

Fairfax Virginia Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1862

Ever Dear Wife, I recd a letter from you last evening bearing date from Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30 which was gladly recd and eagerly read. I am really thankful that your health and the health of the dear little ones is so good. I hope that the blessing will be continued unto you all. (I am a great deal better today but cough some yet. I have had the Catauh (?) very bad discharging blood & yellow matter very freely. But is a great deal better now.) Bliss has got the fever but is some better now. Woodford is sick. I think he has got the yellow jaundice, and bye the bye, the Dr says I have got the jaundice. Robinson & Cone, I think will get their discharge. Cone has got the dropsy. His legs swell very bad. The weather has been very good until last Friday when about 3 inches of snow fell and the wind blew which made it very hard for us cooking our victuals out in the snow, and it has been very cold since untill to day, which is very pleasant. The sun shines and the snow is leaving us which will make it muddy travelling and we have recd orders to march tomorrow but do not know which way, nor where we are going. We expect to march in the morning at 8 Oclk with 2 days rations in our Haversacks. I wrote you a letter a few days ago which you may have got by this time, which answered all your questions excepting about my stockings & mittens. My stockings are pretty good. I have darned them some but they are better than any Government stocking I can get yet. I got a pr of Gov mittens with one finger & a thumb and traded them with Robinson for a pr of sheepskin gloves so I am all right for gloves. If we get into winter quarters I would like to have you send me a box of something such as you know I like & need. Cone recd a box the other (day) but it had lain in Washington so long that the cake was spoiled. I would have liked to have taken my seat at your table and taken Thanksgiving supper with you but I am no longer a freeman but have to do as other folks say so I couldnt come. But my heart and thoughts were with you although I knew nothing of your arrangement for Thanksgiving but knew you would have something good.

I hope you will get beef enough to make you some hash meat and mince pies, and maybe if I live till we get into winter qtrs I hope to get a chance to eat some of Mrs Stricklands pies.

I feel no fears of death as far as dying is concerned nor no fears of hereafter, but, as the thing now looks to me, I should rather spend my life with my Dear Wife & Children and should feel as though I was doing more of a duty to God in doing, than to offer my life on the Altar of a speculating public, who care more for the life of Horse or mule than they do for a man. But there is no way now only to do my duty and leave the event with a just God.

The other boys, excepting Vet, are exemplary in Camp although the rest (?) of Camp are very many. Pray for us seems useless when I know you do all the time.

I must bring this to a close thanking you for the ginger you sent in your last letter. We get no flour but our bread is generally good when we get it. It is light Bakers bread. Give my love to all the folks. Please give the date of my letter that you answer and where it was written. Those 3 little arms in the picture look so cunning dont they? I wish I could have hold of them. I am afraid the picture is going to shell of is has now a little on your right arm and a little on your dress and the babies. I think it is on account of dampness lying on the ground in Knapsack I expect. Kiss all the little ones and tell them

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to be good children and remember their Pa who often thinks and talks of them. This from  
your ever loving husband. F.