

Mine, altho' they go only to some of
the cities to gamble and spend their
time in other dissipation. Kissing goes
by favor in the army as well as at
Court. — I am sorry I did not get
seller a pair of skates before I left.
If you have the money and there
is a prospect of having more skates
buy them for her. — On my return, I
found an order suspending my pay,
because certain Regimental Returns had
not been forwarded. This is very un-
just to me as I have been in com-
mand of the regiment but a short
time during which there has been very
few opportunities of doing clerical
work, — not enough to have kept up with
the current returns, had they all
been sent on when I assumed
command. The order is grossly unjust
to me and I hope to have it revised
soon. — I hoped to get a letter
from you last night (Wednesday) but it
did not come, so I am still with-
out advice from home since my
departure. I hope I shall not be dis-
appointed again to-night. Love & kisses for
you all, girls, boys & mother from
Father.

Wallerille Va

Jan 27. 1864.

My Dear Augusta:

We are having most
delightful Spring-weather here. The ground
is bare of snow, and the ^{blue} birds sing in
the morning as if it were really Spring.
I don't enjoy the charming weather
as I would if I were not troubled
by a severe cold, & which was con-
tracted on the night of my arrival at
camp. Yesterday was equal to the worst
days of my Hay-fever season. I was
helped very much by greasing the up-
per part of my nose and the space between
my eyes and that portion of my forehead
immediately above. Singularly enough this
remedy was recommended by an officer of the
12th and an old woman of this neighborhood
who came into camp yesterday morning to
ask for a safe-guard for her house. She
came here from New Jersey about two years
ago

It is a week to-day, just about the
time I write that I left Dayton &
yet I would right gladly be there now,
altho' I suspect it is at this present
moment a wretched, muddy, snowy
slippy spot. We have a sufficient
quantity of the original old Vir-
ginia mud, but so much less than
we have ^{had} sometimes that we are consid-
ering ourselves quite comfortable &
go thro' with our routine of duties
with reasonable contentedness.

"Swinging" a Brigade is not a
very arduous business, and I like it
so much better than swinging a Regiment
that I have an idea of being made
a Brigadier, if the war is not termi-
nated soon. You need not begin to
shake me a star, however, as I
think it very likely there will be but
few additions to the present military
constellation.

Enclosed I send you a piece
of my Brigade flag - it was carried
at its head at Chaucellorsville by
Gen. Ayres, to whom I sent it to-day.
First clipping off this little piece. It
is mainly valuable as being the flag
of the first brigade I ever command-
ed. It has gone before me in all
my countermarchings down here &
been close by whenever there was a
chance for a fight. The new one
I have thrown out in its stead
will I trust be carried with as much
credit, should it be my fortune to
carry it in the coming ~~year~~ campaign.

My short visit home seems like
a dream almost, already long past.
I wish it could be repeated soon,
if it could be somewhat more pro-
tracted, as flying visits are not to
my taste. Some staff officers I find
get leave for ten days longer than