Camp Opposite Fredericksburg  
Dec. 2, 1862

My dear Jane

Another mail came on Saturday night, and with it another letter from you, containing the small notes. I am very much obliged. They are so handy. We can buy occasionally when they kill cattle for the soldiers a piece of liver or tongue or heart. We relish a little variety very much. We get fresh beef mostly twice a week, but I don't care much for the way we have it cooked. The beef our company gets is all put into a large iron kettle and boiled. Sometimes it is well done and sometimes only half. It is then given out. They then put in water so as to make a tin full of soup for each man. It is often only greasy water. I got them to give me the beef raw once, but the rest growled and the cook would not do it any more. The heart liver tongue and hide belong to the man who butchers. He gets it for his trouble. Every one wants some. He sells a heart for .75 and gets about two pounds of liver for .25.

I am afraid you will spoil me by writing so often. I get a letter from you by every mail, and will be apt to get into the habit of expecting them that way. I have been promising you that I will not write you so much heretofore, and you see that this time I am only giving you half a letter this time. This is rather shabby after you sending me plenty of paper, but it can't be helped just now, for the reason that we are sitting still here, and nothing new happening, and furthermore we have had four hours and a half taken off short winter days. We have to drill more than two hours in the morning and two and a half in the afternoon. This breaks up the day very much, and we only get about an inch of a candle in the evening to let us see long enough to fix our blankets for sleeping. It is all the better for us to have the drill as it keeps the men employed and gives us an appetite for our rations, which are now rather more than we can eat. We get a good deal more now than we can when marching. We get beans, rice, molasses and vinegar. These things we can't carry when marching, although we could eat more then. We are living pretty well. We get more than we can eat. We have been here two weeks tomorrow, and there is several pounds of very good junk in the corner of our tent unused. I eat about a pound of it every day. Also a pound of crackers, and three pints of coffee. We now get plenty of salt. The only thing we could use more of is sugar. Each of us gets two ounces a day or thereabouts. However we can buy it. Or at least we can. The Commissary won't sell to the soldiers, but Johnny being in there can get it to buy and he buys for us, and sometimes fills our pokes without buying. So much for provisions. I cannot help praising our camp again, it is such a pleasant place. The ground lies nice and dry and is covered with thousands
of the prettiest pines & cedars I ever saw. They are of all sizes and beautiful shapes, from the small ones like the ones in our lawn up to quite a larger tree. There is a little pine which forms the support of our tent just like the one before our door, and I can lie there at night and listen to the wind whistling and sighing through it and imagine I am at home.

This is the way we are fixed. [INSERT SKETCH] The tent is so low that we have to creep into it, but when once in there is room for three. I am glad you found that check, and if you can spare ten dollars please send it on to George for me. Send $5. at a time. He sent me some P. O. notes & I ordered $5. of tobacco for our company. For this or most of it I will get the money when we get paid off. The paymaster is expected soon. From appearances we are likely to remain here a good while, but can't tell positively. Some of the men in the other regiments are building little log huts for themselves. I have a great notion to order a keg of butter in from Mr. Bovard. He could send it to Floyd in Pitts. & from there on. We'll see about it. Last Sabbath was observed on Thanksgiving day in the Army by order of the President. We were marched out by Brigade into a large field. Our Brigade formed in a square & the Chaplains in the Centre. W. Brown was sick. I was surprised & pleased to hear the exercises opened by your & my old minister Mr. Gibson. He is Chaplain of the 45th and we have been alongside all this time without seeing each other. I called on him yesterday to pay my respects. He remembered me well & inquired for Uncle Robert & William. I was particularly struck with his tent. It is different from any I have seen. He got it in Phil. It will let a man in, in an upright position and one can stand or sit in it. It is much better & not much heavier than ours & he has tried both & says it is warmer too. If we stay long we will buy one. We will save the price $13 in clothing by not having to creep on our hands & knees. Willie has had to patch his trousers already. I can send to George for one, or Mr. Gibson will sell me his, if the U. S. gives him the big marquee that he is entitled to.

You never told me how much money you got that I sent. I would like to know, as some of us who sent money home have never had it reach. Glenn's did not & probably others. I think the Sergeant at Harrisburg kept a good deal. We are all very well. Henderson has a very sore finger. It festered at the nail, and will be sore till the nail comes off. The weather is finer than could be expected at this time of year. I have no prospect of any position yet, and don't care much for one. You have no idea how comfortably I am fixed in our company. A poke and a little tobacco when no one had any has given me a position that no office could. The men regard me as one of themselves and always make room at the fire for the Old doctor. I shall never forget their
kindness to me when I was sick at Waterford. When I wanted pickles then they went to every store & when none were there searched every house in town till they got some. I would not like to leave them. They are very rough some of them, but are the bravest company in the regt. They have lost most men in battle from the position of the company in line of battle, but this will not be so in the future. There chances will be equal - so says the Col. The whole regiment will act as skirmishers.

I don't know whether I understand you right about selling the ten sheep to Uncle William for $50. You certainly would not make so bad a bargain and I don't think he would take such an advantage of you. Why at $5. you would not get the price of the wool that grew on them since you got them. If you gave $3.70 for them each that would be a profit of $2.30 only on each. The keep of them since & the wool would come to a good deal more. If he wants sheep, let him buy at $4 - elsewhere & you keep your ten. You might not get such a lot. Perhaps I misunderstood you however, or they may have turned out badly. You need not send anymore paper or envelopes till I send you word. I think I can get enough here & the mail spoils the paper a little. After our suttler comes, we will be able to get such things any time. You have done well in getting Reed to bring your coal. You had better engage 100 or 200 bushels more & see that he hauls it all as soon as possible, for if the roads get bad he won't bring it till it suits & you may have trouble in getting your firing. It will always be as good as money. I have not written to Tommy yet, but will try to do so this week & I will try to make his letter answer for Bert & Willie too - he can send it on.

It is getting near drill time & I must close. We were inspected on Sabbath morning. It is always done on a Sabbath. Our guns are looked at outside & inside, our knapsacks are opened & clothing inspected both to see that we have enough & that it is clean. I had only one dirty handkerchief in at that time. While stationed long at a place we have time to get our washing done. The Col. complimented me on the nice condition of my gun.

My respects to all relations, officers, & my love to yourself.

W Taylor