This morning I received a letter, containing the sheet, diary, tea papers, envelopes, and the package of the envelopes and letters yesterday. It is a letter of Dec. 22th, a few days before the apple was made into sauce. We were out a few times again in the early morning and ground corn as usual, and the corn was very good, however. We are still here in an old camp, enjoying ourselves as well as we can. The weather has been very mild, but the first week it has been very comfortable in the tent. Christmas was very comfortable day, made it quite a

Dr. [signature]
Near Fredericksburg, Va Dec 28th, 1862

Dear Friends at Home:

This morning I received that bundle containing the shirt, diary, tea paper & envelopes also the package of envelopes & letter; yesterday I got the letter of Dec. 22d & a few days before the apple & thread, the apple was nice made into sauce. When you send me any spice again you may send ground clove or nutmeg, the cinnamon is very good however.

We are still here in our old Camp enjoying ourselves as well as we can. The weather has been very mild & warm the last week it has been very comfortable in our tents. Christmas was very comfortable day. I made it a washing
I enjoyed my morning coffee on the day in the fort. I went off from camp about a mile and a half to get a good supper. I carried the woman cold meat and coffee as she gave me a good supper consisting of hot coffee with milk, beef baked, baked beans, hot corn bread, molasses cake & black bread. Your address will tell you that was a "billy" supper for this part of the country. The woman has five little children, they are as smart & bright as any family of children in N.B. & much better behaved than some. She said she did not know what they would do for a living the soldiers had burned all their fences, cut off all her wood & in fact taken most anything she had. She now had to board a soldier who ate her yard & stands at the door.
day in the forenoon. In the PM I went off from camp about a mile & a half and got a good supper
I carried the women salt pork & coffee & she gave me a good supper Consisting of hot coffee
with milk, baked beef baked beans, Hoe cake, warm flour bread molasses apple & peach sauce. I
guess Madison will tell you that was a ‘bully’ supper for this part the country. The woman has
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burned all her fences, cut off cut off all her wood & in fact taken most everything she had. She
now had to board a soldier who is her gard & stands at the door
The best way to protect her two cows is what she has left. It is pretty hard for them poor folks here. She is going to boil me a pot of beans one of these days. Chi' swung. I did not write here at Fredericksburg.

Sunday after the battle about three weeks ago. Allen Harrad found some more white beans.

I got a nice stone jar. We fired up the beans in regular homestyle. That is in an oven to bake in a house where some VA boys were quartered. We were ordered off. Bickett at Fredericksburg had too many beans but the boys was going to save them for us. However we were ordered to saddle on being relieved from the saddle in the rain with the loss of the beans. We live pretty well but here more home plenty of Indian meat yesterday but a bit
to protect her two cows & what she has left. It is pretty hard for the poor people here. She is going to bake me a pot of beans one of these days Oh; I guess I did not write how at Fredericksburg, Sunday after the battle about 3 o’clock Alden Farrar found some nice white beans. I got a nice stone jar. We fixed up the beans in regular home style put them in an oven to beak in a house where some NH boys were quartered We were ordered off on picket at 4 o’clock & had to leave our beans but the boys were going to save them for us. However we were ordered to skedaddle on being relieved from pickets across the river with the loss of our beans. We live pretty well out here now have plenty of indian meal yesterday I bot a pint
A month I made some fancy bedding and a good dinner of hasty pudding and milk. I find by exploring the country around here I can get most everything in the state of lettuce. I made quite a sum of money on a little of ammonia and a bunch of apples not long since. I shall like to see Home eggs or any since I came here. Mr. Blyth is about the same as when Madison left he died. His aunt might be 8 days I think there are a good many soldiers here that will actually not be before spring if they don't turn around more they will lay in their tents make of Mandalin game and asbestos since mine away is due I don't think the staff will far more nor shall if he would stir around more. I should think it better for him. John I want to have anything said of what I write. I suppose you have heard of Sergeant Words death. He was from Pennsylvania he died Christmas day he had been sick for some time this was the first death in our 60 since we enlisted. (Except the battle.) Many from home within the last two weeks many brave soldiers lost. I like an
of milk & made some hasty pudding had a good dinner of hasty pudding & milk I find by scouring the county around here I can get most evry thing in the shape of eatable. I made quite a sum of money on a bble of onions & a half bush. apples not long since I should like to see some eggs haven’t seen any since I came here Mr. Clapp is about the same as when since Madison left he sticks to his tent night & day. I think there are a good many soldiers here that will actually rot before spring if they don’t stir round they will lay in their tents whine & complain grow poor as skeletons finally pine away & die. I don’t think Mr Clapp a well man but still if he would stir round more I should think it better for him; I don’t want to have anything said of what I write. I suppose you have heard of Sergeants Wood’s death, he was from Henniker he died Christmas day he had been sick for some time this was the first death in our Co since we enlisted (except the battle) Many a NH family was made sad by the news from here within the past two weeks and many a brave solider lost his life or suffered terrible agonies from ghastly wounds all for nothing Oh; a terrible responsibility rests somewhere I tell you that battle put a damper on to the soldiers Still we hope our Gen. will learn something from this Many of the soldiers say they want to see it settled thy [they] don’t cary [care] how But I can’t say so I can’t & I won’t believe that this

I put in a bean I found in F. please plant it next spring

I guess I would not send a box till you hear from me the talk is we are going to Alexandria Vir to winter (doubted)