

2013.70.23

Camp Hardin May 28th 1861

My Dear Saddie

I was very glad to receive a letter from you this morning although I had expected one sooner. & as you appear to have made out a good reason for not writing sooner—I accept your apology on your own grounds—that you will write oftner [sic] in the future. Dear Saddie I do love to receive letters from you so well that I could peruse these which I have already received over again & again & still find something interesting & loving in them. I think the one you wrote before the last one is so fine & good that I have read it several times. You said that you presumed that I was quite displeased with you for not writing sooner. No I am not displeased. Neither do I doubt your affection for one moment. I know that you have considerable to attend

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to & perhaps do not at all times have an opportunity to write when you would wish, but I should like to hear from you often & I will try to write you twice a week as you requested, & let me say that we appreciate letters coming from home only as those who have been away & on similar expeditions can appreciate. My Dear I think of you very, very often & it makes my heart glad to think I have so good a friend when I am so little disearving [sic] of one. Glad to hear that you are well & enjoying your self [sic]. I have no reason to complain & [sic] this respect, have been well & had an opportunity to see more of the country than any one in our Regiment as I was appointed by the Col. to furnish notes & drafts for him of the County. Occasionly [sic] of course we all feel the absence of—friends & society. I will write your mother soon. We received a telegraph dispatch a few moments

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ago that our Regiment with the Brigade [sic] are accepted for 3 years. Our Col. telegraphed from Washington. So you must not be surprised if I am among the [Nr.] who wish to see the war through with all due respect for you (& your feelings)—Saddie whom I most dearly love I thought it my duty to enlist for the three years service. Consequently I signed a paper to that effect. Many of the Regiment will not go for more than three months. I hope you will not think hard of me for doing so—you must know that I could not honorably do other wise & it is only the love which I have for you which could induce me to consider the matter for one moment. Mr [Ornerly] is here now & most every day someone is here from Freeport. But I am generally absent in the country when they come. Last evening quite an excitement was occasioned

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last evening about 12 o'clock by one of the guards shooting at a spy. The boy who fired on the man was from our company & the other guards who were near say he showed great coolness &

firmness. We shall leave in a few days for Cairo & how long we shall stay there I do not know, hope & wish not long, for I like our position here much better than I shall at Cairo.

I had heard by Mr Clark of [Burchard], & [Lawvers] exit from a state of single blessedness I wish them much happiness—long may they wave. You very kindly thanked me for these sketches, they are of not much account, and made in a hurry, but could be copied & made to look better. I have my military map [prety] nearly finished—the officer [sic] are foolish enough to say it is quite nice. [Friday] quite a number of ladies visited camp & the officers wives arrive

[remaining pages of the letter are not extant]