

Sunday night Feb. 15th, 1863

I have been very busy to day as I have been acting as orderly for the officer of the day He did not do as much as he intended to on account of its being rainy. The Col. gave orders to have some half dozen vaults dug for private use, but it has not been done. We are fixing up this camp in a little different style from any other that we have had yet Our drills and Guard mounting are different from any thing that we have had before I heard to day that we were going to stay here untill spring I hope so for I am tired of marching so much. Col. Jones has made a requisition for Eight new drums We are going to have a full drum Corps of twenty Musicians I expect to go back again, but I like to be in the ranks a bout as well as I do there It is not as hard work to carry a gun and ammunion as it is to carry a drum If it want for the name of being a private I would not care If I should stay in the ranks I would not be a private long for I should seek for promotion and I would get it to for Lieut Burdick has done his best towards raising me up There is not much of a chance for promotion in our Company as we have got the same officers that we had when we left Jamestown. I have heard that some of our Corporals were going to be reduced to the ranks There has been one reduction that of Seargent Wood he did not attend to his business. I used to go to school to him when we first came into town I like him first rate he uses me very well a little better since he has been reduced I received your last letter of the 5th friday night and was very sorry to hear of the ill health of both Mother and Father. I pity Mothers misfortune and hope that nothing very serious will come of it I was in hopes that father was going to get better after using so much medicine. But never mind keep up good courage and hope for a better future I think that there is good times a coming when we shall all gather together once more around the family circle and never be separated again by war. Although I am far away from home and in the enemys country I still expect to see home again and to enjoy the pleasures and privileges of a free man I do not call my self free here in the army. But this war is not going to last always for either one side or the other will make terms upon which peace will be produced within six months time I would like to have you send me (If you see any) some Extracts out of papers and some stories such as you used to send I got the Tribune that you sent but found it broken open Send me a couple of the latest times paper I want you to send me a pair of number six long legged kip boots We can not get a pair here less then ten or twelve dollars The mud is so deep that when it rains we cannot step out of doors without going over shoes Get some merchant to do them up and direct them to me and send them by mail. Degeir has been quite sick but is getting better I have not written to Eliza Clark for three months and Mrs Delamater can just keep her tounge inside of her head and kiss my foot in the bargain Send me fifty cents worth of stamps for it is impossible for me to get any for love nor money Give my respects to Miss Lyman Miss Cooper and other friends Kiss Clara for me, and believe me ever your true but negligent

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