

Head Quarters  
 (3<sup>rd</sup> Div Hospital) Camp near Winchester Va Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864

My dear Wife.

Tomorrow is to be another edition of that time honoured institution of New England but no longer sectional in its character. It has become national and every loyal heart beats quicker and stronger at the bare mention of it. It is symbolical of what the nation is to be, is of our heart and of our mind.

The practice of setting apart a day for thanksgiving had its origin in a despised and secluded corner of the republic. But its influence has spread from time to time until it or its originators are no longer looked upon with contempt. On the other hand there is a deep reverence felt for the founders of the system, and a nation hails it as its own and to be woud as only a God fearing nation should respect his ordinances. The cradle of Liberty was first rocked in the same quiet corner of this vast nation. The world has been swayed and rocked to its centre and nations and tyrants have trembled at