

West Butler Nov 25th 1861

My Very Dear Grandson

As I have been reading your kind letter of the 17th to Estlin I thought it might not be amiss to pen a few lines to you seeing you ^{have} stepped forward as one of the defenders of our free institutions and also supposing you might have some respect for my age and experience, I have no doubt you are in a good cause and hope although you are young you may be a blessing to ~~our~~ our distracted Country and I have no doubt if you pursue a proper course and live to see ~~the~~ the end of the present conflict it may be a benefit to yourself I am aware that you will have many a temptation to vice which it will be very important for you to withstand even on every occasion you undoubtedly will see some hard times but I hope you will remember that your honor the honor of your Country and your Country's God demand that you faithfully discharge your duty as a soldier and give your superiors to believe you may be trusted in every place you may have to face the cannon's mouth or bleed on the battle field but remember that a certain individual ^{Cal} said that resistance to tyrants is obedience to God; my health is rather poor and as I am 70 years old it is not very likely that I shall ever see you again in this life but I shall long remember the pleasant time I had with you and the rest of the family when I was at your Father's. I have 3 Brothers sons one Sisters only son and lots of Cousins in the army all for the Union and may wisdom guide our Rulers that this may soon be brought to a close and that