

while I write, my left arm
is suffering from a wound
made by with the doctor's
lance—thus having received
the first wound before going
south. I shall, however, be very
content, if I receive no worse
wounds than that during my
stay. This Regiment is com-
posed of a capital lot of fellows,
—in fact a finer lot of boys
I never saw in our congregation.

We may be some six weeks
longer, during which time I should
very much like to have you come
and see me. I am glad you
have written. And I hope you will
write again. I shall answer when
I can. I have many letters to
write, and yours shall come in
their turn.

Yours Patriotically,

John D. Swettager,
Co. D. Ellsworth Regiment
Albany, N.Y.



"Whatever may happen, cherish the
consolation that I was engaged in the per-
formance of a sacred duty."—Ellsworth's
last words to his friends.

Barracks Ellsworth Reg.
Albany Sept 12, 1861

Friend Del:

"There are more things
in heaven and earth than
are dreamt of in your philos-
ophy." Thus said Shakespeare
in the play of Hamlet. He
was about right. And when
we don't know what a day
may bring forth, how can
we make any preparations for
the morrow? A month ago, if
anyone were to have told me
that I would join the Ellsworth
Regiment, I should not have be-
lieved him. And you may
now think strangely of my dat-
ing my letter from these bar-
racks. So I run a great risk

Granted. Yet I would not leave the regiment for a considerable amount of paper rags and chances to go on "apple-stealing expeditions." By the way, — speaking about apple-stealing expeditions — four of us boys are going to try our fortunes in that direction. Undoubtedly I can speak of some tall climbing before we return to our respective bunks. About twenty minutes ago we returned from dinner. I wish you might just see us now. We march to our meals, each company by itself. We enter the large dining hall, which is ~~in~~ the cellar of the Brick Barracks, where a number of tables are placed (stationary). The dishes are made of an unbreakable material — the plates and cups made of tin, consequently they can very safely be

thumped and jammed about considerably, without receiving any very material injury. Should they happen to get bent, from some cause or other, they may be reformed. We drill three times a day. The first drill takes place at 9 o'clock am., and lasts till 11; the second is from 3 till five, each of which are company drills. At five o'clock p.m. we have Battalion drill, which lasts about an hour. Take it all in all, our duty is not so hard as one might imagine. There only about five hours work in each day; the rest of the time can be taken up ad libitum. Our Company (D) have just been marched up to the doctor's office to have performed on their arms a very interesting surgical operation, being no less than being vaccinated. And