

Home,

October 24, 1862.

Dear Cousin Sam,

You will please pardon my long delay in not answering your very welcome letter of the 5th of last month, which was recd after my arrival home.

Soon after its receipt, Maggie recd one from you in which you wrote - you expected to visit us soon, & which accounts for my delay. I have been anxiously waiting & watching for you but begin to think perhaps you have given up the visit. Don't trust me.

I am so lonely that I hardly know what to do with my self. I don't know how to feel like visiting.

& when I have no company I feel almost lost. - my head troubles me so much that I am unable to read but little, & can do but little about home. So I feel almost forsaken.

I have been absent from my Command since Aug 4th & it seems to me that it is nearly a year. I would not feel so bad if the Campaign had not been so active. Since I left. Some perhaps will think that I am only prolonging my stay till after the hard fighting is over, but if I thought that I could stand a weeks service I would return immediately.

No one knows how much I suffer both mentally & physically & it is hard for me to decide whether it is my duty to serve my Country longer, or remain & try to recruit my health. Some days I feel quite well and

I think I will return in a few days & perhaps the next day or two I am feeling worse.

I do not feel like holding my Commission when I can do my Company no good, & thereby keep others from promotion who are equally as worthy. I wish I knew what to do.

This letter is more gloomy than I had intended to write when I commenced, but hope to write more cheerily in the future.

I spent last Friday night at Uncle Sicks, very pleasantly. I enjoy a visit there so much & wished many times that you could have been present to share the visit. Bro Frank & wife started last week on a visit of a few weeks in Mich, will be home in time to assist "Father Abraham".

There was a grand Mass meeting

in Rochester last week I regret
that I was not able to attend.
What a glorious news we again
have from the Shunandoah
I see by the papers that our
division (Genl Merritt's) was
heavily engaged. I almost
dread to hear from the Rest,
knowing that they are no
one in a fight, I fear our
loss may be heavy. As it
is so near Election I think
perhaps your Father wishes
to give "Abraham" his vote
before visiting us, but at
least I shall look with renewed
hope for your arrival. Come
prepared to make a good long
visit & if you like the Country
well enough, to spend the
winter. The Family give in
sending much love. Hoping
to see you soon, I am, your
affectionate Cousin

Sam.

OCT 24, 1864

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