

Camp 17th (W.S. Duff),
near Cattletts Sta. Va.
January 17th 1864.

Dear Sarah,

Your kind letter of Jan. 10th reached me last night, and I was somewhat surprised to learn that none of my letters had been received since Christmas.

I have written several since I came to this camp, but cannot tell how many, as I write every opportunity, probably three or four at least.

You must recollect that I do not have the time to write letters that I did while on Recruiting Service, as I have so many business letters to answer and other things to occupy time.

Think you promised to write two letters while I wrote but one in return, & yet I verily believe I have written the most, at least more than I have received.

I'm happy to learn that the Love of which you speak was a success, and hope the proceeds will be applied to a good use.

The Object certainly is a good one, but I tell you, it is shamefully abused.

Should have been most happy, to have been able to attend such a gathering.

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Capt. Pease (who has had command of the Regt since Col. Grene left) went away

This morning, and your humble servant is in command. Therefore it will be impossible for me to get a Leave of Absence at present, and I fear I will not be able to get one this season, much as I would like to visit you and my home.

Still I have no reason to complain when I compare the time I have been in the field, with others who have not been out of service for the last two years.

I will send you the Photographs of Capt. Pease & Lieut. Wilson, but shall wait them when I return, to put in my Album.

Received a letter from Dr. Selzer a few days ago giving me information of what is transpiring at and in the vicinity of Ogdenburg.

Conclude the change in St. Pleasant was of short duration from what he says.

We are having very fine weather just now, but it has been quite cold until within a few days.

Yesterday we had a General Inspection, and were reported in good condition by the Inspecting Officer.

The Regiment, although small presented a good appearance and every thing packed off in good shape.

You will please excuse this small sheet paper as it is my all at present.

Remember me to all enquiring friends and I remain

Devotedly yours
James