My dear Jane,

I wrote yesterday from here, and did not then think that I would so soon have another opportunity from the same place. But since I have I will improve the time & so keep as near my old promise as I can, to write to you every day.

The word that I sent you yesterday in regard to an offensive movement of this army is now fully confirmed. The order from Gen. Burnside announcing his intention to again make an attack on the rebels was read to us yesterday Evening at dress parade. the major made a short speech and told us to be ready in fifteen minutes notice at any time. The movement of troops continued all day, but we still remained. The storm I predicted yesterday did come, and a very severe one. The rain fell constantly during the night and was accompanied with high winds. Several tents were blown away, and many had to get up during the night and secure theirs to prevent sharing a similar fate. Ours stood it very well and we woke up this morning both warm and dry.

During the night orders came for us to move at 3 o'clock in the morning, but before that time they were countermanded. The present understanding as far as I can learn is that we are to move as soon as the rain ceases.

As to how and where the attack is to be made of course no one knows, - we only judge from the movements we have seen, but the prevailing impression is that a heavy force has been sent to cross and make an attack above and below the city, while our corps attacks at the city in the old place. I may guess wrong but it looks like it. Our ambulances went down the road about an hour ago in that direction. I heard a cannon about half an hour ago, but none since. To fight out [on] such a day as this is almost impossible. The rain is driven into ones face by the wind so that it is impossible to see one hundred yards ahead. It may soon clear up and no doubt will as soon as the wind changes.

Of course I have no news collected in the short time since I wrote last. We are just as we were then. We have to keep in doors as much as possible to keep dry. We write and smoke etc and thus pass the time away. Probably we are as comfortable as most folks are at home. It will be different with the poor fellows who were on the march yesterday. They would if they lay down at all have to lie on the wet ground, and a blanket only to keep off the rain. We appear to be specially favored by Providence in our movements. Every time that I have noticed any difference it was in our favor.

Another thing that makes me think we are to cross at Fredericksburg is, that our orders say to take only our blankets with us. Our tents and knapsacks we leave. If we had far to go
we would be ordered to take all along. An attack on this place after having failed before will bring great credit to any corps that takes it now, and since we have to fight I would like to be engaged in a place where it will be of some account. The first word you will have will probably be by the newspapers. I have made arrangements with your brother John to write to you of the result as he did before, as I might not be able to.

I do not wish to write you a gloomy or sorrowful letter darling, for I do not feel the least that way now, but I cannot close without alluding to the probability of some of us falling. If so, may it be with honor. Should it be that the one you least wish to lose be taken, allow me to direct you to the consolations of God's Spirit and Word. Look to Jesus, who will "stick closer than a brother" and in him may you find "the orphans shield and the widows stay."

Give my kind regards to all my old friends and neighbors. My love to our little ones and a double portion for yourself.

Yours affectionately

William