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Wash., D. C. Dec. 12, 1862

My dearest Lis,

I have written you once before today announcing that I was off immediately for the Reg't and left the Hospital about 11 o'clock for that purpose but when I came to the city I found I could get no government transportation until tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. Providence permitting I shall then go without fail.

But the reason above all others why I write now is to say that I have just rec'd Charleys and yours of the 7th inst. and you can't tell how glad I was to hear from you, although I am sorry to hear that your neck and shoulders was troubling you again. I am glad that Charley is going to get a pair of new skates but he must be very careful and not skate where the water is deep under the ice for I am afraid he will break through and get drowned or frozen to death. I do not think my absence from the Reg't. on account of my sickness will interfere with or prevent my obtaining a leave of absence when the Reg't. goes into winter qtrs. I can form no idea now when we shall go into winter quarters as the whole Army is in motion--"on to Richmond" is the universal cry and the expectation is among military men that that pestiferous city will be "wiped out" before the cold weather drives our Army to winter quarters.

Prof. Pao. Cto. Antique Shop

The weather here is very pleasant and tonight the snow is nearly gone.

Be assured that I shall come home as soon as I can and stay as long as possible when I do come for I am as anxious to see you, Dora and Charley and home as you are to see me--and I shall let no opportunity slip of gratifying my desires.

I am feeling quite well tonight and hope this may find you all well. Bye the bye I think I shall be home sometime next month. Goodbye again. My love to the children--much obliged to Charley for his letter. Tell him to write again and want Dora to do the same.

Yours as ever

Aff. Henry