

Cleveland, Ohio Oct. 11th, 63

Dear Friend Elizabeth.

You see by this that I am yet some distance from "Dixie" and not advancing very rapidly toward that country. It appears to me like a new mode of military tactics that will furlough soldiers home and pay their transportation for the purpose of obtaining their votes. I presume however it is all right as we were not legally organized in camp, and therefore could not vote at that place. We all rec'd furloughs from the 9th until the 20th inst and transportation furnished us both ways. I said "all" I will qualify that a little by changing to include Ohioans and Penn. troops.

I still feel anxious to return to the Regt. but unless they send me soon I am afraid this cold climate and the chilling influence of so many cold-hearted inhabitants will tend to have a cooling affect on what little patriotism I was ever possessed of and be ready to exclaim with others as long as they will keep me at the north I will stay contented. I shall endeavor however to guard against any such influences as much as possible provided there is need for a guard.

I arrived at this place yesterday at 3 o'clock P.M. expect to go to town tomorrow to election on Tues. and to return to camp one week from that day which will be the 20th inst.

Rec'd yours of the 3rd Friday P.M. which is the only letter I have rec'd since I left Mich. My mail has been miscarried by some means but I shall be likely to get it when I return to camp.

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I have been to day to see some friends in Hospital and stayed and took dinner with them. Perhaps some of the good citizens of Cleveland have formed or entertain the idea that after seeing this Hospit they know all about what a soldier knows and sees who has been in some of those southern hospitals a few months. If so I could slightly inform them that they are very much mistaken.

I never ate a much better dinner at any hotel than was served to the patients in Cleveland Hospital. There surely is a difference between soldiering in Cleveland and following the same business in some of those southern states. Hoping to find a letter awaiting me at camp I bid you a Good Afternoon and am still your friend.

Leonard