

Letter From Ramsay, Charles S. written Thursday, December 12th, 1861

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My Dear Wife,

The box containing those sleeping shoes and your letter came to hand last night. I received the letter and shoes this morning. You will please accept my thanks for them until you are better paid. I have no doubt that the shoes will be an excellent thing should the weather get cool. If it should continue such weather as we have been having for over a week I will not have any necessity for them but still in such an uncertain country as this, it is best to be prepared for any emergency.

I have plenty of woolen socks having purchased two pair before leaving Springfield and drawn two pair from government so you see I am very well supplied. I do not know of anything in the way of wearing apparel that I need.

I was very sorry indeed to learn that our Mother was improving so little. I was in hopes that she would have been well in that time. I do hope that the galvanic battery may or has already helped her. I am glad the friends take such an interest in you. Pleasant company will make it so much pleasanter for you during my absence. I do hope that you may not have a very serious time of it and speedy recovery. If that was satisfactorily over I would be better contented and could comparatively enjoy myself this fine weather but do what I will or go where I will I am always thinking of you and troubling myself about your situation if that was past my mind would be more at ease.

I am sorry that Al and Gertie have driven nails in the walls of our house but as it is done it cannot now be helped but if they could have got along without doing it I would much rather they had done so.

We have been having the most beautiful weather for more than a week past. It has appeared more like the balmy month of May than the wintry month of December. The birds can be heard at all hours of the day singing sweetly and we are having the most beautiful moonlight evenings. I hate to be confined to camp but there is scarce an evening but I get out and go down to the landing. Evening before last Andy and I went down, the Lt Col passing us out and last night the Adjutant passed Capt. Cummings, Lieut. Badger and myself out, he going down with us. The boat brought the box from Springfield and a lot of goods for the Sutler. Captain went up and told the Sutler and he came down. He had a lot of apples and singular to relate. He opened his heart to such an extent as to tell us to open a barrel of the apples and pitch in. You may rest assured we did not stand long upon the invitation. Lieut. Badger and I soon had the head out and we did "pitch in". I ate all I wanted too. They were tiptop apples. The Sutler said too good to make anything on them that is they were too large and he did not have quite conscience enough to raise the price on them.

Yesterday morning after writing a letter to Anna and mailing it, Jerry Bair and I got a pass and started out on search of apples, eggs, butter or anything we could find to eat. We went up the road on this side of the river about three miles but could find nothing. We enquired whether or not we could get across the river. We were shown a house on the river bank where they kept a boat. We crossed through a cornfield to it and enquired whether we could get across. The man of the house was sick and said he had no one to bring the boat back. There were two young ladies in the house. They kindly volunteered to go across with us and bring the boat back. We accordingly went down the river bank to the boat, got the ladies in. Jerry and I each took an oar and we soon pulled across bidding the ladies good day. We crossed a field to the road on the other side of the river. We struck out at a nice large house where there were some of the prettiest rabbits. We stood and watched them for some time then enquired at the house but could find nothing we wanted so we came down the road to Mrs. Bradford's and went in, got our dinner and a handkerchief full of apples. She only charged us twenty-five cents. Had nice warm corn dodgers and stewed chicken for dinner. As it was three o'clock and having nothing to eat since breakfast, we went into things with a gusto. We arrived in camp about half past three, sat around in the tent until dress parade time and then formed in line ready to start out. The Adjutant stood watching us until we were all ready and were just starting out when he told us there would be no dress parade and off he was laughing at us. Andy has to blow all the calls, goes out with them on battalion drill and blows the calls for firing, loading, falling down and numerous other commands which are given by the bugle. It is interesting watching them.

I believe I have written all that I know of at present. Andy is still troubled with a slight cold but is getting better. Alex is well. Hez and the boys in company I are generally in good health. Will Jacobs eyes are getting better. Mr. McCuday owes me a letter. Remember me to all the folks. I am in the best of health. Much love from your Husband, Charlie (Ramsay)

