

Camp Green Offutt's expedition N.D. Dec 6th 1862

My dear Wife:-

I have just received your very kind letter, and it come in very good time for I was feeling a little down in the mouth, though not sick. The fact is my thanksgiving dinner was a little too much for me, not the dinner particularly but the getting of it up. Last Monday morning I started for Washington to purchase the things needful for our dinner. I got there about 2 P.M. I had John Piper (who by the way is my orderly) with me to bring home 2 ambulances which with all the efforts I could make all that afternoon I could not get. The morning about with the exertion I expended I was very tired when night came. The next morning I ransacked the markets bought my stuff and had it started for camp by 11 o'clock. Then I got my dinner jumped on my horse and was in camp before supper time, and I can tell you it was no small feat. The next day I had to see to the cooking of the viands.

But I had some help that you would not think of. Yes some Callis help. Mrs. C. Jewett and two of our Captains wives. They took hold and stuffed the turkeys made 5 Chickens pies a heap of apple pies, some tarts and Wash-
ing pies. You can judge that a task I had when I tell you that we seated over 60 at our table, and the whole arrangement was left to me and the success of the dinner depended upon the arrangements, and let me tell you that it was a success. We had every thing to make it pleasant, and here like - and the remark was after meals while we were at the table, "Wonder