

Camp Jewett near Whitesford N^d Dec 29th 1862

My dear wife:

I felt very much disappointed not to get any letters from you the last fortnight. I have no doubt but you write, but I do not get your letters.

I wrote to you on Christmas which I hope you have got. Since we have moved my Aunt's have increased very much, not that there any more sick but our men are spread out over a long line of country and I have to visit them every day. It gives me a fine opportunity to see the country and the inhabitants. The people here are nearly all Catholics and they are now keeping the Christmas holy days, and you may believe we Officers fare sumptuously every day.

As I start out to go my wounds are or more of the Staff Officers jump on their horses and go with us and before we get back we are invited to dine with some wealthy planter. So refuse their hospitality would be considered a mark of disrespect.

You have read and heard of Southern hospitality, but you can get but a faint idea of it in such a way.

I have dined there days in succession at our house and I have a hearty welcome at any time I was not there to dinner today but called about 3 o'clock as I was going by, and they expressed much regret that I was not there to dine, in fact they sent a rider over a mile to tell me to be seen and be there to dinner and bring all my friends. The result of all this is this. I was going past the place the other day and they knew me to be a surgeon by my badge, and called me in to pull a tooth for one of their children which of course I did, and would take nothing for it, consequently they feel that they cannot do too