

Camp Columbia, Cuba,

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1900

My dear Jennie:

Your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> reached me today, but still I have not seen dear Ida's letter yet. If you had told me at the time what she said it would have been sufficient, and then it is so easy to slip one letter within another. But instead you say you have the letter, that you will send it later and it never comes. If a letter is worth sending, why not send it at once?

Tracey will be discharged on the 30<sup>th</sup> and he will not re-enlist. He intends to return to the states and seek for employment. He has asked me to give him a letter of recommendation and of course I shall do it, because he is a good worker. My shy friend A-- is very reserved and very respectful except an occasional remark on the side. He is working his point with R-- for all he is worth.

I think if I were you I would not write home and bother them about it. If he is inclined to do anything he will do it; if not all the driving will do not good. An occasional reminder once in 3 or 4 months ought to be sufficient. Our work is now being ostracized and our results are denied so that we must succeed in repeating them before they are generally accepted. The cold season is unfavorable and we may have to delay until next year. I see from the paper that in all probability the Army will be largely increased by the next congress. This may be what S is waiting for, I feel very much encouraged. I rode into town with Major Stark Friday and he told me that Wood had recommended Reed for the White house as the President's physician at the time Wood was relieved. He says it was offered R-- and he refused it.

I think it is a good thing to get that low drunken hag out of the house and I hope you will not have to wait long for another tenant, and that you may get a better and more permanent one.

I am delighted to hear that the little baby is getting along so nicely. I should love to see her look well and strong again and with a good start I think she will pull through next summer without any trouble.

We are living much better down here than formerly and we will have turkeys tomorrow. I wish I could spend the day with you in Washington but it will not be long to Christmas. I think R-- intends to stay down here because he said today to someone else that he thought of having Mrs. R come down for several months after Xmas in the hope that it would benefit her. She is now laid up under Dr. Marsh's treatment with an attack of gout. That looks very much as if I will come back to attend to the college work.

Kiss Mabel, the baby and boys for me and accept love & kisses from

Your affect husband

James