

Camp of 115th N.Y. Vols Dec 4/64

Dear Cousin

Your letter came this morning about eight oclock. (It is now about 7 P.M.)

It came while we were packing our knapsacks, and "turning things generally" preparatory to another "move." Yes, we move now-a days once. Sometimes twice a week. We left our Camp in front of Richmond. On Thanksgiving day (we spent the day marching instead of eating turkey.) Well that was move No 1 and was performed on Thursday, Nov 24. We had hardly recovered from the effects of that day's march when Lo! We were under "marching orders" again. Of course, no one could tell where we were going, and as is normal in such cases, there were a great many conjectures in regard to the matter. Some though we would go back to our old camp on the other side of the river. Others said that we were going to the left (Petersburg or Weldon RR) and still others would have it that there was to be a general engagement, and that we would get into a fight before night. Etc, etc. but judge our surprise when we found ourselves marched into good quarters only half a mile from where we started in the morning.

Then (Move No. 2) was on the 27 Nov. only three days from the date of our first move and on Sunday at that. I think I have already informed you of this second move, so will not dwell longer upon it, but will proceed at once to give an account of move No. 3. Well it happens to be the Sabbath just one week from the date of our second move. (I suppose that those who are responsible for these "grand and extensive" movements think that the "better the day. Better the deed." So always move on Sunday, or at least as often as practicable to do so on that day.) Well as I was saying, it happens to be the Sabbath. And we were cleaning up for inspection when the order came. For another move, of course inspection was "played out" and we prepared for move No 3 as much in the dark, as to where we were going as ever. We formed line on the "color line," and stacked arms, and waited for about half an hour before our Major was ready to lead us to our destination. We finally took up our "line of march" supposing that we would this time make a move of some importance, but we were again doomed to disappointment. For we only marched about one mile. We have better quarters than those we left this morning, and are so comfortably situated that I would like to remain here the remainder of my time.

Perhaps you would like to have me answer your letter, so "here goes." In the first place, allow me to compliment you a little for the rapid progress you are making in the art of practical joking. Really I think it will not be many months. Ere you will be just as accomplished in that respect as your Cousin Josie. And now in regard to joke No. 1 I replay that I not only have not forgotten the "importance" of my position, but also, have not forgotten how foolish it was for me to write what I did about said position.

And now that I see and repent* –
say no more about your "scribbling"
my folly. Please do not throw –
what "R.R." you described "takes my "time" –
it in my face again.

I do not think I shall take a trip
If you are fond of carrion you
over the country soon. Only I think of
no doubt would have enjoyed
Seymour's being "water Boy." I would

the Soldiers Thanksgiving dinner,
I like. to see the paper you took it from
did not partake of the
that is if you got it from
repast, so could not
a paper
enjoy what I didn't participate in.
I will deliver your message to
So you prefer your own company to
Rogers. also remember your question to Helen.
a Thanksgiving dinner among
When you write again, please give me
your friends? Well I shall
Theodore's address. Hoping to hear from
no better than to invite
him soon, and to learn that young patriot
the Duke dinner on Thanksgiving Day
is improving, I remain your affectionate
but perhaps by the time I
Cousin Milton

am so situated as to be able to join a Thanksgiving dinner you may change your mind. I am quite sure
that I read your letter before I lost it. I am also sure that I found it again (where it was not lost) and
reread it, after which I destroyed it. That others might not read what is "not intended for them." I have
not only heard of Mr. VanInter[?], but have heard him speak, and heard his Scollars sing. I have no
doubt that "bander" will do good. I receive a paper "now and then" and am very much obliged to
whoever sends them. Do not always know who they came from. One I rec'd with Abernacle's [?] name
on, for which please give him my thanks. I did receive the pamphlet you spoke of. But still not read it
through for the simple reason that one of the boys in the company. (a very mischievous chap) who by
the way is a favorite of "Anne" or rather Marie is a favorite of his) burned the pamphlet.

One of your questions is a "poser." My reply is as follows. I wasn't killed and it is all right now, and
for the future I will try to do better. The Copperhead Poetry I thought was very good. I intended to
keep it but it is lost again. There is no use for me to try to keep anything in the army. So I will burn
even letters I get as soon as it is answered and that after it is read.

I hope you will be able to read this letter [Line written upside down between lines of writing on the last
page at mid-page – maybe lined up with a fold in the paper originally.]

*Note: What follows on this page appears to be two messages written crowded into alternate lines.