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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

on my way ^{to} my camp with
me ^{from} ^{the} ^{place} ^{where} ^{she} ^{lives} ^{me}
day in the forenoon In the P.M.
I went off from camp about a
mile & a half & got a good supper
I carried the woman salt pork &
coffee & she gave me a good supper
Consisting hot coffee with milk
Beef baked baked beans, Hot cake
warm flour bread molasses apple &
peach sauce. I guess Madison will
tell you that was a "bully" 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.C. & much better
betared than some. She said she
did not know what they would
do for a living the soldiers had
burned all her fences, cut off all
her wood & in fact taken most
every thing she had. She now
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is her gard & stands at the door

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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 five little children they are very smart & bright as any family of children in N.E. & much better behaved than some. She said she did not know what they would do for a living the soldiers had 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

I put in a bean & found in it. Please about it next thing

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 Gardenersburg.

Sunday after the battle about three o'clock Alden Harris found some nice white beans. I got a nice stone jar. We fired up the beans in regular homestyle put them in an oven to bake in a house where some M.C. boys were quartered. We were ordered off on tickets at 4 o'clock & had to leave our beans but the boys was going to save them for us. However we were ordered to skedaddle on being relieved from picket across the river with the loss of the beans. We live pretty well but here now have plenty of indian meat yesterday I but a pint

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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

of milk & made some hasty pudding
had a good dinner of hasty pudding
& milk. I find by scouring the country
around here I can get not every thing
in the shape of vegetable. 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 pointed out
any since I came here Mr. Clapp is about
the same as when Madison left he sticks
to his tent night & day I think there
are a good many soldiers here that
will actually rot if before spring if
they don't stir round more they
will lay in their tents & when
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 wrote. I suppose you
have heard of Sergeant Wood's death
he was from Hannover 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 of Monmouth)
a N.B. family was made sad by the news
from here within the past two weeks many
many a brave soldier lost his life or

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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 soldier 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)