

February 4th 1863

The river is quite wide but the water is so low that a person can walk half across on the stones We exchanged coffee for tobacco They have very little of the former but plenty of the latter Degeir and I conversed with them by signs as we were not allowed to talk with each other They told us that they would lay down their arms and go home by walking off some fifty feet and standing their guns up against a tree took off their cartridge boxes and pretended to throw them in the river They also made letters on the rocks saying that they were tired of this war and wished that peace would be restored this winter I have been out on picket once before

Friday morning 5th. We have got orders to march with six days rations I intended to have filled out a whole sheet but I have not got time We have got to leave our nice and comfortable tents I thought that we would have to leave before long as we always to when we get fixed up decent We have had a good deal of snow here of late and it is snowing this morning It dont last a great while We have got two months pay Here is an allotment check that I got for twenty dollars take it and go to the bank and get the money and if you need it use it if you dont put it at interest I shall send it Dr Van Airnam our surgeon as he is going through town on his way home and I think it will be safer I should have sent it before but on the account I should have written before but I have been so busy that I could not so you must not think hard of me I do not play cards and have not since I came into the service I will write more just as soon as I can get a chance Excuse haste and believe me ever your affectionate son

T. L. Reynels

N.B. Kiss Clara for me and give my respects to all friends

T. L. R.

I had six dollars in money left out my wages besides this I send

*[Thaddeus L. Reynels, musician, Company I, 154th New York Volunteers]*