

11-26-1861

Arthur McKinstry to Aunt Eliza

Arthur McKinstry

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Camp Caldwell Nov 26th 1861

Dear Aunt,

I meant to have written to you before but I have been very busy of late. Your box had not arrived at the city three or four days ago. If it is there now I shall learn of it by our mail carrier. If it don't come by the last of this week I shall have to buy a pair of the sutler and sell those you sent which I can do for a pretty fair profit

I am now in very good health and feel fully able to stand the fatigues of a campaign I am pretty well acclimated and if we should be sent to Carolina I feel myself well prepared. We expect some new blankets very soon and I can assure you we need them for the old ones are not fit to blanket a horse if we may credit what Gen. Hooker said when he inspected our regiment yesterday. There is some expectation that our regiment will go south to Carolina but

at last we have a general in chief who can keep his own counsel and none know for whom a blow is intended until it falls. When we move we do not know where we go and a planter told me that a soldier asked him in all simplicity where he was going. He thought the planter might conjecture by the direction travelled which way he was going which was more than he could do. I sent the V for those boots in a very heavy letter for the Censo where I thought the color of the note could

not be seen by holding it
up to the light and asked
Uncle Willard to forward it to
you. I sent it also in a Gov-
ernment envelope so that
it looked more like a Con-
gressional speech than any-
thing else - more especially
as it was franked. I presume
however that you have it by
this time, if not tell me at
once. ~~Many~~ ~~not~~ ~~state~~ ~~any~~ ~~for~~
there is no telling how long a
short our stay will be but when
we move at all we shall be
very apt to make such an advance
that mails will be uncertain
and irregular. The late Union
successes will do much I think

toward shortening the war.
We have our bakery now
in running order and get
very fine bread. 27th I was
busy and did not get a chance to
finish but it is just as well
for I could not have sent it.
Our Quartermaster has been
to the city and the box
has come, I cannot get it
however until he is here
to deliver it in person, which
will probably be to night.
Mothers box too has come
and you see how handy

it is since the Thanksgiving
for N. Y. State comes to-morrow
I have fixed it with some
boys who own a clay stove
(the one I described in the case)
to take Thanksgiving with
them and as it makes a
splendid oven by drawing the
coals out we shall have baked
beans, roast chicken with
oyster stuffing, hot biscuits
and butter, and various other
luxuries of the season.

When Mother got up her box
I told her to send me a
good Thanksgiving cake
and I presume that she

has done so. We have
been paying the sutler
35 cts for butter but I fancy
Mother's box will spoil
trade in that quarter.
I will reserve the rest of
the sheet until I can
report upon the condition
of the contents.

Those boots fit and are
first rate & are pretty
but I shall keep them
though I could sell them
at once for eight or nine dol-
lars. We celebrated Thanksgiving
yesterday in great style and
those preserves of Aunt Thee

rosia helped amazingly,
Misses gloves are first rate
and the papers you sent
are just what we want.

As I have no accommoda-
tion in this crowded tent
and it rains all night I will
close. Thank Aunt Jane
for those cakes they are
very good and still more
for her papers

Your aff. nephew
Arthur

Camp Wau
Nov 30th

Miss Eliza McKimstry
Chicopee
Mass