

Gov. Fairbanks was here yesterday

Camp Griffin Dec 15/61

My darling Wife -

I rec'd two good letters from you to night - Give my regards to Mollie - I hope shall be able to see her but hardly dare hope - It will probably be difficult to obtain leave of absence without a strong reason. To see ones wife seems to me strong enough, but it would apply to too many cases - If they knew what a splendid one I have got I reckon they would let me go. I should so like to see you my sweet love. Your letter was the first intimation I had ever rec'd that the people desire to cut down our pay - If the Country need it I am ready to contribute every dime of my pay to carry on the war! but I enlisted as a private & did not know but I should have to carry the musket for three ~~years~~ ^{years}, but now that ~~others~~ ^{my officers} have seen fit to give me an office I can't say that I admire having my patriotism experimented upon. It is true the pay is fair, but it is not more than men fit to fill the several offices, ought to have, & so far as my acquaintance goes not equal to the income of the ^{home} occupations of a majority of the officers here. Of the officers of my own rank in the 1st Brigade I am the only instance where the salary is equal to that of the