

Camp Near Chattanooga Tenn
Jan 28 1864

My Very Dear Parents Brothers & Sisters

With great pleasure I take my pen for a few minutes before it gets so dark that I cannot see to write at least part of a letter. There has been considerable changing about since I wrote last and the 3d Div I understand has left their Winter Quarters and are to Guard the Rail Road which runs to C. now

We left our Huts last monday and marched about 3 miles to the boat landing to relieve a Regt on duty there we found them dirty enough. We cleaned the camp considerable staid in the houses 2 nights then we were marched back to our present camp that was occupied by the 119 N.Y. I am feeling quite well to day and hope you are all in the possession of good health & spirits. The weather here is very warm about like July I should think. I read your truly welcome letter in Due time and was right glad to hear from you and hope Leroy has a good time Skating and I am glad he takes such good care of the cow & chicks I think those Boys played a pretty sharp gaim on the folks. Jan 31, Sunday To day is rather Damp and foggy I was on fatigue yesterday building a chimney for the Col's quarters and I try and manage as far as I can to have sunday to myself I have not much news to write but the Rebel Army shows still more signs of Demoralization it is said that 700 came over and surrendered the other day and the guards they send out to watch their Pickets come over and give themselves up. Perry W. has had a slight relapse but I hope he will get well by good care and nursing The Louisville paper has a letter from Parson Brownlow respecting sending Rebel citizens South the onset is impetuous I tell you I recd a letter from Fredonia the other day and all was lovely and considerable snow but I suppose there has been a big thaw there by this time. The citizens say this is the coldest winter they have known for 12 yrs but it is the 1st winter I ever lived without seeing snow enough to cover the ground. If you have not started that Box I guess you need not as it is uncertain whether it will get farther than A. but if you have and it should get to Chattanooga I think I can get it. The report comes in this morn that Dalton is evacuated by the Johnnies and I suppose they will light out for Atlanta Ga.

I must try and get time to write to Ella. I have been so buisy I have had to write fast to manage to get letters written for home I am several behind now. with respect to my whiskers they are not white and I guess I shall have to let them grow now as I have got abundance to commence on and I shaved off more moustache this morning than Frank can raise Ill bet Big Men think that the Rebs will make their last kick in the Spring will try to make it on Northern soil may be one or two more Gettysburgh affairs is what is going to wind up the concern at any rate I think the Star Spangled Banner in triumph will soon wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the Brave and not only so but over a land that will use great endeavors for the advancement of Christianity among the heathen and over those there will and can appreciate their Privileges of freedom I can certainly when I get where I can enjoy them again. I would like to be at home to day to

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enjoy and hear some of that good Preaching you will undoubtedly hear I would listen with both ears and keep watch with both eyes I have had some soft Bread again and we will probably draw some next weeks as Rations

Please excuse me for I must try and write to Ella to day

Give my love to all and I ever remain

Your Aff. Son & Brother
Charley

please write soon and often as it takes about 10 days to get a letter here