

[raised imprint reads: "DOVE"]

Bradford Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Brother Dear

I intended to have answered your letter before, but I have so many letters to write, with not but little time to write in, that I have to neglect some.

But I try and not neglect my Dear soldier husband and brothers, Josy I dont know where to direct to him and I have written two letters to him and he hasn't seen fit to answer them and I dont know as he cares about my letters you know they aint very interesting and he thinks it is foolish for people to write letters when they have nothing of importance to write. But I dont think so for I think just as much of Elmers letters as I do of yours and Josy's and they aint half so interesting for he never gives any discription of things that are going on, he contrives to write a pretty long letter with not much to write about. But it lets us know that his is alive and well and that is the main thing. I suppose you are having summer weather with you while with us every thing looks dead and cold. The river is frozen over and we had splendid sleighing last week, but it is almost gone now, and we are having quite mild weather for the season. The river froze up quite unexpected to all of us I guess At night when I went home for the shop the river was all open, it wasn't froze around the edge and in the morning it was all froze up and a schooner that was at the wharf was froze in fast for the winter. We had a terrible storm that night. I worried all night for I supposed Edward was on the ocean but it happened so that they hadn't started from N.Y. but they suffered terribly as it was. They wasn't prepared for the storm they had nothing but cloth tents and they were on a plain with nothing to break the wind. I guess Ed found it pretty tough but he hasn't written any thing about it yet. He is cooking for the company now. The cooking was done by contract when they first went out there, but they fared so bad that the Reg<sup>t</sup> raised quite a fuss about it and routed the cook house of its contents and would have killed the man but he got wind of it and cleared out. So that Edward went back to cooking again. I hope he wont have to go into the ranks. I should give up all hopes of ever seeing him if he did. How is your cooking done in your Reg<sup>t</sup>. Edward never has drilled any yet and Capt Duncan told him wouldn't probably have to and would go with the team. If he does I shall feel pretty well satisfied if he does. He never would stand it to be exposed as a private and he never could hold out to march, for his shoulder gives out as soon as he begins to walk if he dont have anything to carry. And then he has sores in his head as soon as he is exposed to the cold. I dont think they would have taken him if he had been examined and had told them what ailed him, but he was afraid they would think he wanted to get rid of going so he was sworn in without being examined You know Edward ~~wa~~ is no fighter I dont think he would ever have enlisted if he hadn't been afraid of being drafted he thought he had rather volunteer than to stand draft. I hope you will write to him, his address now is N.Y. City Bank's Expedition Co F 50<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Mass Vols Care of Capt Duncan. Emmie and the two children were down a short time ago but I couldn't get them over to the house Josy is as fat as butter Annie is one of the lean kind I guess they would like to see you. Josy said she liked the looks of me for I looked like her father. I hope another Spring will see you home with your family, but am afraid it isn't so to be. I have got so that I dont much care which side beats if this war can only be ended. It has got to be such a money making concern that I think it isn't much matter who beats. I haven't got a spark of patriotism left

things are carried on so. It seems as though all our folks cared for was to see which could make the most out of the poor soldiers. And what little wages is allowed them is kept back. You said you hadn't heard from Elmer for some time I dont expect he has the means to write I have written to him today and sent him some postage stamps he said they hadn't been paid off since last July. There is a lady living in N.Y. She is wealthy and thought she would go out and see for herself how the soldiers were fareing. I am mistaken she lives in Boston and was visiting here in Bradford and told of it. She got as far as N.Y. and stopped at a hotel there and was shown to her room and on the bed was a pair of sheets with her name marked on them that she had given to the soldiers she rang the bell and the servant came she told him she wanted to see the landlord when he came she asked him where he got those sheets he told her he bought them at an auction in N.Y. She went into one of the Hospitals and there lay a sick soldier he had some wine sitting by him and she went to turn him out some and he told her not to turn out but little for he had to pay a great price for it she look on the bottle and it was marked for the soldiers. She said she was knowing to a great deal of the wines and jellies and corn starch and such things that were sent to the sick soldiers never leaving Boston but was eaten there. Is it any wonder that our folks dont prosper? It seems as though every one was trying to see who could make the most money out of the soldiers. And they are making too much to have the war closed up so soon. There is enough given to have the soldiers well cared for people are giving all the time. Perhaps you will think I am rather hard but I cant help it. I wish I was sick I would see that there were a few made comfortable, and I would trust to no ones honesty I would see for myself I shall have to stop writing for I have got to write to Mother. I hope you will think my letter worth answering, you have answered them all so far and I think a great deal of your letters they are very interesting to me

Please answer as soon as convenient

And Oblige Your Sister

Margie