

Camp Griffin Va

Sunday Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1861

Mr. Alfred Kieth

Dear Sir

I wrote you day before  
Yesterday in regard to Hortons sickness. I am happy  
To inform you this time that he is much better.  
He has continued to improve since I wrote you.  
The Col furnished us another tent yesterday  
and we have put it on for a Bedroom in con-  
nection with our tent. We have him a good  
Bed arranged and he feels very comfortable  
to day and if he has no drawback will get  
along without any further trouble.  
He does not feel homesick at all although he  
knows he would be mor comfortable at home  
than he can be here. I thought about getting  
him into a house, but the Col thought not  
best to do so. He thought he would feel  
better right here with his friends than go to  
a house where he might be alone some of  
the time. I can assure you that he has  
as good care taken of him as he could pos-  
sibly have in camp. So you need feel no  
uneasiness as regards that. H sat up  
for about an hour this morning and is in-

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Proving as fast as one could wish. He is  
Now asleep and is sleeping very sweetly.  
Capt. of this Reg Sent in two  
White flannel Sheets a few minutes ago.  
They are now hanging over the stove  
warming. I shall have them put on  
his bed when he wakes. He has my  
Feather Pillow under his head and  
will get along nicely. If he should  
be worse I will telegraph you imm-  
ediately.

Attest Keith

Horton has got up again and is now  
sitting by the stove. He wanted to know  
what I was writing to you and I showed

it to him and he has put his signature  
as you will observe.  
Col Lord wished me to say to you that  
if you thought best that he would  
give Horton leave of absence until  
he was well. If you think best please  
write me or Col Lord as the Col  
dont wish Horton to know anything  
about it presently. I will write  
again tomorrow. Truly Yours E. L. Barney

Camp Griffin Va  
Monday Eve Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1861

Alfred Keith Esq

Dear Sir

Horton

Has been up and ate a piece of  
Toast and a baked apple and some  
milk porridge and has just laid  
down again. He is some better  
this evening than he was last eve-  
ing, but is improving slowly.  
He is now asleep. he wished  
me to write to you this evening  
and also every day untill he  
got well enough to write.  
I have seen the Col again  
this evening and he sais  
that he will give him a leave  
of absence any time I think  
best. I have not said any  
thing to Horton about it yet.  
But I think as soon as the  
Dr. thinks he is able to go  
That he had better go up home  
And remain untill he is perfectly  
well. He would be better off  
at home than he can be here.  
He does not complain at all  
at his sickness and if he  
is homesick any he keeps  
it to himself. I should be  
sorry to have him go home  
even for a short time for  
I have become very much  
attached to him and as  
long as I can help him  
in any way he will not  
suffer. You of course will  
feel quite anxious for him  
while he is sick but he  
will have good care and  
I hope he will be well enough  
to travel in a day or two  
and if he is I promise you  
will see him at home.  
I will speak to him about

it tomorrow and on what  
he thinks of it.  
Yours Truly E. L. Barney

Camp Griffin Va  
Wednesday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1861

Alfred Keith Esq

Dear Sir

It is now  
about 8 o'clock in the evening.  
Horton is sitting by the stove in the  
large arm chair (made out of barrels)  
warming himself. He is feeling some  
better this evening but is not improving  
very fast. I have had some talk  
with him to day about going home on  
a furlough but he does not feel much  
inclined to go home and may be  
he will not go now.

We received our pay to day up to  
Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Hortons pay was about \$57.  
He has been talking about sending some  
of it home and will do so if he does  
not come home himself.  
He received to letters from home this  
evening. One from his Mother and one  
from his sister and he was very  
glad indeed to receive them. You can

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you can assure his mother that he realizes  
his dependence on God, and that  
he feels that if his trust is in  
God all will be well. As I went  
out to one of the Company tents  
to a prayer meeting last evening  
he desired that I should pray  
for him. I am happy to know  
that he knows when to go in  
sickness and trials and  
when he will always find help  
in every time of need. The Dr.  
tells me this evening that he  
will get along without any  
trouble but as I wrote you  
before he will be some time  
in getting well.  
He wished me to ask you  
for a bill of the cheese you

sent as it has not come  
to hand. The butter came all  
right, and if he gets a bill  
of the cheese he can collect  
the pay for it. There is no

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news of importance. The weather  
is quite pleasant and rather  
warm to day. No snow here  
yet. Lieut. Green has not  
been very well for a few  
days. I am tough and  
hearty yet and hope I shall  
continue to be. I have  
put Orderly Barr in acting  
Lieut. for the present and Sergt.  
Hatch acting Orderly.  
Horton sends love to mother  
sister & all and hopes to  
be able to write himself in  
a day or two.

Truly Yours

E. L. Barney

Camp Griffin Va  
Dec 9 1861

My Dearest friend

Although I can scarcely hold my pen in hand to write yet I thought if it did you half as much good to read as I think it will it would pay to write. You know that I received half months pay the other day-but Judy Hendrick [Elisha j. Hendrick from Montgomery, Vt.] went home before the 6<sup>th</sup> recd. theirs-I received \$ 59, but have had to make so many little expenses in my sickness that I cannot send more than \$50 to you this time. How shall I send it? I do not think

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I had best go home unless some thing unusual turns which I trust and pray may not. I missed the Thanksgiving as much as you. But dear friends I missed the communion service. [illegible] seemed if I could only partake of that holy of holys with you I should be indeed happy. I expect Robt. here any day. I am gaining strength daily but shall be unable to do duty for a month or more so the Doct says. Now it will cost me \$36 up and back to Vt. If you think it would pay I will come home. Please answer soon. I will not write more now.

Your Affect Son  
Horton

Camp Griffin Va  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 1861

My Dearest Mother

Robt arrived here  
Yesterday together with some  
of the luxuries the sheats wines  
and cranberries. One of the Capt  
in the line had kindly lent  
me some that he had, but  
they were not as good and  
soft as yours. They have  
furnished me with some current  
wines but it was not very  
good. I can assure you Robt  
wants I should go to W [Washington, D. C.] with  
him immediately and seems  
insistent that you and  
Father want I should do so

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To. Now if I could have got  
my pass yesterday as they  
tried very hard to do I  
should go but I am gaining  
so fast every day here that  
I believe I will hold on a  
bit and take my chances  
as a soldier. For it does not  
seem right for one to mur-  
mer when he is gaining as  
fast. So I believe I will  
stay here. I have not heard  
from you in a long time.  
I should be so happy to hear  
From you. Since I have been sick I have had good oppor-  
tunities to think of my soul  
and am happy to say  
that should it please God  
in his mercy to take my  
life I am ready and willing  
to go. I now wish I could

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partake of that Holy sacrament  
with you. When I get well  
enough I am going to W  
and attend Church. Perhaps the  
the first of Jan I may be well  
enough. Please tell Father that  
Will Smally [Corp. William Smalley of Sheldon, Vt., in Co. C, 5<sup>th</sup> Vermont Infantry  
Regiment] was over here yester  
day and seemed anxious to  
have him draw his pay. He  
& Johnson both signed but he  
said some thing about [Mack?]  
never having organized any.  
I will not send the money at  
present although I want to  
very much but if I should go  
to W I should need it.  
Love to all, write soon  
Horton

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Has Horton received any letters.  
Tell him I wrote him if he has not  
& want to hear from him dear boy.  
When shall we expect [illegible]. With love  
Mary

Camp Griffin  
Dec 13 1861

My dearest Mother & Father

I received your  
Letters dated 4<sup>th</sup> inst last mon.  
It seems to take a great  
While for a letter to come from  
Sheldon here. I have about  
Concluded to take a house  
In the vicinity and stay  
There till I recover. It will  
cost me so much less than  
Wash. I shall find  
out early this morning.

The price is only \$3 a  
Week here and 1.50 a day  
In W so I can save a  
Considerable by staying. Well  
I am gaining rappidly in

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Strength and if the Lord  
continues to help me I shall  
hope to be able to walk out  
in a few days. My writing  
looks very bad I know to  
day but I got quite tired  
before. I commenced writing  
fussing around the tent.

Robt is with me still  
And sends his regards to you  
And the rest of the friends.  
I wish very much I could  
be with you if convenient  
but it is better I should  
not. I wont write more  
now. Please thank Mrs.  
Hubbell many times for her  
wines and preserves.

Write oftener. You must  
know that letters are  
very acceptable to me

Your affect son Horton

Camp Griffin  
Dec 13<sup>th</sup>  
1861

My dear Mr. Keith

I am happy  
to inform you as I presume  
you have heard from Horton  
today that he is rapidly im-  
proving & has been setting up  
nearly all day. His brother  
officers & myself think today  
he will not find it necessary  
to be around from his tent  
at all. The weather has been the most favorable for him &  
he is almost a different person  
since I first saw him here.  
He has the kindest of care &  
today a floor has been put  
down in his tent. He eats a little  
& seems to relish it much. I

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have made Broma [a light form of cocoa] which  
he relishes very much & I  
feel rejoiced much to see him  
rapidly gaining & think with  
providence he will be out soon.  
Horton was really glad to see  
me & I shall be with him  
all I can. I know it will  
rejoice you to know that he looks  
to God for strength & keeps  
mind full of his indebtedness.  
I was happy to hear him say  
he wished at the earliest opportu-  
nity to visit Wash & go with  
myself to communion.  
We both think our illness has  
been the means of a turning  
point in our lives & have resolved  
with Gods help to be ready to  
meet our calling in future.  
I think you need not worry  
any more about Horton's care.

I have no fears if he does not

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get cold & if we have a few  
more such fine days he  
need not leave camp at all &  
if we do there is a comfortable  
room not far away which I  
think by that time he could  
get. Remember me kindly  
to all friends & your own  
family especially. Believe me  
as

Your friend  
R. Y. Holley U. S. N.

Mr. Carpenters  
Dec 19 1861

My dear Friends

Again I sit  
me down to to write you a  
few lines to let you know  
that I am getting on well  
by Gods grace and improving  
daily in strength both moraly  
and physicaly. I went down  
this morning to see a poor  
soldier who has got to die and  
whose papers of discharge are  
being made out now. I asked  
him if he ever thought of  
the future and had a very  
interesting talk with him.  
He is not a Christian but he says

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he sees the need of becoming one.  
I left him my prayer book  
for which he was very thank  
ful. His Father is hear and  
is a christian and he requested  
me to talk with him.

I shall not write only twice  
a week here after unless there  
is some thing of importance  
happens. My stamps will  
not hold out to write so  
often and besides it it is use  
less. Robt payed me a visit last  
night with Lieut Peck [William H. H. Peck of Burlington, Vt., Co. D, 5<sup>th</sup> Vermont  
Infantry] of the 5  
a very fine fellow by the way  
used to be in the bee hive.

Nothing more that I think  
of. I sent you twenty dollar  
yesterday in a letter. Robt said  
it would go safe. I need not  
tell you to write. Affet your Son  
Love to all Horton

Mr. Carpenter's House  
Dec 22 1861

My dear Mother & Sister

I suppose you have come home by this time my dear Sister. Another Lords day has come and here I am in a little room but thank God with Prayer book and bible of which I have made good use of them to day having read a good share of the service and a chapter in the old and new testament. Oh how much good it does to read the Bible and how I love to use the confession (the first prayer)

In the first place my dear Mother I am not coming home now. That is to get well. They all thought so and so did I for this and other reasons. First I must become habituated to the climate and if I recruit here I shall be all right. I have hardly any cough and that diminishes as my strength increases. I should have to pay \$32.00 cash to go and return to say nothing of measles & c.

I did not go to W because it costs \$7 a week

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for but little better board than I get here and I should have to furnish Surgeon beside. My room to be sure has no carpet and I have but one chair and that not a very good one. I sleep between the sheets you so kindly sent me on a bed made of four sticks and some boards nailed to hold them together and some staves laid on top then my straw tick and a good heavy comforter thanks to Lieut Green. plenty of covering a good feather pillow. Thanks to the ladies of Highgate, they sent a box and I devoted to myself a good comfortable and the pillow. AS for living I have most any thing and eat most any thing because they tell me to and it does not hurt me. The wine is most gone and Robt is going to send me som porter which he says would be nearly as good. I spoke about some drawers. I wish you would make them right off. I have not got a pair long enough or big enough around the waist. Now do not make them too large. I wish too that you would melt up some of the

maple and send me it. Would relish so on my  
pan cakes. I see they are to have an opportunity to send at St. Albans. I do not think of  
any thing  
else only yesterday being very pleasant I walked about a half a mile and did not find  
myself tired

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at all. I have walked every day lately till today it  
is so gloomy that I did not go out. I do not  
think of any thing else to say to you my dear Mother.  
only that your letter did me much good and I  
had to read it through twice. I will now write  
a few lines to Kate which you will let her read  
first and then if she is willing to make known  
I have no objection. Monday Morn

I thought I could write more yester  
day but I found my self all tired out  
writing so that Kate will have to wait a  
day or two.

Your Affect Son  
Horton

It rains quite hard and is going to be  
a gloomy day

Mr. Carpenters  
Dec 27 1861

My dear Father & Mother

Your letter dear Father of the 21<sup>st</sup> and yours dear Mother of the 19<sup>th</sup> reached me last night and Tuesday. It does take such a long time for the letters to get around that I get almost out of practice sometimes, but we must learn to bear up under all difficulties. I was some what surprised to find that you had gone to recruiting again. I thought that you had enough of that the last time but the idea of Cyrus Keith making an office, why I never thought of such a thing. The Vt Regts except our own are moving into winter quarters. We are as well situated that we did not move. Drill is all given up except company and squad, so I shall not loose any thing.

The Adjut and Major have both offered their their horses horses for me to ride whenever I want. I rode the Adjuts Christmas day about a

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it was a beautiful day. I hope you were favored also just like one of our spring mornings. Everyone seems to be so kind to me, everyday the Col enquires after me also the chaplain seems to take some interest in me. May God bless them all. I paid Robt some money for fruit that he got me, he did not use a horse but once. I will see to that. I am answering old letters too. The chickens I never received. Robt says they all spoiled but I get them here often. We had a very nice Christmas dinner here. Cols Stannard and Hyde Major Proctor adjt of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vt Regt also of ours Capt Barney, Lieut Cram & myself composed the first table. We had roast turkey, Beef and Pork, vegetables of different kinds chicken pie and pastry of different descriptions as I did not indulge in the last mentioned I could not tell what the kinds were. The wind blows quite hard from the north west and it quite cloudy on the whole a gloomy

day, if it had not been, I should have rode into camp, about a mile and a half. I am in hopes it will be pleasant tomorrow. I have sent in for some things, now if it is going to cost much I do not want to have

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them sent because I can gey along with what I have got but I have not a single pair of drawers long enough and only one pair big enough across the waist, I put strings in and fix up in that way. You shall have with that I have sent you on next pay day \$225 any way and perhaps more I cannot tell how much I shall use here and I want you should use as your own. I money is tight and hard to get mine will come handy. I do not but I may have a chance to come home recruiting. Is it best for me to come? I do not think of any thing else to write. England looks a little doubtful by todays paper. but I hope she will use some common sense and let us alone. She has two looming neighbors. We [have] skirmishes or rumors of some every day but it does not amount to much. I hope you had a nice time Christmas. Tell Kate to make me [a] neck tie like she did last year. Well I must give you a description of the family. First comes young Mrs. Carpenter Mother a old lady about eighty years old. Next old Mr. & Mrs. Carpenter [aet] respectively fifty five & sixty. I should think. Perhaps older. Then the young Mr. & Mrs. Carpenter about yours & mothers age.

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They have four children but all girls. One about my age another about Katie's another about twelve the youngest about Annie's age. Mr. & Mrs. C (young) are both educated people. Mrs. C being in high reputation with the Genl and has drawn several valuable maps of the country. When there was peace he was I should think in this town some as your in S [Sheldon]. They have moved all their furniture to Washington at the time

of the Bull Run affair and they are going  
to winter there themselves going to move  
with in a week or two so that  
I cannot stay here much longer but I think  
I can go into camp in a week more any way  
so that I shant have to spend so much money  
We live pretty there. One week from Satur-  
day I am (God willing) going to Wash to stay  
there over Sunday and partake of the holly  
communion. Oh! how [I] wish it was at home.  
I want you should read the 5 chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor.  
I think you will like it. It has given me a  
great deal comfort. But I must stop.  
My love to all Sister & Brother Mr & Mrs H and Dan and  
All and to you my dearest and most honored  
Parents, may Gods riches blessing and love rest upon  
you. Ever your most affect and dutiful Son  
Horton

Mr. Carpenter's  
Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1861

My dear Father

I adress you because  
I have some things to say  
to you personally but I mean  
it for you all. Mother & Sister  
have both kindly writen me Kates  
last of the 26 received night  
before last. I am gaining  
very fast and shall leave here  
soon. rode over to camp a mile  
and a half yesterday and back  
horse back and feel no evil  
efects from it today on the  
contrary a little better, I met  
all the field and staff officers  
they all seemed very happy to

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to see me. I had the maj's horse  
to ride in and the chaplains to come out with. You seem to  
think that because I have been  
sick and have off duty  
a considerable since I came  
here that I am off the hook.  
Now Father let me tell you an  
honest truth I know just as  
much about the drill to day as  
any other second Lieut in the  
whole line and I might include  
a good many higher and I can  
say that I know more than a  
good many and I know that  
Col Lord would as soon give  
me papers to day as he would  
if I had not been sick they have  
not had a single new movement  
in drill since I drilled with  
them Please remember I was  
on duty three weeks here

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Now I hope you will not borrow  
any more trouble on that score I  
study some here-but I sincerely  
hope one thing, that is you all  
not trying to get me into the  
regular army as yet for there  
never is any chance of promotion  
there however do as you think  
best. Our pay rolls are all made  
out and the men are being mustered  
to day we shall probably have some  
pay soon. (Confidential) I can  
come recruiting if I wish I  
think shall I do it? General orders  
from head quarters was that  
to [two] commissioned officers from  
each Vt Regt should go home recruit-  
ing for the brigade. I should  
like very much to see you and the  
rest of the family, but I would like  
to be with my company in case of  
a fight and the idea of going to

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Vt to lounge about in I do not know  
what just of the state for perhaps  
six months for so the furlough reced  
is not according to my idea.  
But the Capt made an application  
without my knowledge and the sur-  
geon that is a nearly agreement on  
the other side. I am going to  
let you decide I believe. Perhaps  
I may not have the chance to decide  
Nothing of importance. I am glad  
Mason and the others are given  
up. My best love to all. Thia  
must answer for two days Mr Lewis  
letter was a great comfort his  
sermon a good one please thank  
him kindly say nothing about  
four going. And to you my best  
beloved parents who have done and  
are doing so much for me acceft

