

shall make us strangers and
confidently expecting to welcome
the absent to their place in a
much shorter time.

Dr. Halcomb I often heard
of you through A. Chase and
first of your sickness through
him - then that you were unable
to go to Newport News with the
regiment. In a letter from John
Sturtevant last week he spoke
of you as being in Washington still
sick. You do have my sympathy
and should have the best ser-
vices of my hands, if so many mis-
chances not separate us. I know nothing
of Hospital life, but I do know
that sickness away from home
is truly enough. It was one
of my first experiences among
strangers to have the measles -
My comfortable room in a June
day obscured by the heavy fo-

happ of the horse chestnut
furnished more agreeable sur-
roundings than your shelter tent
in a winter's day - I hope your
exposure will not be the cause
of a protracted illness - What
can we, for whom you have given
up some comforts, do for you? I write
to assure you of my thoughts, and
desire to add some comfort to your
present life - Is there not some
luxury you want which I can
send you? Tell me freely as you
would a sister if I can in any
way make any return for all
you are doing for me - I shall
trust you to do so as soon as you
receive this - Tell me how & direct
that there may be no danger of
a package going astray -

Of ourselves, the dwellers on
these granite hills, I can only say
that we are patiently pursuing

on way. must as when you
left. — the absent are every
where missed — aside from the
vacant places, the streets the
shop are unchanged — We are
in the midst of a true New-
England winter — now deep —
thermometer 12 & 16 below zero —
Does this make you think of
Vermont? We thought we were
going to escape with a southern
winter, but March has brought
us what January failed to do —
The near approach of April threatens
to destroy this fine appearance of
winter. I am glad for the sake
of those living in tents — With the
Spring comes thought of marches,
of battles — all that is perfect
in war — The righteousness of our
Cause alone makes it possible