

Sunday Jan 25th 1863

Dear Brother L,

I received your letter last week and intended to have answered it right away but something happened that I couldn't. I don't feel much like writing tonight so prepare yourself to read a letter not worth answering.

You wanted me to send you my picture I hadn't any that I could send in a letter very well so I had some taken hope you will like it. It isn't so handsome as it might be but perhaps you will think just as much of it as though it were handsomer. You know I am the plainest and the ugliest sister you have got, but I hope the time will come when I shall be better. I began this year with a determination that I would try and lead a better life. But I am so fearful that I shall fall out by the way that I hardly dare let my good resolutions be known. I haven't seen Emmie since before Thanksgiving. William came down after me to go up there and spend Thanksgiving but I thought I should miss Edward so much to go up there that I had rather stay at home. His time will be half out next Monday and I am so glad. He felt very bad to go for you know he is an awful coward and he was always willing to own it. I told him if they only knew him they wouldn't take him on no consideration. He was afraid he might be drafted and he thought he couldn't leave us so well provided for if he was, and he got the chance to go as cook and he didn't dare stay. Do you think he will be obliged to fight. I feel so bad for fear he will be obliged to go into the ranks. How do you have your cooking done. do each company have a cook. Please tell me for I want to know very much. I suppose you will pity me to think I am so foolish and selfish but I can't help it. He is a Dear good Husband and I feel as though I could not lose him now until I can make some atonement for past unkindness. I feel that I haven't done my duty to him nor to anyone else. I wish I could look back with less regret but it is gone never to return and all I can do is to try and live different in future. Edward sailed from Fortress Monroe a week ago last Friday they expect to go to New Orleans. He wasn't with those that put in to Hilton Head there were only two company's of the Reg^t in that vessel they went from New York in the steamer Niagara she proved to be an-old condemned steamer that used to run in the Lakes but she had been laying in Charlotte Dock for two years after seeing eighteen years hard labor but last summer a man bought her for nine thousand dollars with the avowed purpose of using her for a market boat around in the water of N.Y. but she was taken and chartered to government for ten thousand dollars a month and her fuel found to carry troops she hadn't got a great ways before she began to leak and the soldier made a fuss and the Col said they shouldn't go any further until she was examined, and by examining her they found some of her main timbers almost entirely rotted off. The sailors said if they hadn't had pleasant weather they would all have gone to the bottom. They run up Delaware Bay and anchored off Philadelphia. The inspecting officer came on board and condemned her and didn't consider her safe anchored in the River. The Philadelphians heard how they were situated and built new barrack and invited them on shore. They said they would keep them free of all expense to the Government as long as they stayed. They will always remember the people of that city I guess. They had everything done for them that could be. There were 5 companies of the fiftieth there they took quite a fancy to them calling them the best Reg^t that had been through the city. They sent in a petition to the War department to have them serve out their time there as Provost Guard but they didn't choose to have them for some reason. They were there four weeks. They sailed from

there in a sailing vessel called Jenny Lind but it proved to be a poor vessel it was calculated for freight and was badly ventilated and they were very much crowded. They Got to Fortress Monroe and three companies were Taken off and put on the Montebello Edward was very much pleased with the change it was a larger vessel and not so many soldiers on board and besides they had got a new commissary I heard that they treated them so bad on the other vessel that they rose and threatened to take command of the vessel themselves and they had to do better. Edward thought they would fare pretty well on board this vessel I must stop writing for I have got another letter to write Please answer this as soon as convenient and believe me ever Your affec

Sister Mag