

Washington Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 62

Dear Brother Albro & Nathan

I have

wrote you one letter and have had  
no answer from you & I will still  
write you an other for I must say  
that I have you in my mind very  
often I have often thought of what Lovia  
wrote (that you had gone to meeting) I  
wish you to direct your most serious attention<sup>on</sup>  
to the importance of character - moral  
and religous character what is every  
thing else with character how worthless  
is everything else with out it he may  
have wealth but he can neither enjoy it  
improve it nor be respected for it  
without character I want you to remember  
that character for life and eternity  
too is usually formed in youth set  
out with this idea written upon your  
hearts in order that it may be

exercising its influence on your  
actions I do not mean by this that  
<sup>you</sup> shall be dull and stupid if you  
live up to <sup>these</sup> principles you will be  
lively you cannot help it or at least  
I do I've heard our lieutenant <sup>say</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>is</sup>  
that he believed that I was the happiest  
man in the regiment and why is  
it, I will tell you it is because I  
have lived up to the <sup>principles</sup> that  
father requested me to & they were these  
remember the duty you owe to your  
heavenly father and to your earthly father  
and to Uncle Sam, and you see that  
in obeying my father I also obey  
officers while others of loose characters  
think it one of the greatest tasks  
in the world to obey and consequently  
they cannot be happy nor enjoy them-  
selves here I should be sorry to get  
a wild romantic and unsettled disposition  
on account of my being away from home  
and in the army, and I want you to

guard against such a disposition  
let not your imagination gain the ascen-  
dency over your judgement, do not  
be always thinking about some other  
business than that you are now in.  
avoid building castles in the air. acquir<sup>re</sup>  
steadiness of purpose a fixedness of plan  
& a settledness of habit make no more  
changes than are necessary to arrive at  
a complete knowledge of the business that  
you are now in and nothing but necessity  
should induce you to alter the business you  
are now in. remember the old proverb  
that croaking stone gathers no moss you  
will meet with young men as <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>inferior</sup>  
principals but do not be led away by  
them but take the Bible for your guide  
and let your habits be on the side of virtue  
honor and religion.

There I hear the  
Orderly Sergeant calling the Com<sup>pany</sup>  
army together to receive their pay.  
the pay is in treasury notes. I shall  
for some thing similar

the biggest part of mine home  
in this letter unless I alter my  
mind I guess that I will let ~~Chas~~  
take care of it for me if he will  
I guess it will not I make him  
proud seeing he does not put on  
much style he can do as he thinks  
best with it until I come home

I have not  
much news to write you must  
read Ennius letter for that there  
has some amusing ~~even~~ circumstances  
transpired in camp but I have  
not room to relate them on this sheet  
please give my respects to all  
and write me a good long letter  
and let me know how you are  
getting along with your job &c  
And please remember the advice  
of your humble soldier Brother

Gas.

To my dear friends Nathan & Abner