

Fort Fisher N.C. Feb 10th/64

Dear Cousin

Yours of the 1st Inst came to day, and I assure you it was gladly received for it is the only letter (with but one exception . and that can hardly be called an exception. for it was from on of the boys of the Co who is still within the department) the only letter I repeat I have received since December. Helen says. "That a letter is not answered unless the questions contained in it are answered." Well You did not inform me who that certain somebody is. whom you said "would not be glad to see me." Now I know you will think I am too inquisitive, and perhaps meddling with what is none of my business. If so, I hope you will pardon both offences, but this is not the point, the whole long and short of the matter is that you have excited my curiosity, and Now I am determined (if possible) to find our one of two facts Vis -- What this misterious [sic] persons name is or that you do not wish me to know, either of which will be quite satisfactory.

Your letter was nine days coming through I hope this may not be so long in reaching you . I think you will admit that it is answered. (Your letter I mean) very promptly. So you think I owe you more than one long letter. Well, I believe you are right about it, and I would willing write a long one this time had I sufficient paper for the purpose, but this is the last sheet of paper of which I am the owner. so you will have to be satisfied with it until I can get more. I have also, but one envelope left. Therefore I think you should not complain since you will have all I have to give in this line. I am glad your Patients are doing so well. and hope it will be a long time before they again need a doctor. I am glad also. that you enjoy yourself Skating. for I believe as you do that it is an excellent healthy exercise. You say the Small Pox is in your neighborhood. that is bad. I hear also, that it is at Saratoga. I hope it will not reach any of my friends. and especially Relatives.

I don't know what to think about writing to Myra. One thing is sure. I can't writing until I get something to write on. Give my respects to Huntington friends. and tell them. that I am at present all right. Please remember me especially to your Mother. I would like to write to Theodore. but have forgotten his address. please give me it again. and I will copy is so that I can write whenever I have an opportunity. I wrote to him about the first december last but did not direct as you told me but guessed at his Address-- and now. I guess. that I didnt guess right. this was before you sent his address -- The 23rd A. C. from Genl Thomas' army has been sent here. and have gone to the front. and there are indications of a forward move soon. but I do not know how soon. I only mention these circumstances. that you may be on the watch for "War News." for you must not be surprised if you do not hear from me again. until you hear that I have been in another battle. I think Wilmington is bound to fall. and I tremble when I think of the Many brave Soldiers who will fall with it. And now in connection with this subject. I would earnestly [sic] request your fervent prayers for my Safety -- Pray Dear Cousin. that if it be consistent with the will of God. my life may be spared through this war, but should this not be his will. that I may be prepared to die whenever it shall be his will to take me hence.

My box has not reached me yet. and I am very much inclined to think it never will. I hear that several boxes were landed on the beach, and left there without a guard being placed over them. Consequently they walked off -- Yours Affectionately Milton