

Raleigh N.C. June 5/65

My Dear Cousin

Yours of May 29<sup>th</sup> came this morning, and was read with pleasure, and this my answer, is in all probability my last letter to you from the South at least. until after I have again tasted the sweets of freedom. I long to be free, and in order to become so, I refuse to accept of a 1<sup>st</sup> Leutnt Commission, that is. to muster as such, for three years – My appointment is here – and the Commission will be soon. I recd.. a copy of the N Y Times from you. a few days ago and thank you for it. I like to get reading matter for time drags heavily to me now. that I am looking forward so anxiously to a time when I can go home. Why! Since the order came to muster us out, I have become almost homesick – But I think I shall survive. so don't be alarmed. I hope GrandMa will enjoy her visit to Hempstead, and also, that we shall enjoy ours. Gertrude I understand has broken up house-keeping. How that will affect our visit I do not Know. but I guess it will not interfere with it, though it may not be so pleasant to us, as though she were keeping house. I know that I shall not enjoy myself so well and consequently shall not stay so long, but will try to enjoy the visit while I do stay. Rogers has some peculiar notions about some things and it may not suit his convenience to meet me on S. I. [Staten Island] so I have written him that I will meet him wherever he directs. I have had an invitation to visit Aunt Mary and Nancy Smith and Buffet and I think I will accept. If I go to Josie you must go with me. If you will that is of course. I do not mean to dictate to you. I have enough of that here in the army. I shall be glad when I can get where I can get what I want from others, without saying you must do so etc etc and I shall be joyful beyond measure, when I can feel and know that no human being has the right to say to me You must do this, or you must do that – and the sooner that blessed time arrives the better.

There is to be a great exactment at Saratoga on the 4 Jul and Gen Grant is expected to be there. I hope that we may be there to see the “elephant.” Leut Geary has come and now we have to get to work at the muster out rolls again.

Yours as Ever  
L M Loper

PS an officer just came from HeadQuarters with orders for us to suspend operations until next week – Then they will muster our Regt out – there is something wrong about the rolls – Well I suppose I must live in hope awhile longer. L.M.L.