

Washington D. C.

January 8, 1862

Dear friends,

I came to town this morning to attend to having Boulty's body sent home. It will arrive there the latter part of next week, probably Thursday or Friday.

Do not be alarmed Mother about me. My men, every one of them, would step in between me and death. As for VanDyke, he is not in my Company nor will he be any place long if he does not attend to business better. I suppose he blowed at home but we all know him here. He cannot injure me in any way. But it was none of our men that snapped at my trap I know as there were none there. No man can get out of our lines. Even Gen. McClellan could not pass. He must go by the regular path or gate.

Yesterday our Division of about ten thousand men went out to Hunter's Mill and got 252 wagon loads of forage. We drove in the Rebel pickets and waited a long time for them to come at us but they did not show themselves. The march was a hard one. I was very tired but one night's sleep and all as sound as ever.

I think I will be able to get home this month. I intend to strain every nerve to get it and if I insist I know they will not refuse me. I will endeavor to get there about my birthday so I can have a good time of it.

I am very well satisfied with Ed's reading with Gen. Clement. I think he will learn more there than if he was with Grenough. The Gen. is an excellent man and will take more pains with a student than any man I know of.

My health continues in an excellent condition. The other night I was on picket and snowed nearly [unreadable]. It did not affect me in the least not even giving me a

cold. So you see I can stand anything. I got a letter from Geo. Leisening and would write to him but do not know where to direct.

Mother, suppose I send you a little darkey girl about 12 years of age. She is a smart active slave girl belonging to a rebel woman and I can get her easy. In your next tell me if you want her. I think she would be a great help to you.

There is another rumor that our Regt. will go South. How true it is I cannot say but if we go I will endeavor to get home first. I am glad to hear Grandmother is at home and well. She has had a fine time. I will write to her shortly.

Tell Uncle P. M. S. I am waiting for a letter from him. I got one from Annie last night. She is well. But I have nothing to write about more. Remember me to all friends and write soon.

Yours,

Shindel