

Camp Franklin Va.

Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Patient, suffering Brother.

Your  
last lies before me, & I am sur-  
prised to see how long time has passed  
since I recd. it. Many times I have  
purposed answering you, but something  
would thwart. Part of the time I have  
been unable to answer. I was shut up  
in my tent about a week, & was not  
at all well the week previous. (I was  
obliged to come in to camp from  
brigade drill one day which was one  
of the hardest things I have done in the  
army) Besides this Stillson, who had  
partially performed the duties of Com-  
missary for the Co., a position he asked  
for, threw this business back ~~into~~ into  
my hands as soon as the appointments  
were made. This adds a little, not

much it is true, to my work.

The true cause of my being so busy was that there was no one to do anything (till Ed. got back) except Morton (Gould) & myself; & as the cold weather was coming on the boys felt the need of better care. We tried to get the officers to come to time but it was no go. They are too lazy, & as far as the Captain is concerned too cowardly, to do anything as it ought to be done. Baker is afraid of death & the Cap. is more afraid of men. They are both fawning supplicants cringing to any one from whom they can expect any aid in healing their wounded reputation. I had determined that Morton should do nothing; for Stillson had thrown up the Commissary business, in part at least to spite him, thinking it would be put upon him. All things went loosely. This made me very busy until I did effect a partial renovation. This Cap. had not the nerve to stand

to; & I had about concluded to let the

thing go, taking its natural course, to the Devil. When, May thanks to him, Gen. Slocum took matters in hand & the officers were brought up with a short rope. This makes it easy for me & now things can be done in half the time, & since Ed. came I am one of the happiest fellows in existence. — My apology is longer than I intended & has run out into a little history, more of which I will give you when I have spoken of the box you sent me. The more I see it the more I am convinced of its utility. Better than any portfolio, is no danger from wet & so compact as to be put in almost any by corner, nothing could have been more opportune. I have placed it among my most choice treasures, such as that which Mrs. Luce was instrumental in sending me. (Several nice books.) Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. — What I have left this so long for I do not know unless it be that I may acknowledge your best

letter & its partial contradiction  
by his letter, just recd. as also  
the paper you were so kind to send  
me. I had heard of you reading a  
poem & hoped to see it in printed form.  
It seems a baseless hope from what  
"Gee" wrote to Comest Reporter, ("Gee" was  
s.w.s. if I read correctly your marks.

Thanks for all your kind remembrance.  
Though not a faithful, nor good  
correspondent of late (I have not felt  
that flow of spirits one needs for  
writing) I fully appreciate the letters  
from my friends, & they have done  
much towards keeping up my  
love of man & nature, & also towards  
keeping alive religious emotion in  
my heart. I have spoken thus, for  
often I have felt that severe cen-  
sure was due me for not writing.

I have spoken of Cap. & Baker  
as cringing men. You would be  
pleased & provoked to see them

get down lower than "on their  
marrow bones" to Stillson, just be-  
cause he has some friends of influ-  
ence in Rochester. The fellow re-  
ceives more favors than any one else  
in the Co. By the way, Stillson has shown  
some new traits of character. You know  
his petty & its manifestations, his re-  
digious persistence in prayer in such  
offensive manner as to cause the boys  
to try to "abate the nuisance" by the expan-  
sive force & smell of powder. He  
kept this up & was runner for Dr. Buck,  
who relied much on Stillson, (the best  
evidence of his incapacity) until his pro-  
pensity to trade in boys watches  
overpowered his punctuality. Hibbard  
says that since Stillson commenced  
trading, reading the Bible & praying is done  
He tents with Stillson. Now, the Cap.  
has shown his selfishness & disregard  
for the good of his men (except Stillson)  
by going security for him. Neither of

them have won enviable reputations  
by the operations. The Cap. took as  
much interest in collecting the notes  
given Stillson by the boys as to have  
them bring them to him to sign &  
as to make the boys feel obliged to  
pay them to save his doing it. The  
boys say that such deep interest  
indicates personal investment.  
This is not proven; but it all tends  
to demoralize the Co. by lessening confi-  
dence in those who ought to care for  
the interests of the men.

There is a rumor also that Cap. &  
Baker have tried to get Gould (Sgt.)  
out & Stillson in his place. How  
much of truth there is in this I do not  
know. I hope none. I do not wish  
to think so meanly of them. They  
know that Ed. has done well for  
the Co. ever since he has been with  
them & has worked with them in all  
their good efforts. Such a deed could

be prompted only by the meanest of mo-  
tives. Of its infringement of my rights  
I will say nothing. Another specimen of Cap's faith-  
fulness can be gathered from the fact  
that he is now under arrest for not  
attending to his duty when "Officer of  
the Day". He was reported by the "Field  
Officer of the Day". His trial is to come  
off soon. I presume it will not amount  
to much, but it shows his character.  
St. Baker is just passing through  
another ordeal testing his qualifi-  
cations to command. It is from the  
original case the reports from the  
former trial having been lost.  
(We want to see.) St. Baker's wife  
goes home soon. Thanks to that in-  
fluence power which moves her away.  
Several cases of Court-martial have  
occurred in our Co. Among these were  
Hislop (the worst man we had) & Gentleman.  
Their sentences were severe. Hislop's

was to be sent to hard labor during  
the rest of his term of service, on some  
public work & have all his pay stop-  
ped, save claims of bottle & Landress.  
Gouldman's was hard labor for two  
months with Chain & twenty-four lb.  
ball attached to right leg, & have  
six months pay stopped, same as  
above. They have both deserted & have  
not been found. Both were for re-  
sisting officers. — I have to record one  
death, John Dee died on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult.  
of Delirium Tremens. Whiskey has  
been sold here terrible in its effects.  
Several of our men have suffered  
from it. Dee's death has a salutary  
effect. The allotment rolls come  
round just after & the pay <sup>will</sup> send,  
hereafter, quite a large sum home,  
Several sent down ten dollars per month.  
Dr. Barnes wishes to be remembered & wants you  
to write him. Poor Heywood! O woman!!  
Yours sincerely J. Webster.