

Letter 15

Home,
October 24th 1864

Dear Cousin Sallie

You will please pardon my long delay in not answering your very welcome letter of the 5th of last month which was rec'd after my arrival Home. Soon after its receipt, Maggie rec'd 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. Still I trust not. I am so lonely that I hardly know what to do with myself. I don't feel like visiting & when I have no company I feel allmost lost. My head troubles me so much that I am unable to read but little, & can do but little about home. So I feel allmost forsaken.

I have been absent from my Command since Aug 7th & 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 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, & there by 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 Dicks, 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 week 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 glorious news we again have from the Shenandoah. I see by the papers that our Division (Gen' Merritto), was heavily engaged. I allmost dread to hear from the Reg't, knowing that they are no one in a fight. I fear our loss may be heavy. As it is so near Eliction I think perhaps your Father wishes to give "Abraham" his vote before visiting us, but after that I shall look with renewed hope for your arrival. Come prepared to make a good long visit & if you like the Company well enough, to spend the winter. The Family join in sending much love. Hoping to see you soon, I am you affectionate Cousin, Sam