

I will mail you the Harpers Weekly and the National Republican. The war will never end until we end slavery. There is no alternative but to fight. The Rebs are deepert. Nov. 28th was Thanksgiving day. We had no drill. We had a good oyster stew in the eve. There are seven of us in the tent, and we had all the stew that we could eat.

We were on picket at Conrads Ferry Dec. 8th. I was on post at the lower end of Harrison Island. Had a good time. There were some slaves in a field gathering corn where we were stationed. One of them has a wife and family in Lesburg. You speak of hearing that we are suffering. We are not. We are well supplied with good Government clothing and blankets. I have two. The only thing that I bought was my boots, some sox and my rubber coat. I received a letter from George the other day. He was in Louisville Ky. They were under marching orders, but of course dosent know where. I answered his letter and sent him some stamps. We have nice weather, cool and the ground frozen quite hard, but no snow. We drill five hours each day. Our Colonal *Napoleon J. T. Dane* is liked real well. We fear we may lose him, by promotion. He is temperance, and death on whiskey, and on the watch to detect some one selling something that will make "drunken swine" as the Indian said.

The 1st Regt. R. Y Artillery went by this noon. I expect they intend to get in position to keep the Rebs from crossing. We will likely stay here this winter. They have been building a log building for a hospital. I hope we will live in tents, but we may build log huts. Capt. Messick is well, and sends his respects. Dec. 15th Sunday. No drill today. We have preaching, by our Chaplin. The enemy is in strong force in Leesburg, across the river. Gen. Stone went up in a ballon on this side, to see how the Rebs are situated. Do you have any spelling schools this winter?

We expect to spend the winter here. Have two teams hauling logs to build houses. Received a letter from George today. There is an Ambrotype Gallery set up within thirty rods of camp. I am going to have my phix taken on cast iron or harness leather and send to George. How are you for hay and feed this Winter? Do you get your wood from the University land? How does the Prairie School get along, and is it comfortable?

The Sutler of the New York 34th was drummed out of camp on