Newport News

Sunday, Jan the 17 1864

Dear wife and little blesed chrildren. I take my pen in hand to rite in answer to yours that I got today of the 13. Was glad to here from you but sorry to learn that you are pleged about gittin your wood cut but keep up good courage dear wife for I hope the time will come when I can cut it for you myself again. I was glad to here you ware all well and as these lines leave me well I hope they will find you all the same. You rote you got my letter of the 10 but did not rite you got the check I sent in it for Wm but I suppose you did. You will let me know in your next, will you? I got 5 postage stamps in my letter. I got the paper this week. I thought they would have paid before this time but they haint nor I dont know when they will. When they do I shall send Wm some money. The boys are all out of money here now. I herd from Eber the other day. Theodore Bennet was thare. He thinks he is a little better than when we left him. I shall go and se him when I git paid, if we are here, but how long we shall stay here I don’t know. This is a curiest [curious] world. You rote you hoped I should not enlist over again. You need not borow aney troubble about that for it will take more green backs than I have seen yet though they will try every way to faston a man. You rote Ken Edwards had enlisted again. The man that enlisted him this time had ought to be shot for it is onley throughing away money for him but I suppose they go on the principal of the more money they spend the better. I suppose that they will give our reg a chance to enlist again this spring and those that dont enlist cant have a furlough. But never mind. The three years will ware off by and by. The snow has all gone here now. You rote that you had not had a sleigh ride. Never mind, when I git home again, we will have one. Geo Dunham and I sit down some of these long evenings and plan out what kind of sleigh we will make if we live to git home again and what kind of a horse we will have and that passes off the lonesome hours. And after we talk what we would do if we ware at home, then we tell one another that is that is plaid [played] out and you are a soldier now. So you se that the soldiers think of their homes and their dear ones they have left behind. You may tell Mr. Huntington that we got some of the potatoes, appels, turnips, parsnips, beets & carrots but the cranberries and good part of the walnuts, the officers took charge of but we are verry thankfull to the donors for what we got. I suppose that wages is very high with you and help is very scarse but keep up good courage dear wife and try and git a long the best you can, hoping and trusting that the good lord will in his own good time permit us to meet again in our own home and enjoy ourselves togeather again. Love to you and the chrildren.

Ever yours

Geo H Harris