

In Camp near Stafford C.H. Va.
Feb. 14th 1863

Dear friends at home

It is just two weeks ago to day since I wrote you a letter which I sent by Dr. Van Airman from this Regt I have heard since that he was detained in Washington for some reason or other and will not be allowed to go either to his Regt. or home The letter had my allotment check in it and I presume that he has forwarded it to you before this time If he has not he will before long I am perfectly well and hearty as a buck As far as weight is concerned I am on the increase I now weigh 157 pounds When I left home I weighed 138 pounds I am very fleshy and have done a great deal of hard work for the past three months more than I ever did at home in double that time You seem to find a great deal of fault because I do not write oftener I guess if you had been in my place you would have written less than I have wrote I can tell you that it is not a very pleasant duty for one to write here with all the inconveniences that we have to put up with. In the last letter I wrote I told you that we had to march immediately which we did in a pretty hard snow storm The first day we marched five miles and came to a halt in an open field of one of the most level and splendid farms that I have ever saw. When we went to Falmouth the house and farm were in a good condition but now are completely torn to pieces the barn is entirely demolished It was a three story barn 75 x 100 feet The house was a very large one made of brick and built with two large wings on each side of the main building The outside cassings and inside woodwork were all torn out and burnt for wood That night the snow thawed and caused the Potomac creek to rise so that it was impassable the next day We waited untill noon for the pontoon bridge to be laid When we crossed over and marched five or six miles further through thick and thin to our present camp which is the best camping ground that we have had yet There is a large quantity of black pine which makes the best kind of houses We have got our camp all built and it is quite a town of about 450 inhabitants. That is the strength of our Regt. When we left Jamestown we were 957 men strong Co I numbered 101 men now it has got but 60 men fit for duty There is a great strife in Our Regt now to see who shall have furloughs I was expecting to get one but it has turned out so that no one but commissioned Officers can get one One Capt. Nelson undertook to go home on a sick leave but when he got to Washington they could not find any thing the matter with him He is detained there for the space of thirty days and has got to pay his own board which is a good joke Lieut Burdick will be in town some time this month Perhaps William Cannon will be home at the same time If either one of them leaves here I will send word by them and When they return if you should desire to send any thing to me you can put it in care of them Our troops are about to evacuate this place We shall either go to Washington and cross the Potomac there or else we shall take the river and go down to Tennessee and maybe to Charleston S.C. At any rate we shall stay here untill they get our seige guns shiped which will take two or three weeks and then look out for something that will decide wether Abe or Jeff will rule this Government

Son Thaddeus Reynels

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