

Camp Nelson Taylor Va.
March 4th/63

Respected Cousin,

I received yours in due season & was pleased to hear from you & learn of your good health. I am well as common the health of the regiment is good. Today is quite cold we have had good weather most of the time. Geo. Washington's birth day was very stormy the snow fell to over a foot deep. there has not been so much snow at one time before for 12 years. we (this brigade) went out on picket the 22d. our regiment was stationed at the river. the Johny Rebs were opposite of us on the other side of the river. we were not allowed to talk with them they halloood at us & called us United States pimps they would go through the manuel of arms and present arms to us. I would liked to have talked with them. Snow balls were exchanged between us occasionally. they appeared to enjoy themselves well. the pickets are not allowed to fire at each other so you see that it is not bad to be on picket a person is as safe as in camp. we come back to camp from picket the 25th. The conscripts will have to come out now. the law or Bill is a good one I hope that it will bring in 1,000,000 of men the rebellion would soon come to a focus. we need more men & must have them the union shall be saved & our government be preserved & handed down to your & my children a more united & prosperous nation than ever. the day is soon coming when this government will not know the institution of Slavery only in its past history. the people of the Slave States now in the union are becoming in favor of liberating their Slaves. in your letter you said that you would enlist if you thought you could stand it. I would advise you as a friend not to come down here you had better stay there & do the best you can. I hope you have had a good time this winter & enjoyed yourself well. have you been to any partys about there. I supose that they are quite pleanty there. Achitant Smith started for home today on a furlough. he lives in Westfield. the boys get furloughs now. C. N. Allen is enjoying quite good health. his wife & there at his father's. Maj. Leonard started for home today. I had a letter from Cuba the other day they are well. write soon.

Yours &c.

E. W. Jones

L. W.