March 3d, 1861.

Permit you think it strange that I often write without saying whether rain will or not. You can guess now I was weighed yesterday 171 lbs. all told. I weighed about 130 on leaving home. I have just been down to the landing as it is warm the day as pleasant as any day in June. The river as still as smooth as a glass & it is a grand sight to see the numerous war vessels, schooners, steamers &c. running about the river. There is now a monitor and the iron clad Falser, Wentworth's battery and a double turret monitor and the war vessels Minnesota, Jeannette all doing picket duty. The iron clads all come here to picket duty a few days then successively go south. The Wentworth's battery is a swell looking craft at a distance it looks like a mud turtle with two cheese boxes on its back, but nearer defined its sides sloped at an angle of 45 degs from the water's edge & it has the turrets have each 4 port holes of which
Perhaps you think it strange that I often write without saying whether I am well or not. You can guess now I was weighed yesterday 171 lbs. all told. I weighed about 135 on leaving home. I have just been down to the landing as it is warm the day as pleasant as any day in June. the river is still & smooth a glass & it is a grand sight to see the numerous war vessels, schooners steamers & c running about the river. There is now a monitor and the iron clad Galena, Wentworths battery and a double terret monitor and the war vessels Minnesota & Junieta [Juniata] all doing picket duty. The iron clads all come here & do picket duty a few days then successively go south. The Wentworth’s battery is a droll looking craft at a distance it looks like a mud turtle with two cheese boxes on its back but nearer I find its sides sloped at an angle of 45 degs from the waters edge upwind the terrets have each 4 port holes & I should
inmoveable the whole profile of a dead lead also the turrets are of immense thickness which look as though they would stand a pounding of balls for years. There is also a submarine killing line which looks like a fighting in the water. Balena has been out to see it. I send a drawing by this of it - it is designed for running under vessels and firing into the hull. The Balena had been firing at target to-day it was a splendid sight to see the shells scoot over the water now then rebounding the water 50 feet in the air. The river is 600 feet wide. I should think she through shells 2 miles. 1912

Mar 24th

Today we have had shelter tents issued to us & we shall be off as soon as the cleaners are ready. I guess we are going for a
immoveable the whole craft is of a dead lead color the terrets are of immense thickness & look as though they would stand a pounding of balls for years

There is also a submarine battery here which looks like a fish in the water Modica has been out to see it & I send a drawing by him of it it is designed for ramming under vessels & firing into the hull. The Galena had been firing at target to-day it was a splendid sight to see the shells scoot over the water now & then throwing the water 50 feet in the air. The river is here 5 or 8 miles wide. I should think she through shells 2 miles.

Mar 24th

Today we have had shelter tents issued to us & we shall be off as soon as the steamers are ready. I guess we are going to a
good place. I shall have just been down to the wharf & got my
feet something came nice & I don't see anything broken, mostly or hurt
in the least. Have had a nice dinner of baked pork, apple cake &c. Please send me Miss H. I thank her
very much for what she sent also Mrs. Stock, Mrs. Kendall & Addie.
Please accept my thanks.
Perhaps by the time you get this I shall be eating Mother's Brown
bread,priss & sausages on the steam
boat for Baltimore instead of
living about in the snow. I shall
live like a prince I guess.
Rumor has it to day we are going
to St. Louis Mo. guess we are going
out there somewhere. I think the
4th Army Corps will have an easy
time for a while. Sam highly
related to think we have a fair
prospect of stopping further North.
good place. 1 PM have just been down to the wharf & got my box everthing came nice & I don’t see anything, broken, mouldy or hurt in the least. have had a nice dinner of baked pork pies cakes &c Please say to Miss K. I thank her very much for what she sent also Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Kendall & Addie please except my thanks. Perhaps by the time you get this I shall be eating Mother’s brown bread pies & sausages on the steamer bound for Baltimore. instead of living short on the move I shall live like a prince I guess.

Rumor has it to day we are going to St. Louis Mo. guess we are going out there somewhere. I think the 9th Army Corps will have an easy time for a while I am highly elated to think we have a fair prospect of stopping further North
This summer, I understand our son says he won't leave here till we are paid off that he who says if we knew where we were going we would through at our hats. So much for bank rumors.

We had a big snow storm lasting from Thursday till Saturday last about 12 inches of snow fell. But it is all gone now the ground is dry and the weather warm. I must soon will write you again when we get on our journey. Don't think we shall get off before next week unless you had better send me a few stamps or write on the subject of this. You got the pictures all right. Newell was mean to charge so much but it in two stamps there are too many men here to do J. E. N. in office. I should like to inform J. E. N. that he is liable for opening a sealed package that I sent was a sealed package and he has no more right to open it than a letter. The time will be all the other way. Where is Ed. Black did he get my blue touches on route.

J. D. Turner

[Signature]
this summer. I understand our Gen says he won't leave here till we are paid off & that he also
says if we knew where we were going we would through up our hats. So much for Camp rumore.
We had a big snow storm lashing from Thursday till Saturday last about 9 inches of snow rain &
last hail fell it is all gone now the ground is dry and the weather warm and pleas-ant. But I must
close will write you again when we get on our journey Don't think we shall get off before next
week guess you had better send me a few stamps and write on the receipt of this. You got the
pictures all right Newell was mean to charge as much I put in two stamps there is too many men
like J.H. Y. Newell in office. I should like to inform J H. Y. that he is liable to a heavy fine for
opening a sealed package that I sent was a sealed package & he has no more right to open it than
a letter. The fine will be all the other way. Where is Ed. Mack did he get my letter. Yours in
haste

W J. Templeton

Do you have any difficulty in reading these pencilings?

Please send me an extra sheet of letter paper when you write you sent a little more brandy
than I wanted perhaps it will come in use