

Camp at Whitford M^a Jan 25th 1863

My dear Wife

I have received your two last letters dated the 13th & 21st with the picture and you cannot tell with what unqualified satisfaction I look upon them, Helen is so very perfect, with that calm sweet smile of hers. It does seem that I shall never tire of looking upon it. And you can hardly imagine the compliments you get from those I have shown it to. Then Jacob's picture is so good, and has such an honest look. It seems as though he was just going say "papa, take me up," and would I not like to take him up? He is a noble little fellow. They both seem to have grown some. Helen the most. But that is the all I can say help, no ~~no~~ part that I feel, only that I want to see them very much. When you send the others send yours too, I shall take it unkindly if you do not, and send them as soon as you can. You can send them in our letter just as well.

I feel obliged to learn that you secured the money. It would be superfluous to tell you to pinch it hard for it is hard earned, and money is money now. You have asked me how much pay I get a month? The regulations allow us \$123.81 but Congress has passed a law cutting it down to 110.00, though not bad wages (but not enough for the responsibility) yet it is too much to lose. With the exception of being away from home, and the liability of the dangers of the battle field there is no way that the same amount of money can be so easily obtained. I suppose it would be almost an utter impossibility to any money for practice at home now. And I feel that the time is not far distant when I shall be promoted. There