

Camp of 79th Regt. Penn^a Vols. Inf.

June 14th 1865

Dear Jack:

Your letter by Jim and one received last night: both received and will now endeavor to answer them.

At last some kind of an organization has been had of the troops in this department, and I suppose matters will soon take a business style. We have nothing to do except an occasional company drill which is very pleasant as far as regards weather, but one don't feel so well for when the body is so inactive the mind will work considerably and much growling is the consequence.

The boys feel hurt at their treatment and I don't blame them much. Many of them have stood the brunt since April 1861 and now that the war is over wish to retire so that employment may be had ere winter sets in. As matters stand now many unworthy men have been styled "veteran soldiers" – who have never smelt powder and will be skirmishing for all the positions worth having, and by the time the veterans return their places will be taken up and to gain a livelihood they will be compelled to lead that life of a slave in the Army. Many men who are returning have never been to the front, have evaded the duty until this spring, and it makes one feel badly to think that our feelings are entirely overlooked. True, the '62 men have done all that could be expected of them have done their duty nobly – but we feel that this and the veterans are the only men that are entitled to the honor of settling this rebellion.

Some seem to think that it is kind in the government to retain the veterans in service, so that they may have an easy "time of it for a while," but the veterans don't wish that, if that is the much talked of gratitude it is a sorry thing – We have done nothing more than our duty and know that full well, as the government is part of ourselves – and now we ask that our rights be considered too since our work is done. The Vets can take as good care of themselves as they have of the Country.

There is one pleasant feature about it however – from long experience we have given that the government does things as nearly right as possible – and we must come down to that. – We can't understand it now but I am of the opinion that we will be satisfied some day, and the worst feature about our retention is the non-payment. If we do not need the money or have not earned it – no one ever has. – However we will try and take things as they come.

We have not heard anything of the prospects in getting into the Regular Army – Some say that promotions will not be made from the volunteer army. Most all think so. Now this is the greatest injustice. The Veterans have saved this country – have [enabled] them to have an army, and they now tell you we are of no account. – Very well – that's encouraging. If I don't get into the regular army I am satisfied but at the same time it is an insult to the brave boys who have riskd their lives – for what – to keep certain [interests] and [] men in



office. – I am satisfied with most anything and but for certain reasons would not want to go in the Regular Army – for I hate the life.

I expect to make an honest and fair living somewhere in the west, east or south anyhow, and hope they may soon give us the chance.

I endeavored to have Cye discharged, but to no avail. Doc. White says it is necessary to have any kind of disease for 2 mos. before such action can be taken and he is [good] right then. He said however he would give me a strong certificate, so that he might get a furlough for 20 days. I have made out the application and he has [finished] the certificate – and the papers have gone to the granting officer – They have been approved at Co. [Beg____] and [Buford] head quarters and he may expect them back by to-morrow night. The surgeon did all in his power for the boy and is a perfect gentleman in every respect. – Cy's notions to the contrary notwithstanding, I think that you can cure him in 20 days at home – if he gets the furlough, and by that time we will either be out of service or nearly so. He is getting better fast.

All are well. My love to all.

Will

P.S. Our Sen. Buckius came up to line. Don't know when I will be home now. My respects to him. Wish I had that other kind to give him – money. Tell Joe I've been using his cards to advantage. – Will get him [] in the regiment. His circulars arrived all right. I received Kate's May 30th letter last night.

