

CARVER HOSPITAL, July 29/63

Dear Frant

With thoughts neither painful or pleasant I seat myself to write to you, although you told me not to write till I got another from you; I stopped at Elmira & stayed till monday night when I started for here & got here safe & sound while at Elmira I called on Mr. Murdie & he told me you had been there & staid & started for home saturday morning. Oh Frant if only I had known it I would have given a good deal; I got there at twelve o'clock friday night - stayed to the soldiers home until morning & then went to the hospital. it was hard to be so near & not see each other but it must be it was God's will & let us hope that the time will soon come when we may meet & not have to part when I come home again may I be a free man & may this war be among the things that were. I had a very pleasant time while at home but I missed you very much when I got on to the cars oh, how lonely I felt such a dreadful uncertainty lay before me where would I be another year from this time & when should I meet with my old friends & live over those pleasant times again which I had just passed through. Then I thought of my regiment & how it was scattered not hardly a boy that I knew left. these thoughts made me feel very sad but such thoughts would not do & so I looked at the subject in another light. I saw my country struggling for life. I saw slaveholders & ambitious men trying to trample under foot the liberty of the people & to destroy that government which our fathers formed & under which our nation prospered beyond anything ever known before & the darkness cleared away & I saw my duty plain before me & resolved to perform it though it cost me my life & may God help me & preserve me to see the rebellious states come back under the old stars & stripes & all be united. It is very cool & nice here this morning; about as warm as it is at home, the flies are thicker than split they bother me so I can hardly write. there was between three four hundred worn out & tired soldiers came here this morning. they have had very hard times lately & they look hard. it seems curious to hear them praise up the victuals for dinner while to me they don't hardly look fit to eat. the doctor just called me down to see me about staying over my furlough at first he said he would have to report me to the _____ general but when I showed him my certificate from the surgeon at Elmira he said I was all right. Frant I did not think you would be

jealous; when I wrote that letter I thought I would tell you before some one else did as they seem to have a good deal of interest in my welfare (some folks) eat a piece ~~of~~ berry pie for me & kiss any of the boys you like best & remember me as your true friend Edgar, write soon please.