I will expose him in a publick manner at least and see what that will do.

but I must close for want of time  
now write as soon as you get this for I  
hav not herd from you in a long time  
and am getting quite uneasy about it  
~~do~~ good by for this time

H N

A J Arnold, to his own  
Dear Nady,

Well Erin how do you do and how do  
you like your school and how do you get  
along with the chory this winter and be  
you a good boy to your Dear mother  
if you are a good boy your mother will  
let me know and I shal be as proud  
of you as I can be I will send you  
a penny a picture for you to look at  
and you must not quarrel over it  
nor have any fus and maby I can git  
something more to send by & by but  
you must write to me in the next  
letter that your mother to me but I  
must stop good by to Erin A Arnold  
from his Father