My dear Jane

It is a good while now since I thought I had written you from this place for the last time, but strangely enough we are here still. We have been waiting from day to day to receive those orders to move but they have not yet reached us. We had about settled down into the belief that it had all blown over, but today it looks to me very like moving at last.

Part of the army is moving for we can see that. Since daylight long strings of troops and wagons have been passing on all the roads within sight of our camp. They are moving upwards or in a direction back towards Falmouth, the road we came. I was out a few minutes ago, and saw strings of ambulances a mile long following the direction the troops took. Whether it is an offensive movement or not we are unable to tell. That we are to follow is also pretty certain. I was in our Lieutenants tents when orders came for him to see that Each of his men had three days cooked rations in his haversack tomorrow after breakfast. This is not much different from the orders of last week but I have no doubt we will have to move at last. I also see an unusual number of orderlies scampering around in all directions. We are all ready. I cleaned my gun this morning and have it in first rate order.

Company I has been disbanded and part of the men put into our Co. part into K. & H. Their lieutenant has been put with our Co. and takes command of it. He pitched his tent with us to day. He is a rough looking fellow, but on conversing with him I think more of him, and think he is a great deal better officer than our last one. His name is Ashton.

I had a very pleasant visit yesterday afternoon from James Nelson. He stopped a good while with us, He appears just the same pleasant agreeable man he was at home, and is all the better soldier for it. He had a very narrow escape at Fredericksburg. A ball touched him on the head and another on the face. He evidently thinks a good deal of home. He took out and showed me the likenesses of his wife and children that had been sent to him. I wish we had a few such men in our company. I felt sorry when he went away. We may probably not meet again.

It will be a stormy day tomorrow, which will make moving disagreeable if we have to start. The weather here follows the same rules it did in Philad. The wind prevailed yesterday from the N.E. and that always brought rain or snow. Now it is clouding up, and no doubt we will have a storm.

I have not had a letter for some time, from any one, and expect one by to nights mail. Willie & Henderson have both had word by letters last night. Generally some of us gets one every
night. It is my turn next.

We are still in good health. Willie has a boil coming in the calf of his leg which makes him limp, and Henderson's finger is not healed up yet. Otherwise they are as hearty as I am, and between us three we can hide more rations than any other three in the company. Most of our men are writing to day, thinking it will be easier to do it now than when on the move, and if we once start you may expect a great falling off in my letters too, although I may do better than I expect. I will have to go back to the pencil again, and they will be harder to read. You will be lonelier now while Bernie is away. Is she going to stay in Pittsburg or is she coming back again?

I enclose $5. I kept most of my last pay for fear I would want it before we were paid again, but I now have more than I shall need till then, as I got money from the meat for the tobacco that came on from Philad. and I don't want to carry much money about me.

If you have sent our Christmas things and we move off we will probably loose them. If you have not started them yet you had better hold on till I write about it again. I have written to George to keep them in Phila. till I told him to ship here. Hoping you are contented and well

I remain

Your affectionately

William