

CAMP AT STRATFORD Monday, March 9/1863

Dear Frant

I received yours of the third and was very glad to hear from you; if nothing more, I was pleased to get a letter for it has been so long since I had had one that I began to think I had not got a friend outside of the 154th regiment. Perhaps I have not, friends are fickle things and change with every breath. The least good ___ on their part or the smallest misfortune on ours ___ many earnest and good friends. Still there are some true friends, some that change not through all the changes of life. Frant, I have every reason to believe that you was once my best friend and trust that you still remain the same, but Frant your last letter was awful cold. That is it seemed so to me after I had read it. I thought it over and over and I thought "could that be from Frant?" Yes it was! Well I thought perhaps I was unwell so I would go to sleep and read it again in the morning. This morning I felt first rate but when I read your letter it made me ___ than a bear. Why was it you said you was cross and I guess it was catching but I will change the subject but I guess it is not very interesting to you and I am sure that it is not to me. I have been sick about two weeks. Had a slight touch of the fever; I guess I lost about 30 lbs. But I am well now and will soon get well again. I did not get a letter while I was sick and the time seemed awful long. Last night when I got yours and I got four letters from Leon. The folks are all well and trying to enjoy themselves as well as they can. They had made a little sugar sugar makes me think of your spelling but how do you spell sugar Frant? I'll bet I could eat some if I had it. I would not care how it was spelt. How I would like to go to a good old sugar party and have you there, too. Wouldn't we have fun! How we could talk over old times and then we should not misunderstand one another as we do writing. I don't wonder we got out of patience, write a few words and then wait a month for an answer but then I must content myself with things as they are as that is the best way there is at present. We'll continue after the old way. I am glad you like music so well I think it is the nicest study in the world. There is nothing that pleases the mind like music one of my letters was from ___. He had just been to Gowanda to a musical convention. I would like to have been there. He said there was a large crowd. Ira wrote that Bill was well. I am expecting a letter from him; Del is unwell;

Sel is well, most of all the reg't. have gone out on pickets for three days; it is awful dull in camp; if it keeps as pleasant as it is now a great while we shall have to get to work and then it will be more exciting if not as safe. Praxt if I have written anything which you think is not _____ forgive me and remember this is from your true friend, Edgar Shannon.