

Letter 3

Camp Suffolk Va Jan 23 1863

Dear Cousin You will pardon my neglect for or not answering your very welcome letter which I rec'd some time since. When I rec'd your letter I was detached from my Company as Capt of Provost Guard which place I filled for two week, but likeing the Company better I applied for a relief from duty and returned to my company . My duties were the command of one hundred and fifty men, to drill the same and see that quiet was kept through out the Town. I had very good chance of seeing all the prisoners that were taken by our scouts as a part of the Guard was over the Jail. Since I wrote you last we have made another reconnissince. Blackwater over the worst roads that I have ever traveled. A good part of the way through water knee deep and then Stand Advance Guard within hearing distance of the Rebel pickets with very wet feet and freezing at the same time quite hard. I thought before morning that that was Soldiering under difficulty. When morning came we saw nothing and returned. I don't know how soon this awful war will close for it looks as though it was no nearer than when I saw you last, but I pray the time is near at hand when we shall all return to our Friends and home never again to be engaged in war. Monday night I went out with our company as advance picket and remained all night. I suffered a good deal with cold but as we could have no fire and nothing but the freezing ground to rest on. You have my thanks for your kind invitation to dine with you. I trust I may have the pleasure to visit you before many years. I am glad to hear that the New Year began so pleasantly with you and only hope it may be continued to you. I should think it ought to after receiving so many Call from so many gentlemen friends. You remember calling with me the morning I left on a Miss(?) Baldwin who was gruisse(?) low with consumption, do you not. She was buried on New Years day. One of my lady friends has been married since I left home and all of the consolation I have was the wish that I could have been present at the union. Well that is my belief that the union must and will be preserved if not throughout the this glorious land, in certain localities at least. Brother Frank has been making me a short visit on Tuesday night. I was quietly reading in my tent when I heard some unusual nois in the street and looking out I saw Brother. reading was left in short order when I took a double quick and charged on him and soon took him to my tent as a most welcome guest. I enjoyed his visit very much and was some what disappointed in not finding Uncle Dick with him. I heard that he talked of coming down here this winter but I hardly think he will now. I visited as hard as I could for the time I had. I don't think I left him five minutes during his stay. He returned this morning and will reach home the fore part of next week.

The Friends were all well when he left home. Uncle Michael Kelly came as far as Washington to see Cousin Dan. There were in all from our home some nine or ten in the Company.

I am sorry to hear of your Father's poor health and hope he may soon regain his former health. My kind regards to him. I must close as I have filled my sheet and is quite late. Good bye write soon and believe me your affectionate Cousin Sam.