



Camp Newton Head  
 quarters 32<sup>d</sup> Regt N.Y.S. Vol  
 Decem 24<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Sister,

Yours of Decem 4<sup>th</sup>  
 is at hand several times have  
 the columns of that welcome  
 messenger been perused altho  
 it contained news not at  
 all pleasant yet by no means  
 unexpected. (The death of Miss  
 Eliza Smith) for a long time  
 I have thought that Eliza  
 could not endure a great  
 while with her weak consti-  
 tution no one knew how  
 much she suffered but with  
 her persevering spirit & strong

determination to hold out as long as possible she kept up we sometimes feel that it is hard to part with friends particularly young ones but why should we when we know that our loss is their gain? It would be sad to think of giving up friends too if we knew that this life being spent it is the last of them. "If ye die ye shall live again". All hope and suppose that Eliza was prepared to go to meet her God & has enjoyment which we have never yet realized. I have long been acquainted with her both as a school & class mate have ever known her to be a noble generous lady forgiving & kind, as to her Christian character and example let no one question

her life shows plainly I  
suppose she died as she lived  
a devoted follower of her Saviour  
trusting in Him for her  
worthiness & in his <sup>blood</sup> for her  
salvation. Oh, Eliza thou art  
gone, full be thy rest & sweet  
be thy peace. Dear Mate if I have  
stepped over the bounds of propri-  
ety please pardon & forget. I am  
quarters in a very comfortable  
tent Lieut W O Wicketoff's  
& just now the notes from  
one of the beautiful National  
Airs strikes my ear from the  
Band of the Pen. Youaves  
who are encamped near  
us tis very pleasant but  
some would say unfortu-  
nately dark there being no  
moon till late in the  
evening, but no one can  
find the least fault for all  
through the full moon the

weather was very pleasant  
& warm I sometimes think  
camp life in Va is the  
one of the greatest enjoyments  
I ever had in a short time  
you will learn from my pen  
the locality of our camp & <sup>the</sup> <sup>the</sup>  
we hear right smart news from  
Missouri also in one of the  
divisions in Va, in the former  
we learn that 1300 rebels  
were taken prisoners among  
whom were three Col's & seven  
teen Captains in the latter  
near one hundred were taken  
and killed. There is but little  
being done just now in our divis-  
ion our pickets are driven in  
once in a while but there is  
no fighting for as soon as re-  
inforcements are sent, the  
enemy turn & get back to-  
wards Centre Ville as fast as  
Cavalry as their horses can