

Letter 13

Camp 1st N.Y. Dragoons
Mitchels Station Va March 28 /64

Dear Cousin Sallie

I rec'd your very welcome letter Monday morning while on picket & I assure you it was gladly rec'd. I had a very pleasant time while on duty. The nights were beautiful & all quiet on the line. During the day I had my Boys Secure a large pile of logs for fire during the night. While enjoying the comfort of the fire I could not help but think of the many pleasant times that I had enjoyed with dear friends & build our Castles for the future which are much easier planned than carried out. You speak of writing me while Coys D.J.Y.(?) were visiting you. The one that I rec'd Monday is the first that I have rec'd since then. I rec'd a letter from Mag last week. All were well when she wrote. There is nothing new with us here. All remains very quiet. I hope that when Genl Grant takes Command of us & our army reinforced that the Army of the Po will do honor to the nation. I begin to be encouraged now that we are allowed to vote & when that vote comes Such a majority will roll up for Father Abraham that will make the nation rejoice.

Last night we had a heavy fall of snow which fell to the depth of about eight inches. Today the sun is shining bright, & I feel in hopes that a few days will carry it off, although the men seem to be enjoying it much. The air is full of snow balls & reminds one of skirmishing.

You speak of the 17th being your Birthday. I suppose I am to judge from that that you are Sixteen, as I believe young ladies remain at that age for Several years. Perhaps yours is an exception. I am sorry to hear that you have been So afflicted with sickness & my wish is that you may all be restored to your former health. Remember me with much love to all. I shall be glad to hear from you often, as my correspondence are very few & all confined within the limits of home & Cousins. Which I am sorry to say, but Such is the fact. Please pardon this dull letter & I will try & do better in the future & believe me, ever your affectionate Cousin

Sam