

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's 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. Swertfager,
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 Parents.

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 Shakspeare
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's
Regiment, I should not have be-
lieved him. And you may
now think strangely of my dat-
ing my letter from these bar-
racks. Do I run a great risk?