

United States 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. or  
Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1862 Fort Fisher

My dear Mother,

Charles wrote me that he should start for Washington yesterday: if he went I presume you will feel more lonely. I directed a letter to him a day or two since but sent it under cover to you as I thought he might be gone. I think I have written him other letters which he has not received, for I had answered all his questions & so on that he seemed to be uncertain about judging from his last letters. We are still in the same place. I heard that we were to have reinforcements, Gen. Couch said some 16000 to the Right Grand Div<sup>n</sup>. We will then probably hold till these troops come up. The enemy have much heavy artillery across the river in position and mean to contest our passage and unless our crossing is managed very carefully, we shall suffer



a very many less if not defeat. It is the most  
difficult of military operations to crush a river  
in the face of an enemy of equal  
strength. We could easily have done it the  
day we arrived but Mr. Mallett had  
withheld the ponton bridge and it was  
impracticable to move over without it &  
folly to throw over a small force for the  
enemy to crush us at Balls Bluff. We had to  
wait and while waiting the enemy brought  
a hundred thousand men to our front  
and Jackson brought some 30,000 to threaten  
our base of supplies - so you see, a game that  
both armies can play at, and one that  
the ~~small~~ item of a bridge may  
disconcert if the bridge is not at the right  
place at the right time. However we may  
get impatient but God's ways are not always  
our ways and he will doubtless regulate  
us to his own praise. I feel that I am  
too little dependant on him, too disposed  
to be ambitious. You must pray for me  
that I may be kept in the right path.

We have a very beautiful place for our ~~head~~ winter  
tents and the weather holds good. Capt  
Whittlesby has got entirely well, &  
thoroughly conversant with the duties of his  
department. I cannot be too thankful  
for the good Providence that has sent him  
here. I find Lieut. Stinson a good aid & an  
excellent young man. I am glad I chose  
him. I meant to have written you  
a longer letter but the mail carrier  
is waiting. Give love to Father & Mother.  
I hope her brother Clark is home by  
this time. Good bless you

Yr. affectionate Son

J. D. Mervin



Hamming Dec. 2, 1862

My dear Brother

I think I wrote  
in my last that I would write  
once a fortnight! I must have  
been deceived about that time.  
I meant I will write often.  
Ella has been at Bath with  
Danie now a little over a  
week. I went down <sup>to Bath</sup> Thurs-  
day & returned Sat. spending  
a night at Leeds with Mother  
& Charles. I suppose he starts  
today for your Head Quarters -  
going as far as Leoviston. I  
hope he will not hurry on unless  
you need him. I think he  
is pretty well now, but not  
strong & not capable of enduring  
fatigue. Mother seemed well  
& to take Charles departure  
quietly - tho: doubtless she feels  
as I do, that we <sup>may</sup> not see

him (nor you) again "this  
side Jordan". I often feel that  
my life I would willingly give  
if it would <sup>be</sup> a mile towards  
putting down this Rebellion &  
I could part with my dear  
brothers with greater equanimity;  
it seems to me, for this  
cause than for any other.  
The hearts of the people are  
becoming dejected & the times  
are crying "peace - peace on any  
terms!" The Educated - moral  
& religious classes of Society  
must "hold up the standards  
that hang down & strengthen the  
feeble knees" - O for the Eloquence  
of a Henry - O for the Prudence  
moderation & patient, unwavering  
perseverance & undaunted fortitude  
of a Washington! I look  
upon this Rebellion as I  
would upon a great criminal



is not performed - our obligations are not met. if we leave a single thing untried to bring these manuscripts of human law to condign punishment. My feelings of benevolence are more & more excited for the slave, & I took occasion to denounce the dread that many have of abolition, as well as the prejudice so generally entertained against the negro Race, as un-Christian - not in accordance with the spirit of the Gospel as embodied in the Golden Rule, last Lab. Evening. I then asked a good democratic Deacon to pray. He prayed over the slaves & freed-men & prayed that we might feel right towards



Who, having committed a  
Capital Crime, is endeavoring  
to escape justice = No amount  
of means, no no: of friends,  
no respectability, derived from  
mere power - no success in eluding  
the avenging rod - can alter  
my estimate of the turpitude  
of the crime - the punishment  
due it, nor the great moral  
obligation resting upon "the power  
that be" to inflict it = Surely  
if a single murderer or thief  
is visited with the full penalty  
of the law - those who have  
directly or indirectly promoted  
the Rebellion, with its thousands  
of murders & its millions stolen -  
should not escape = God will  
fix the responsibility and  
punish the offenders - whether  
human justice over takes  
them or not, but Our duty



the Rebels. <sup>"may"</sup> This ought to  
to have done but not  
left the other undone. I  
wish to feel towards the Rebels  
as I would towards any  
band of outlaws. Among them  
are many deceived & innocent,  
but the essence of the Rebellion  
& those that constitute it - is  
against human & divine law.  
I pray for the criminal that  
he may repent. I teach him.  
I pity him - but if he is  
a murderer. I would hang  
him. I can't get this idea  
of simple justice - righteous  
penalty - into my deacons  
mind. Charity, mercy &  
many other virtues, he loves -  
~~for~~ But unswerving, unbending  
justice - such as the Bible  
teaches is the attribute of  
God - he can't comprehend



Lizzie has not written me  
since you left Augusta. I  
sold part of the wood and  
sent her the proceeds. It had  
become wet & heavy by reason  
of being out of doors & I con-  
cluded to take the balance &  
will send her a fair price  
for the ~~balance~~ <sup>on</sup> Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> = Our  
Winter has fairly opened (or  
that<sup>er</sup>) the weather is excellent  
the weather cold & blustering. I  
am in Winter Quarters - the house  
has a "hauking" - the new furnace  
heats well, my Ding has a  
new stove and temporal  
matters are well enough. I  
wish you could share my  
comforts & conveniences - and yet  
I often envy your life of  
stirring activity. Where every  
day presents its own duties  
inestimably = I never am



20 happy as on days when  
I am most active with  
things that must be done - But  
it is hard to be responsible  
for your own time & its improve-  
ment - to devise methods of  
usefulness - & to furnish  
sermons, that shall not  
be flat, stale & unprofitable -  
I have now a Bible Class Monday  
evenings wh. promises well - Last  
Sat. the funeral services of a  
Vol. in 16<sup>th</sup> Wm. crowded our  
house of worship - I preached  
with some ease & enjoyment  
on "the uses of affliction" and  
the special consolations that friends  
here also give a dear one to  
their Country - I am trying  
to keep up a correspondence  
with all our Church mem-  
bers who are in the Army -



Dec. 3-

Charles will be likely to  
reach you as soon as  
this letter & will bring  
the latest news from home.  
Huldah is to be buried  
today - Charles will tell you  
about her. I called Sat.  
saw her & prayed with George  
& the children - He seems deeply  
affected - He has been unto  
him Rudden & company and  
in spite of both he has  
often wiped his countenance: I  
am glad she has found  
her "rest" - I expect Ella  
& Danie tonight - I hear  
incidentally from a lady  
Mrs W. W. Thomas of Portland  
that you forgot to give <sup>or send</sup> her  
a Photograph you promised -  
With kind remembrance  
to Col. Sewall & Capt Whittier  
Yr. aff. Bro. R. W. R. R. R.



Hd. Br. 2nd Div. & Co.

New Falmouth Va.

Dec. 3d 1862

Dearest

I have got up, got washed & got dressed and caught Whittier's song. It is six minutes after seven, as the sun rises somewhat earlier in your country than here I must imagine you already up, unless you are lazy and lie abed in the morning which I believe you never do. If Ann & Jennie sleep together where does Lizzie sleep? Alone or with Lucy in the little room? I shall have to go home or find out. I presume Charles will reach Washington today, but I do not expect him here before next Monday. Yesterday I mounted "Charlie" and rode to Mr. Sumner's, some two or three miles Easterward from sight of Falmouth in a large brick house. I gathered very little from



time as to movements. Probably we shall  
attempt a crossing before long. It will  
be a difficult operation at the best.  
But I think we can do it when we  
get ready we are to be pretty strongly  
reinforced today or tomorrow -  
I shall probably get a regiment  
more. Col Swale is still at Bull Station.  
We have been intrenching batteries  
drilling & changing camps. I am  
going out this morning to see Col  
Hull with his Brigade and show him  
where we are to cross a bridge, if he  
does not know already. These  
fine young Audets know everything  
almost. Col Hull is married. I  
believe I told you, I had a visit from  
Mrs Hull while at Harpers Ferry. Hull  
is a very good officer. All of us are  
well. Dr Palmer was at Harpers Ferry  
when I last heard from him & was  
expecting to be sent to Frederick.  
Dr Sherman ~~was~~ Dr Scigen

has gone to Washington. He was a  
member of Congress from N.Y. State  
and gave his services as a Surgeon  
during the war: quite advanced  
in life I should think upwards of  
60 yrs. How is he this morning? I  
suppose you have had more snow  
before this and perhaps he has played  
in it, but may not without some new  
boots & mittens. I shall expect that that  
drifting gown by Charlie a little. I  
have made the other answer for  
an outside night gown. I take  
off my clothes, except drawers I put  
on the dressing gown. It keeps  
my back warm when the robe  
does it stay tucked. John  
sometimes is called up to put on  
coat or feet. But I generally sleep  
very warm. The mail is early, has  
letters to Grace & Fannie as well as  
my. And then you think you all  
Mr. Timson / affectionately - This  
is well.



but likewise as devout, and constant follower  
 of our Blest Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ  
 Again thanking you for the many kind words  
 I have received from you and earnestly hoping  
 you will be preserved for the sake of all who  
 may be fortunate enough to know you. I am  
 Sir with very great respects your humble  
 servant

Thomas R. Devereux  
 510. North Eleventh St. Phil  
 formerly a member of your Bible Class at  
 West Point

Philadelphia 3<sup>d</sup> December 1863

Genl. Harward

Dear Sir,

I have often thought  
 of you, and the excellent advice you used to give us  
 (the members of your bible class at West Point) and I  
 should have written you before, had I been aware  
 how to address a letter that would find you, it is  
 some two weeks since I have found how to write you  
 Mr G. P. Fraser leader of the band formerly attached  
 to Genl. Sumner's brigade informed you were the same  
 I had the honor of knowing, I read of your losing  
 your arm, and deeply sympathized with you, not  
 knowing at that time, you were the man that gave  
 us such excellent advice, I have taken great interest  
 in the events that have transpired since the  
 beginning of this terrible war, and have made many  
 efforts, to get a commission so that I could join  
 those brave hearts in fighting for the restoration of  
 our glorious union, but up to now, all my efforts  
 have failed, some Colonels informing me it  
 would be necessary to have money or great



Philadelphia 23 June 1862

My dear General

Dear Sir,

political influence, neither of which, I confidently  
possessed, or I would have paid any amount, as  
it is a life I have been used to. My father  
was an officer in the British service, and  
I have had some experience in the same  
Army. It gave me much pleasure to learn that  
Mr. McCook had attained such an eminent  
position, it is gratifying to think that the merits  
of such officers are not overlooked and that  
politics does not entirely rule, if it were not for party  
favoritism. I think the Army would be much more  
efficient, it is a bad system to appoint men  
as officers whose only merits consist in belonging  
to the Republican or Democratic parties. The only  
consideration should be, who are the best qualified  
for command. Dear Sir! if there is any position  
you could procure for me, you would confer an  
a great favor by recommending me for it. I would be  
extremely grateful if you could get me a company  
however subordinate it may be, and if I could  
only be so fortunate as to be attached to your  
Regiment, I am sure you would never be sorry for  
having recommended me. I have been well used to a  
military life and should be delighted to serve  
under a man who is not only a good soldier.



I will enclose you \$300.  
 Write us soon as you  
 get it.

Dear Mr. Main & wife  
 My kind regards to Mrs. Stinson  
 & husband.

city. May gave me so much encouragement  
 about the shipping gown that I hoped Charles  
 would bring it on: but there is no haste as I  
 shall have plenty of old coats, as soon as I get  
 to be a Major General. I received a letter  
 the other day; no, Capt Smith received it,  
 saying I had been promoted, but the  
 letter was too fast. My name was sent  
 up with many others, but the appointment  
 suspended, probably till the President gets law-  
 authority to make more Major Generals. I  
 did not feel very much disappointed. Mrs  
 Whittier had returned to Maine last Monday.  
 The Captain continues in excellent health.  
 Mrs Stinson is well. He has bought a  
 horse of Capt. Whittier. His pay, acts  
 were sent in with mine but the paymaster  
 wanted the evidence that he had been  
 mustered in to the U.S. Service. Where  
 that is furnished he will get his  
 pay. Don May & have slide much?  
 Give them my love & Sam's Papa's  
 love & a kiss apiece. Remember me  
 kindly to Mrs. Clark & daughter  
 The blessings of God upon you.

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 Your husband  
 Wm. May Jr.

I wrote to Mother a few days ago. Charles says her mind  
 grows weaker & grows old. We hope of it again that she thinks  
 of me & of the world. I am very well &  
 strong.

Near Falmouth Va.  
 Head Quarters 2nd Div.  
 2nd Corps Dec. 5th 1862.

I received your letter within  
 27th (Thanksgiving day) day  
 before yesterday. A good cheerful letter.  
 I found one from Charles within the same  
 day from home telling of his visit  
 to you. The two together gave me  
 a very complete picture of home.  
 Charles put off coming till Wednesday.  
 It is now Friday. He is probably in Wash-  
 ington tonight. I shall not look for him  
 before Monday or Tuesday. We are now  
 having a heavy storm. It rained & then  
 snowed and is again raining; though  
 the snow and ice are clinging to the trees.  
 I have stopping at my Head Quarters.  
 Mr. Richardson a correspondent of the  
 N.Y. Tribune. He takes occasion, with-  
 outstanding my prohibition, to use



my name are in awhile, as in describing  
our march from Warrenton to this place.  
In the last paper he mentioned Gen.  
His Head Mr. which I will enclose if I can  
find the Tribune that contains it. I don't  
like puffs. They may please the vanity  
but they are not wholesome. I think a  
good deal of Senator Morrill and not the  
less for his domestic qualities. I should  
like to slide downhill too. Just think  
of it to be 32 & 30, staid people with  
gray hairs and some them or fore children.  
I wrote a letter to Mrs Jameson last night.  
I had thought of it quite <sup>often</sup> but I did it  
must <sup>take</sup> courage till last night. Left  
Smith's brother & my cousin my  
received a letter from his mother giving  
a description of Jameson's last hours &  
speaking of the severity of the blow to  
his wife. He asked her the evening  
before his death (I remember rightly) if they  
(he & she) were alone. She said yes. Then  
he said "repeat the Lord's prayer." She did so.

and he tried to repeat it after her and  
said "amen" distinctly. She went on to  
ask that he might be spared to them a  
little longer. He checked her and said "no  
more". At another time he said "it will  
be his hardest trial" Speaking to her father  
of his wife, and then added "whom he  
loved like chastity". His last hours  
were doubtless those of a Christian.  
brought in "purified as by fire" through  
much bodily suffering and perhaps not  
less, mental. He was a kind hearted man  
and a gentleman. He was ambitious to rise  
a gallant officer, sacrificed on the altar of  
his country, for the Peninsula laid the  
disasters upon him, which terminated  
in his death. Tell James papa is going to  
try and get another arm one of these days.  
What will he say then. You can send  
me a bundle by express direct: Via Washington  
Army of the Potomac." Write when you  
send and if it does not come I will  
send for it by some one going to the








more and work of the order is given and  
I am anxious to have the work done  
for I wish to return to civil & civilized  
life. I am not unhappy; the most of  
the time quite the reverse. My  
health is good; I have a good appetite,  
sleep well and am able to endure  
a great deal of fatigue. With these  
blessings almost any body is  
cheerful. It is very possible, the  
progress of events seems so to indi-  
cate, that the very incompetency of our  
leaders is God's way of blessing  
the Nation. Why? because his  
object is to humble, disoriental.  
I purify the nation & our unity  
to prevent disruption. Slavery, which  
has given us so much trouble must  
"go by the board". We want to  
have a settlement, but no  
settlement is to be had at pres-  
ent. In the meantime, the  
appropen are going free. I hope you

and justice are very well. Who (what man)  
is with you? I suppose Isabella has  
gone. I will learn all about things  
at home when Wharton gets here. I  
am anxious to see him and get  
almost afraid to have him  
leave houses for tents at this  
inclement season. We have a large  
wall tent to eat in and have had  
no fire in it yet. We generally eat  
with our hats and overcoats on.

Today I proposed to make a  
"california pin-place". Perhaps  
you are anxious to know how  
they are constructed. You dig a  
 hole in the  
ground somewhere in the compass  
of the tent and then lead a small  
trench to the outside and place  
two <sup>empty</sup> ~~much~~ barrels without boards  
over the end, cover the trench &  
part of the hole with flat stones  
and dirt on top. The hole is the



I feel sure to expose my personal  
stuff to the hazards of a battle. I  
hope God may see fit to spare us  
all as He did at Antietam. My dear  
his heart, I should like to see him  
and talk with him this morning.

Thomas, the former owner of Libe,  
was in hoping to see Charles. He has got  
the jaundice and is feeling quite  
unwell. Capt W. has a bad cold. I  
am well. My arm does not trouble  
me much. I can lie on my right  
side part of the night. I do not think  
I am half thankful enough for  
my blessings and I feel that I am  
a great sinner before God. Every  
time I open my Bible I read. "This:  
Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened,  
that it cannot save; neither his ear,  
because it cannot hear". There  
I always see the next passage & fear  
of for me. But I remember the Lord  
our Saviour. Anna & Gamaliel would  
like to have two sweet little  
from loving husband. Ours

Near Falmouth Va.

December 9. 1862

Dearest.

We are still in the same place  
but from all appearances may not be here  
long: for last night our teams were  
detached to help draw boats, logs  
for corduroying &c. which looks like  
an attempt to cross. We shall stay  
here till the rest get fairly over, how  
long I cannot tell. Charles wrote me Friday  
from Washington. The auction still  
demanded other certificates. I must  
certify that I did not draw forage or hay  
for the dead horses. I must certify that  
I bought horses to replace each of the  
horses lost. I don't know what will  
come next. Charles letter was delayed  
in getting to me, reaching here last night. He  
cannot get my reply before tonight &  
get through his business before tomorrow  
night: So I shall not much expect to see

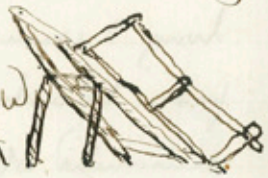


him before Thursday noon if as soon as  
that. I have just got a new Regiment  
the 12<sup>th</sup> Penn. assigned to Col. Hall's  
Brigade. and I must see about encamp-  
ing it. Afternoon. Quite a large Regt.  
the Col is named Jennings. He must  
think a good deal of home. for almost  
his first inquiry was, how he could  
get his mail. He seemed like a  
good officer, handling his men well.  
Capt. Whittelsey has been making  
us a door to the tent.

The lower frame is fixed  
so as to incline as the tent  
does and is propped up as in the figure.

The canvas is nailed to the outer frame  
which constitutes the door. Capt. & I  
would like to see our cedar washstand.

Capt. Whittelsey says there is  
an advantage in that Wash-  
stand for it never troubles over.  
They can see my water pail  
and wash basin. Paper was



delighted to get their letters and  
would write them now if he  
could. Dearest, I am now writing  
Wednesday morning Dec 10.  
Before you get this letter you  
will get the news of a battle.  
I try to rely chiefly on my Saviour  
in these trying hours. If anything  
should happen to me, I feel that  
I have committed you all to  
God and I hope to meet my  
wife and children in Heaven.  
May the divine presence relieve  
you from all excess of sorrow  
and the little ones find in Jesus  
one to love & trust. I have no  
forebodings of disaster, but I know  
the desperate nature of our under-  
taking. But if it is the will of God  
it will be easily accomplished.  
Charles has not reached here and I am  
not sure in how long he will not come  
before Thursday. Mr. Stinson is well



on the floor near me. I am sitting on this floor, near a  
fire <sup>place</sup>, just like Professor Schmidt, sitting on my lap  
<sup>having</sup> an inkstand <sup>and paper</sup> & a large portfolio  
with Tom, a little colored boy, holding up the  
outer edge. <sup>Tom</sup> ~~the~~ chops asleep now & then & my candle sticks  
with its light tinkled with its ink slip down, - but  
I wake Tom & it is all righted. Tom also acts as paper  
clasp at the bottom of pages. "Tom" works for Capt W-  
and Johns, & as you see for me - anybody works for me  
darning, but rebels. Any & I have will be much  
interested in paper's letter, and Jennie can be told  
that papa found a little white pussy here & a big big dog-  
big as here. ~~Much~~ Love to my precious children  
and a prayer to God in their & your behalf. That  
he will bless you & keep you all as his faithful  
children. By the Military Committee I learn that I  
am unanimously recommended for a Maj Gen. It  
seems now less strange that I have become accustomed  
to a larger command. Oh, that I may increase in love  
to God, who so abundantly blesses me. Much regard for  
Mrs Stinson. Harry is a man, a brave & true one -  
he is amongst my blessings. My love to Chas. W.  
I wrote him a long letter; he has not replied - Chas. has  
written brother. He may be in until today. We truly  
in love <sup>do</sup> for us - affectionately your own  
Olio

Old Hunter 2nd Div<sup>n</sup> 2nd Corps  
Knox House Fredericksburg Va.  
Dec 13. 1862

Dearest,

I have waked this morning at 3 a.m.  
and not feeling sleepy I thought I would write  
you a few lines. On Thursday we left camp at  
6 1/2 A.M. and moved down near the R.R. &  
near the place of crossing <sup>the river</sup>. At 8 I sent Col. Hall's  
Brigade to support Bathins & aid the crossing. The  
engineers succeeded in getting the bridge about half  
done. When the fire of the Sharpshooters became  
so great & close that they desisted and it was  
impossible to get them to work. In the mean time  
our batteries were pouring in shot & shells concentra-  
ting their fire on the Sharpshooters position. but  
they were in a block house, in cellars, in rifle pits,  
behind stone walls & buildings. Finally, at about  
4 in the afternoon, Lt Col Baxter with his regt. 7th thick  
of Hall's brigade, volunteered to cross in boats and drive  
the enemy off from the bridge head. The engineers  
were to get the boats ready. This they failed to do, two or  
three would get hold of a big boat and as soon as fired at  
would run back. Finally Lt Col. Baxter said he  
would put the boats in and did so with his men  
at once and filled them & showed off. One man was  
killed & himself wounded. They pushed to the other bank



disembarked and rushed for the houses, cellars &c -  
our company took 32 prisoners. The 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan  
held the bank. The 19<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts followed, then  
the 20<sup>th</sup>, then the 5<sup>th</sup> N.Y. The bank was now held in  
sufficient force & the engineers put down the bridge.  
I moved up the rest of my Div<sup>n</sup> by Gen. Banck's direction,  
and just as soon as the bridge was completed, the rest  
of Hall's brigade, the 42<sup>nd</sup> N.Y. <sup>12<sup>th</sup> Penn.</sup> followed by Col Owen's  
brigade moved over the bridge. I followed this brigade  
with my staff. Meanwhile the enemy's batteries had found  
our range and shells & shot struck close to the column.  
but I believe <sup>by the blessing of God</sup> not a man was killed or fear much. The 12<sup>th</sup>  
band undertook to play, but just as the instruments were  
put to their mouths a shot struck right amongst  
them and they fell on their faces. then scattered, so our  
only music was, cannon & musketry fire. I sent Col. Hale  
to the front, Col Owen to the left through the town and  
kept Gen. Sully in reserve near the bridge head. It was  
getting quite dark, but the Regt. pushed forward. The  
fire from houses & round corners was deadly. The 20<sup>th</sup> Mass  
lost 19 <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> killed & 81 wounded. Capt. Cabot was killed &  
4 opps. wounded. The 19<sup>th</sup> Mass. had 8 killed. The 7<sup>th</sup>  
Mich had 5 killed. The 19<sup>th</sup> N.Y. also lost some. We  
got as far as the 3<sup>d</sup> street parallel with the river and  
I ordered firing to cease, as soon as it could be done.  
We placed our pickets. Our men were in the houses &  
pillaging & destroying, went on to some extent. Women  
& men who had spent the day in cellars came for  
protection. No instance of abuse occurred that I heard of.

Some mothers brought little children for protection  
to crops. A few men got into wine cellars & got  
pretty drunk. I took Gen. J. in a little old house  
battered to pieces, <sup>somewhat</sup> by our shot, but all stopped with  
us. I did not sleep much and not frequently to going  
the men. Another Regt. Brigade came over the bridge miles  
1/2 a mile below, comd. by Col Hankins, Dexter's brother.  
This bridge was built like ours, by throwing men in  
boats, after they heard what we had done. Col H. reported  
to me and took post on my left. At 3 A.M. I  
went around the outline pickets and found all  
quiet, no enemy near. At daylight stream forward  
Genl Sully & Col Owen, took the whole town and  
picked the front range of heights away clear by.  
During the day we have had a little skirmishing. The enemy  
have shelled us from their hills, but the army has  
been cropping. Gen Franklin is over, so is the summer.  
Today the heights will be attempted. By God's blessing we will  
be successful. Brewster says he puts his trust in  
God. He made some remarks to a room full of Generals  
on Wednesday evening. He heard they had announced  
he rebuked them, & told them he lacked. but his trust  
was in God. Solomon, Noble, Mansly & Johnston were  
his remarks, and God will bless him. We are now in  
a house abandoned by the Knox and near the front line.  
One or two shells have passed clean through it - but  
my room is in pretty good shape. Gen. joined, of course  
the day before the battle. is well & sleeping - so are Mr  
Stinson, Capt Whillsey & Mr Atwood & the staff.



Headquarters 2nd Div<sup>n</sup>  
2nd Corps Fort Pickens  
Dec. 15. 1862

Dearest,

I would write you often  
but my labor, of all kinds, makes  
me feel almost unfit to write  
when I get a chance. We have  
had another terrible battle. One  
slightly wounded, but of little account,  
a piece of a shell hit him on the  
rubber boot near the top and took a small  
piece out of his left leg - his horse was  
standing on my left and touching me.  
- "Charlie" my horse was wounded slightly,  
in the cubicle by a musket ball.  
All my staff had their horses wounded  
two of which had their killed. Mr. Stinson,  
& Ottwood were often exposed but not  
scratched. God has been good to us  
indeed. I will not describe the battle



but say that I supported  
our works and held my  
ground from 1 P.M. for over  
12 hours until relieved by  
other troops - only 100 yds from  
the enemies rifle pits - my  
men lying down - one of  
my nights - stand till from P.M.

My Dear, When some of Gen. Hooker's  
men who came to relieve me surprised  
them off in a retrograde movement.  
They brought a piece I understand  
four days & cut us up terribly -  
but with wounded not badly -  
but Gen. ditto. Much love to  
my precious children & to yourself.  
My reliance upon my Saviour, I  
feel to be unshaken.

This hard work will  
soon be over I hope  
God bless you, Oh how  
wonderful love in abundance  
to her  
Yours truly, Mary Anne  
Otho



operate heartily.

We have had an almost  
omniscient acquaintance with  
a rich & eccentric lady - our  
next neigh for and our host  
Saturday night. She was glad  
to have us come in & sleep  
there for her protection but  
showed so much unwillingness  
of our smoking her house.  
Had I & letting our meat  
there that we came into  
this. Parsonage and we  
feel much more at home  
with<sup>a</sup> house of our own - Had  
feather beds on the floor bed  
night & night have slept  
beautifully had we not  
been waked up about 2 1/2 times  
by order & other matters of business.  
Otis is writing you by my side  
so this letter will not be so  
important as I thought. It will how-  
ever assure you of the love of your  
brother S. H. B.

Had I & 2<sup>d</sup> Division  
Fredericksburg Va.  
Dec. 15, 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

For fear Otis may  
not get time to write I send you  
word that we are all safe and  
well. We had a fearful battle  
on Saturday and we were exposed  
much and long but - the Lord  
shielded not only Otis and me  
but all our staff. No fight-  
ing yesterday, for which we were  
doubtly thankful because it was  
the Lord's day and because we  
were weary from the tension of  
the day before. Otis' and my  
horses were slightly wounded - not  
enough to disable them - I had  
a very slight wound by a bit of  
shell in calf of the leg but it  
will not put me off duty. My new



rubber boots protected my leg.

It is a beautiful morning, warm as September - The ground is damp and somewhat muddy -

We were disturbed many times last night as 5 Regt. of our command on our picket & this has the responsibility of looking out for our attack.

I think we may not be in action again at present tho' it is possible - We failed to carry the works in front & some other plan than pressing right here has undoubtedly been adopted. Liegel will probably be sent down South - down river I mean to outflank them.

We have good quarters, Lt. Wilson I like much. He was brave & gallant <sup>the day of the battle</sup> in the highest sense and both our brigade Commanders

and their staffs say they will vote him a Brigadier General.

I have got my promotion as 1st Lt. and this is sure to be Major General if he is spared. The Lord is very gracious to us - How kindly he deals with us all - Many, many friends have been laid low. Gen. <sup>Levell</sup> was wounded, not dangerously - So was Col. Miles formerly of our staff. Gen. Bayard is said to have been killed. Col. Croft was badly wounded.

Gen. Leavelle is very genial and is disposed to deal justly with all - Not a man of caprice nor is he obnoxiously willful as some Generals in high places are liable to be. This likes his Brigade Commander, much and they co-



Address

Wm H. West - Warren

Brown - 45 New York St - N.Y.

Phil. West - N.Y.

He

Phil. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Mr. Howard

Your letter bearing  
date of the 18<sup>th</sup> I received  
today. On first opening it I felt  
disappointed seeing it contained  
not business but - on reading  
it my disappointment left -  
I hasten to reply to it -  
Answering the sooner you receive  
this the sooner I will receive  
yours and my friend's letter which  
I shall be obliged - personally  
expecting. Please let me I  
hear of Emma's business too.



about Mr. Good. Until the last battle  
I could get no information for some time  
of a kind or was. I know he went back after  
morning and that he called at Charles and  
I think I heard of a visit of a day or two  
I heard that Mr. Good was living in this  
city and I don't know how true it is.  
Please tell Mr. Good and Jimmy that I mean  
send a line to Howard. Charles and I long  
very much to get there - letters and otherwise.  
What - I think Mr. Good - may give - Mr. Good and  
always want to get Charles of mind and help me in the  
study papers of

I would like to know whether  
you or Grace ever speaks of  
them. The time. I think you  
would know now if he  
said so - but I am afraid you  
would not. Is there any  
chance of you ever coming to  
Philadelphia to visit your  
friends for if I remember  
rightly you have some living  
here. I am glad - I would  
like to see you and the  
children here. I believe  
I could take it as a  
special gratification of my  
wishes from him - that I can  
do all things. I watch the  
papers closely to find all accounts



Head Quarters near  
Falmouth Va. Dec. 17, 62

Dearest,

I feel the exhaustion  
of the past few days labor & exertion  
so much that I neglect even  
my precious little family. After the  
battle of Saturday we had a working  
night of it: my division, after remain-  
ing for more than 12 hours within  
a hundred paces of the enemy's lines  
were withdrawn <sup>being relieved</sup> coming back to Falmouth.  
The next day Sunday was  
comparatively quiet all day. Monday my  
division were picketing the front again.  
The enemy shelled us badly & on one  
occasion three regiments abandoned their position.  
I had been at work laying out defenses  
was in a high cupola, a mile off, when  
I saw a regiment giving back. Hears-  
ing it was mine I hastened to bring  
up others. The most of the abandoned  
ground was retaken, under the fire of



with my command - then had a  
detail of 625 men for entrenching.  
just as a part of them got to work, we  
were ordered to retreat to the old  
camp. This we did. Our tents are  
refilled. Old Micket lines restit-  
lished and we are trying to rest. I  
have addressed the entire command -  
regiment after regiment & 4 par have  
done some harm. as I said some  
truths to those regts, that did  
badly. Words wound was so slight that  
he does not mention it. I have had  
a new tent stowed today & am  
having a fire place put in. I am  
going into winter quarters. Give much  
love & many kisses to my precious  
children & brothers you all.

Mr Stinson is well -

Your loving  
husband  
Otis

Dec 18 Thursday. We are all well  
& nicely rested this morning. My  
birthday has passed. Poppe will try  
and get a team to go to Phil<sup>a</sup> as soon  
as he can be spared, to fit a new  
arm. Wonder if somebody would  
not like to meet me there,  
Mamma, Hower, Jay or Jamie?  
You must inform Mrs Stinson  
& Mrs Blaine that Harry  
is noble & brave and deserves  
just as much praise as if he  
had defeated the enemy.  
I must make out my report today  
and get my new house (tent) in  
order. I am perfectly well.  
What mourning and depression  
there is in our land today.  
Read the 44th Ps. It just  
describes us, only we are  
sinful. Much love  
Otis



Enjoy it much more, spiritually,  
probably - than if flushed &  
vain of a great victory - &  
for more humility - God must  
crush us all before we  
can safely rise & prosper!  
I do not hear at all  
from Lizzie and the dear  
little children - Farnell  
thinks your promotion & Perry's  
will be made simultaneously &  
very soon - He has lost one  
his most faithful & best  
friends, in Mr Sampson -  
We have a Christmas Festival  
for our Sol. this year -

Our people are healthy  
and some, I hope, are praying -  
"O Lord Revive thy work!"  
Give my love to Charles & kind  
regards to Capt W. Off G. Rowland

Fannington Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>/62

Dear Brother Olis

We hope tonight  
will bring us some news from  
some quarter concerning  
you & Charles - Farnell has  
been home to attend the  
funeral of his Brother-in-law  
Mr Sampson - & says he heard  
in Washington that you & yr  
Staff were safe - That & the  
Meager acct. in our news-  
papers of Lt's battle & the  
subsequent Retreat is all  
that we have heard - We  
were led by Sunday's dispatches  
to think that the assault  
on the Enemy was only partial,  
but when I read them &  
learned of the repulse - I  
was very anxious till I  
heard that the Army was



safe back again: "Safe" did  
I say. O may God comfort  
the widows, fatherless, & childless  
made so in that assault!  
I am not sorry that it  
was made: Nothing else  
could have demonstrated  
that the work could not  
be carried: The People will  
now more patiently endure  
slower & surer progress.  
I write in the hope that  
your Division did nothing  
to cause chagrin to their  
Commander, and that  
those nearest you were spared  
tho: the End is again pain-  
fully "postponed" = Poor Charles  
Hutchins! His name last  
night was among the  
"killed" & no comment = His  
family are in Augusta =  
Uncle Esig & Laura

Spent the last night here  
& he is to hear the news  
to Uncle Charles & Aunt Hannah  
Knapp tonight = Capt Belcher  
of this place is wounded -  
& he of all the 3 years Quota  
lost of Leeds & Farmington  
who went in the 16<sup>th</sup> is the  
<sup>only one</sup> ~~all~~ we have heard from =  
We hear nothing from Long  
except that he is Maj: of  
3<sup>d</sup> Mr: Ella & Baby are very  
well - We have the "Circle"  
tonight & probably a house  
full of our parishioners = Father  
spent a day & two nights with  
us - (RR meeting) so did Elias  
Father & Mother = Mr. Casperson  
died of apoplexy after only  
16 hours illness. He was a  
good man = We mean to  
observe New Year Day as a  
Day of Fasting & Prayer = We



Ka Nin 1<sup>st</sup> Wm. Hops

Dec. 19 1862

Near Falmouth

Dear Lizzie

Otis has at length got in the reports of Brigade Commanders and is this afternoon busy in writing his report. He sits near me for I am in his tent - Perhaps you are not aware that he has a new tent all by himself - It is pitched upon Stockade walls of timber some 3 or 4 feet high and will be more comfortable in cold weather.

It is moderate today. The war-committee of Congress are down here - We cannot divine the future but trust the Lord -



Love to all - from papa  
+ uncle Charlie -

It's says he is going to write  
some decent letters just as  
soon as he gets his reports  
out - affectionately  
C. H. H.



that you made a bad move when  
you moved to Augusta - for  
Mrs. DeFauve or Mrs. French  
would have told you, that  
in the old district your husband  
was intended for Congress &  
in the new Blaine outwits  
him. What a pity you had  
not thought of it - but can  
we wait till Blaine is  
a Senator? I have no higher  
thought now than to do what  
I can to save my country.  
and this is the highest I can  
manage for I believe in doing  
this I am saving God. We  
should have the high troops  
in which the brigade commander  
speaks of the conduct of Ham  
Stinson. Whose wound was so  
slight he does not speak of it.  
I hope you are nicely. God bless  
stronger than you darling -  
Sincerely Otis

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Went Mr. near Halemouth  
Va. Dec 20 1862  
Dear Sir,

I received your letter  
written last Sunday last night, Friday.  
I thought the telegraph would have  
apprised you of Saturday battle &  
of the affairs of capturing the river  
and seizing the city. This morning  
my report went in - tabular lists of  
the killed wounded & missing have  
been sent before. This morning  
we sent up the names. My note  
on a good letter and what is better he sent  
proper himself in Ambrotyp. It  
is good indeed. My little black eye  
boy is all I lack. But I shall not  
object to the war with you. I presume  
before this reaches you, you will have  
heard of our repulse. I cannot say  
much about it. I am now in the  
fog. I have just heard that Seward  
had left the cabinet and if the



Lincoln reorganizes his cabinet with  
he better it. I feel more & more  
the end of a General humiliation  
before had to wait upon him &  
know his will. A letter <sup>to</sup> from  
the rebel General Jackson  
came into my possession, this  
morning, from his wife: just  
before the birth of a daughter. The  
first part was written & the rest  
after, purporting to come  
from the child. The matter was  
so touching & so sacred that  
I sent it directly to Gen. Burnside  
and asked him to forward it by the  
first flag of truce. I am now the  
only Union officer in this Div<sup>n</sup>.  
Gen. Sully has been sent to com<sup>d</sup>  
Gen. French's Div<sup>n</sup>. Gen. French  
having gotten a sick leave. Gen.  
Couch & his staff is quite amiable.  
I do not understand why every body  
is down on Fred. Sewall. I expect it

is on account of his politics & prejudices  
which are strong. He was with his  
regiment in crossing the river  
and afterwards in the Saturday  
battle. On Sunday he was  
sick and turned over his  
command to Col. Henth. He  
is now better, but weak &  
unfit for the field. The Gov.  
seems not to be too hard  
on him. There was a more  
stelligent man in the performance  
of duty. I understand that  
Maj. Cunningham of the same  
regt. has been working a little against  
the Col & Lt. Col. but cannot  
vouch for it. He wrote to the Gov.  
& made recommendations adverse  
to those of Col. Sewall. Give my  
kind regards to Gen. Johnson  
when you see him. He soon  
goes into power. Success to him.  
Some of your friends suggest



Genewa, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 1862.  
Gen. O. O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Your beautiful & highly  
finished silver knife & fork  
for Master Howard was re-  
ceived by yesterday's mail.

As he is too young to thank  
you himself, permit me, as his  
sponsor, to express the honor  
conferred upon him in pos-  
sessing a gift from one whose  
name and character he will  
early be taught to love &  
imitate.

This pleasant remem-  
ber of army friendships and  
experiences, though a perfect  
surprise, is grateful to our  
hearts, and for it please  
accept from Mrs. Merrill





11th June

and myself our sincere appreciation and thanks.

Praying the Lord to shield you in the perils of battle I remain

Very Respectfully  
Thurott. Drist.

Andrew Marshall.

11th June

Wm Marshall

John Marshall

26th June



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Portland Decr-20 1862  
Mrs O O Howard

Dear Sirs

I intended to written  
you before - My business prevented me  
the day you left Portland from assisting  
you & Grace with your Bundles to the  
Carrs - I Enclose the Bill paid Parvells  
& Senter & the two dollars which I owe  
changed at a very trifling discount

I have purchased for you two  
Shares in Mechanic Bank which I  
will forward after getting the  
Certificate - which will leave due  
Still to you \$15 dollars including  
interest that I owe you -

we have all contemplated the  
Battle at Fredericksburg - Glad to have  
that your good Husband has been  
preserved - May the Lord still watch over  
him & keep him Safe - Your Aff. Uncle  
Love to all  
Effie



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
Inches



Portsmouth, N.H. - Dec - 20 1862  
Mrs. W. H. Brewster

Dear Sir

I venture to write  
you before - My business prevents me  
the day you left Portsmouth from writing  
you & gave you your bundle to the  
express - I enclose the bill for the  
freight & the two dollars which I enclose  
change at a very trifling amount  
I have purchased for you two  
shares in the New England Bank which I  
will forward after getting the  
Certificate - which will have the  
bill to pay \$15 dollars including  
interest that I owe you -




we have all congratulated the  
Bottle at Dover. I hope to hear  
that your good husband has been  
recovered. May the Lord bless you  
and keep him safe - I am, Sir, your  
Obedt. Servant

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Head Quarters 2<sup>nd</sup> Div.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corps near Falmouth  
Va. Dec. 21. 1862.

My dear Guy.

I received your  
good and welcome letter with  
Mamma's, which was written a week  
ago today. I mean to answer you  
tonight. I have also received  
Aunt's in which she tells me about  
her new furs. I shall try and  
write her very soon. Papa now  
lives in a tent by himself. Capt.  
Buchelder has done without pole &  
stove. Papa had some logs about  
four feet long cut & split into  
thus:  then he had a cir-  
cular trunk  dry:  
About two feet deep  
and then stowed the  
one side by side & filled in the  
 logs  
the disk



then he spends the tent over  
the tops of the logs and holds  
it up by  
poles. These long  
poles you can see  
two of them.



is at the back side of the tent  
and you cannot see it. Papa  
can show you how it looks thus



looks like papa's  
not far from the hearth. Papa had  
services in his tent this morning.  
all the white boys & all the colored  
boys came in and Mr Whittsey  
and Papa read & talked to them  
about Jesus. We had a  
real good meeting. This afternoon

Supt Whittsey & Papa went to see  
the poor wounded soldiers. Some  
had lost arms & some legs. They  
all looked very cheerful &  
some were trying to look to  
Jesus for strength. Poor  
boys & poor men. Papa hopes  
God will bless them in his  
own way with much comfort.

Give lots of love to Grace  
Junie and Mamie.

We are all quite well. Much  
Charlie & Papa take much  
pleasure in looking at your  
pictures. Papa hopes you  
love the survivors with all  
your heart.

Your loving Papa  
W. Whittsey

P.S Love to Lottie & Mrs  
Charles



Portland Decm 22 1862  
Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I now send you  
the two Shares of Bank Stock  
which will draw interest from  
October last - the interest that I  
owe you makes the balance now  
due to you \$15 dollars - which  
I can send to you at any time -  
we expect to go to Quincy on  
Wednesday and spend Christmas  
with Sessie and return on Sat-  
urday.

hoping this will find you  
and the Children all well

I remain Your Affectionate  
Uncle

E. White





Postmark Dec 22 1862  
 Mrs W. W. W. W.  
 Dear Sir

I have been for  
 the two hours of blank stock  
 which was sent from  
 Boston. But the interest that I  
 have for the interest the balance now  
 has to pay \$12 million - which  
 I can send to you at any time -  
 we expect to go to London on  
 Monday and from Christmas  
 with the ship's new return or at  
 least.

Keeping this will find you  
 and the children all well  
 I remain your affectionate  
 friend

Wm. W.

psd



P.S.

Mr. Timson is quite well

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Thank Mother & Mr. Dine

Dec. 25 1862

Dear 3-almost Da

My dear little daughter,

Papa has provided you the next letter. He wishes you this morning a very "Merry Christmas"; you will not hear the ring of it from Papa's lips this year and the wish will not reach you till Christmas is all over, but yet Papa does hope his little daughter will have a merry Christmas & a happy New Year. You remember Dr. Higgin; he was wounded and got quite unable after the battle; so Papa went to see him and invited him to come over & stop a few days with him in Papa's large tent



Papa has had a door made to  
his tent since he wrote Lucy  
and Dr Wiggins is making a  
table for it.

My door as you see  
opens inside is a little  
straighter up than the drawing  
would show. In the first place  
I had no boards I had cedar  
boughs to cover the ground floor  
but now I have had the  
present of some old boxes  
and by breaking them up  
have got a very good floor.  
John got me a piece of  
carpet a square piece that  
I put right in front of the  
fire. Everybody says what a  
pleasant tent when he comes  
in. Give lots & lots of love to  
dearest mamma. Tell her Papa  
is commanding the Corps &

Division too just now which  
gives him double duty. Her  
mamma reviewed the entire  
corps yesterday, taking from  
11 A.M. until near sunset.  
Papa got very tired & did  
not sleep so well for it  
last night, but is well.  
Much love to a Merry Christ-  
mas & a happy new year  
to Aunt Fannie. Don't forget  
to remember Papa to Aunt  
Charles & John.

How is Mamma well &  
happy? Don't her little  
daughter behave well? Don't  
she act like a little child  
who loves the Savonar.  
Dr Wiggins & Uncle Charles send  
their love to Aunt.

May God bless you all in his  
kind blessing. is Papa's family  
lovingly his father  
O. W. Wiggins



Neenah, Calumet, Va.  
Dec 26 1902

My dear Mother,

I desire  
to make you a new year's  
present and having nothing  
to send but money, I forward  
the enclosed with the request  
that you buy something that  
will add to your comfort.

Perry was wounded in the  
last battle, about as badly as  
Charles was at Fair Oaks.

I saw John Lee two days ago  
& Henry Turner. They were  
well. So was Sister Howard.

Love to Father & all

Your affectionate  
Son

W. V. Howard







have had the good fortune to get  
along well with them. You  
must tell me how my letters  
get on with their letters. I wonder  
at James. I feel badly to think  
but I feel out such willful  
individuals as we both are. I  
received a letter from Mrs Gray  
assuring us of their <sup>kindness & friendliness</sup> prayers &  
inquiring for our little family.  
Chas. thinks John Wier did not like  
it that I never had been appointed  
an officer - do you think so?  
Charles says he never answers his  
letters. We know that Perry is got  
wounded full as badly as Charles  
old wound in the last battle. I  
did not know it when I wrote  
you. I saw him at his tent, I  
think he is on his way to Snook.  
His conduct was excellent. He stood in  
the field all day after he was wounded  
in the thigh. Much love & many sweet  
kisses to yourself & children. All this

Dear Sir,  
I have just received your  
letter mailed Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1862. contain-  
ing the three blank cards which I have  
written on to the satisfaction of Chas.  
I am always happy when the mail  
carrier comes in with my darling  
subscription. I have just off writing  
you for a couple of days, to write to you  
and Grace, feeling that this would  
please you best. My letter to Grace was  
shorter and more hurried than I meant  
it should be. Mr. Sedgwick has now  
returned and assumed command of  
the corps and I have only my own  
division to attend to. The weather is  
a little warmer and I do not feel  
so strong as I wish I did. Though  
I am well and endure a great deal  
of fatigue. I am kind of nervous and  
feel like Dr. Wiggins as though a few



<sup>rest</sup> days would not hurt me. When  
I think of you my patient little  
wife suffering so much without  
complaint, I do not feel that I have  
a right to say 'I am tired'. Dr  
Wiggins spent two days with me &  
went back evidently refreshed. His  
eye was dead & his flesh thin & he  
looked worse. Gen. Sedgwick takes  
Capt. Batechelor & Smith and  
I have applied for Owen & Fallock  
in their places and shall probably  
get them. You can hardly think  
how pleasant my tent is. John has  
got me a white table cloth and a tall  
bush candle stick from some place.  
My ground floor is now nearly  
covered with boards. and my fire-  
place & hearth very cheerful. John  
puts on big logs which last all night.  
I don't like to live in a house without  
a little wife in it, would you? so I went  
to the tent. Gen Sedgwick, who dined

with us today exclaimed as he came  
in, what a beautiful tent and I would  
as soon have it as a house. Gen.  
French has gone & Gen Sully has  
been assigned to his Division. There  
has been a reduction of animals,  
of late. In this corps there is  
not one commanding brigade.  
All are wounded, dead or on the  
shelf. I did hope for success in  
the last battle, I prayed for it  
when Hooker's men were giving  
way, but it was not the will  
of God. Oh. We must wait on Him  
and learn His will & then do it.  
Would that He would give me  
the wisdom. I omitted to tell  
you that our noble General Couch  
was taken sick and obliged to  
leave. He expected to return but I  
~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> not he able to. I like Gen. Sedgwick  
I believe I always have good  
commanding officers at least I



a week. him & his love &  
kisses to his little children.  
We have been talking  
of winter quarters, but  
I doubt if we get into  
any more comfortable than  
those we now occupy. I  
think we may try another  
forward movement before  
long. Mr Stinson, Capt W.  
& Mrs are well - Capt Owen  
is ordered to me - but has  
a short leave. It is Tuesday  
Dec 30 - The mail here is  
waiting. Much love to  
my dear bless you  
Darling

Your aff husband  
(H. S.)

Wm and Dian to  
New Falmouth, Va.  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dearest.

I received your kind letter  
enclosing Amos Ambusty Jr. last  
night. I think it very good, not so  
good as her little self, for her brain  
is invincible. I take them out &  
show them to my choice friends. I  
don't know that I would do that of  
yours, for our wife is very sacred  
as well as precious. A cold look  
implying criticism would pain  
you, a slight commendation  
would make you jealous: one has  
to entertain very peculiar & contra-  
dictory feelings when the wife is in  
question. Who directed your last letter?  
I am quite affected about that, half  
inclined to fear you are sick. Perhaps  
Mrs Stinson? if so she writes a  
very manly hand. Perhaps Mr Blaine



but that isn't likely. Perhaps  
Charles Mulliken? but it is not  
his hand. Who wrote it? Perhaps  
Mr. Merrill & enclosed the letter  
in a note to you. Now, that's it  
why did it "think of it before  
I knew how was not much sick.  
at the time she had her hand-  
type taken. Why does he  
have such cold rooms to take  
pictures in? Yesterday I went with  
Mr. Stinson & visited every hospital  
in my division. We found very  
few sick. In our regiment we  
arrived just in time & staid thro.  
the divine service. The Methodist  
minister was loudly calling  
the men to believe & do well  
that they might pass the  
judgment seat on the right  
hand of God. The Chaplain did  
not know that I was present till  
he got through. I stepped up &

said a word or two and then we  
passed on. In the evening we had  
a good meeting at my best quarters  
but Owen came in. Capt. Cookhill  
& his father, a minister on a visit  
to him. Mr. Alvord our old friend  
who visited us so often. on the  
Parrish and the servants, clerks  
others about their best quarters, all  
had a chance to sit or stand & I  
must forget Sient Benjamin  
who came from his battery, a  
mile away. Benjamin feels that  
he has wandered away & wants  
to get back to a closer walk  
with God. We have had beautiful  
weather, but I have the rain  
beginning to flatter on my trip  
and soon we shall have to take  
some of the rain now.  
The weather has been so  
warm that I have not even  
worn a cloak for more than