Near Pittsburgh Pk.
July 20th 1844

Dear Friends at Home,

I have just received May's letter of the 18th for which I have been waiting & expecting for several days. I was glad to hear you were all well as usual. I am enjoying pretty good health I feel as well as one can in this hot weather. Yesterday & last night we had a delightful rain and today though the rain has made some minds it is dreadful but yet one feels more like himself for the air is so much fresher. We have plenty of good water where we now are in fact our general good health is I think owing to good clear cool water to use & drink in. We get water from those springs Carlton Speake
Near Petersburgh VA.
July 20th 1864

Dear Friend at Home:

I have just received Mary’s letter of the 13th for which I have been waiting & expecting for several days. I was glad to hear you were all well as usual. I am enjoying pretty good health. I fell as well as one can this hot weather. Yesterday & last night we had a delightful rain and today though the rain has made some mud & it is dreadful hot yet one feels more like himself for the air is so much purer. We have plenty of good water where we now are in fact our general good health is I think owing to good, clear, cool water to use & wash in. We get water from those springs “Carlton” speak of
Those papers I was very glad to receive. I should like to have you send them quite often. We got the N.C. Washington & Philadelphia papers, one day after they were printed. But I get the most reliable news from the Journal "Carleton" pitches into the officers' rooms & some of the agents belonging to the Sanitary commission for lucrative on the delacares sent to the sick soldiers but he just hinted at the truth.

We draw rations every two days today one got a liberal quantity of potatoes but one half were rotten. The Sanitary Commission also sent us a lot of nice ones and the boys were rejecting some nice boiled potatoes. But Lo! orders came to the brigade Commisionary to not issue them until the next day of issuing. Now the reason was plain, the officers wanted two days time to take all they wanted. I do wish some
Those papers I was very glad to receive I should like to have you send them quite often. We get the N.Y. Washington & Philadelphia papers, one day after they are printed. But I get the most reliable news from the Journal “Carlton” pitches into the officers & surgeons & some of the agents belonging to the Sanitary commission for luxurating on the delacases sent to the sick soldiers but he just hinted at the truth.

We draw rations evry two days to-day we got a liberal quantity of potatoes but our half were rotten. The Sanitary Commission also sent us a lot of nice ones and the boys were expecting some nice boiled potatoes. But Lo! orders came to the brigade Commissary to not issue them until the next day of issueing. Now the reason was plain, the officers wanted two days time to take all they wanted. I do wish some
such a man as Calton would write something which would make a stir among the men of influence in the North. What on earth it is to the soldier to read in the papers what an amount of articles is distributed to the soldiers in the trenches when in fact just enough is issued to say they have issued it.

I was glad to receive the tea. I will have a good nice of tea for my supper. We draw tea occasionally but it is not very good. We have been pretty well supplied with dried apples for the last month which accounts for the improvement of those pieces of demerara you sent in the Tiber mail—don’t mistake anything in papers. I had a nice meal of new potatoes, cabbage and turnips the other day.

I have a friend in the commissary department who will sell to me whatever I want. The other day I got the following article...
such a man as Carlton would write something which would make a stir among the men of influence in the North. What an insult it is to the soldier to read in the papers what an amount of articles is distributed to the soldiers in the trenches when in fact just enough is issued to say they have issued it.

I was glad to receive the tea I will have a good mix of tea for my supper.

We draw tea occasionally but it is not very good. We have been pretty well supplied with dried apple for the last month (which accounts for the non appearance of those pieces of nutmeg you sent in the paper) moral – don’t inclose anything in papers. I had a nice meal of new potatoes cabbage & turnips the other day.

I have a friend in the commissary department who will sell to me whatever I want. The other day I bot. the flowing articles
I am glad Emma & Frank are enjoying themselves as well I would like to see them at play in the street. I have not seen any little girls & boys that reminded me of Emma & Frankie lately in Years. I used to see them quite often. While we were at Vineville, 2nd Sir Headngton was at a large brick house owned & occupied by a Mr. Horns. He was a peach & was married they had three little girls aged respectively two, nine & seven years of age. Their names were Susie, Connie & Emma. They were all pretty smart & lovely girls but they were awful peaches. I used to have a good deal of fun little pilaging them by calling them peaches. Emma was my favorite perhaps you can guess the reason I used to put on my best & sing a peaches song. But she knew better songs too. I would have her to sing a minstrel song sometimes. She used to play a ukulele & sing the Southern version of Will robbins round the flag boys O lynn, in this wine (whiskey) down with the yohee

And up with the bare

Passion forever hurray! hurray! hurray !
Down with the yohee!

Another beginning thus We've got a sweetheart

(whiskey) down with the yohee

And up with the bare
1 lb. of sugar 17 cts
1 “ White “ 27 “
5 “ Potatoes 10 “
3 “ Dired apple 30
4 Cabbage heads  7 cts each

I should have to pay at the sutlers for brown sugar 40 cts, White 50 cts Butter sells for 75 cts
Cheese 50 cents

I am glad Emma & Frankie are enjoying themselves so well I would like to see them at play in the street. I have not seen any little girls & boys that reminded me of Emma & Frankie lately In Tenn. I used to see them quite often. While we were at Knoxville 2d Div Headquarters were at a large brick house & occupied by a Mr. Barns. He was a secesh & so was his wife they had three little girls aged respectably twelve nine & seven years of age Their names were Jesie Fannie & Emma They were all pritty smart & lively girls but they were awful secesh. I used to have a good deal of fun plagueing them by calling them little rebels Emma was my favorite (perhaps you can guess the reason) she used to sit on my knee & sing secesh songs. But she knew union songs too I would coax her to sing a union song sometimes. She used to try & pester my by singing the southern version of We’ll rally round the flag boys. It run in this wise (the chorus)

Secession forever hurah! boys, hurah!
Down with the yankee,
And up with the bars

Another beginning thus

Oh! yes I am a southern girl
I glory in the name
Connie. I could never cease to sing anything but parish songs but they both were good singers & frequently entertained a crowd of workmen the Sunday before I left. Mr. Little Commers was in my tent & seeing my little brass candlestick was very dirty she said she would clean it for me but suddenly recollecting that it was she exclaimed Oh! I can't do it to day. But finally she said she could do it Monday. Monday morning we started north. I had just time to bid them good by. I showed them however, Emmas & Granders pictures. Emma thought Frankie was the prettiest she ever saw & wished she could give me hers to send to him.

Tell Frankie I carry a gun & shoot it too. We were relieved from the first line of rifle shots last night at 23. We shot about twenty pounds of grey hawks & they fired Griffiths.
Fannie I could never coax to sing anything but secesh songs but they were both good singers & frequently entertained a crowd of us blue coats. The Sunday before I left K. Little Emma was in my tent & seeing my little brass candlestick was very dirty, she said she would clean it for me but suddenly recollecting that it was she [missing] she exclaimed Oh! I cant its [missing] to-day. But finally she said [missing] clean it Monday. Monday morning we started north I had just time to bid them good buy. I showed them, however, Emma & Frankie’s pictures (Emma thought Frankie was the prettiest she ever saw & wished she could give me hers to sent to him.

Tell Frankie I carry a gun & shoot it too. We were relieved from the front line of rifles pits last night at 9 pm I shot about twenty rounds at the gray backs & they fire [missing] spitefully [missing]
I don't know as I can write you much of interest from the rifle pits. The front line is about 300 yards from the rebel line. Both lines are so well protected that few are injured. Both sides keep up a cannon fire especially at night, we have to be on our toes at watching as it is very hot to keep awake and shout through the loud speaker made between the sand bags on the rifle pits for exercise. Some of the bags may burst just before we are relieved several mortars shells fell right into the rebel pits, bursting with a loud explosion. Our boys would set up a loud yell followed by "look out for the pieces Shirley girl." But I must close this as there is a drum parade.

Good luck. Love to all

W. B. Campbelton
I don’t know as I can write you much of interest from the rifle pits. The front line is about 30 yards from the rebels line both lines are so well protected that few are injured. Both sides keep up a constant fire especially at night we have to take our turns at watching & as it is very hard to keep awake we shoot through the loop holes between the sand bags on rifle pits for exercise. Some of the boys [missing] last night just before we were relieved several mortar shells fell right into the rebs pits bursting with a loud explosion. Our boys would set up a loud yelling “look out for the piece Johnie reb.”

But I must close this as There is a dress parade

Good buy Love to all
W. J. Templeton