

Washington Jan 4th 1869

Dear Brother

It is with much pleasure that I take this opportunity to inform you of my ^{whereabouts} ~~circumstances~~. The day after new years I and one of my comrades got a pass and went over to the fortifications on our way ~~there~~ we visited the camp of the fourth Pennsylvania regt and a camp of artillery men we explored the country for two or three miles around to our satisfaction and then we turned our course towards the Polonae to visit the forts the old dogs looked savage with their mouths over the walls on the outside of the wall was a ditch ten feet wide and eight feet deep and on the outside of that was a tier of tree tops with the small limbs trimmed off and the large ones sharpened it would bother a man to get through it there was a trench from one fort to another large enough ~~to~~ for two men to walk abreast and be out of sight there was a line of fortifications as far as the eye could reach the guns were about eight feet long they were forty two pounders I walked around upon the wall there was timber slashed for a mile around so as not to afford shelter to the rebels the quarters in the forts are bomb proof I should like to see them fire a few rounds from those big guns from there we went to an Remoditand camp that was in a cedar grove and from there we steered for our camp

there was a sad accident happened in the camp
of California regulars ^{yesterday} they found a shell that
was made for a rifled cannon they thought it was
not good for nothing and threw it in the fire and
off it went and ~~it~~ broke one of their legs and hurt
three of the other two of the boys that tent with me
were within twelve feet of it but did not get hurt
well tho tho have come in and they are a bragging
about chopping and cradling. and one miserable low
private in the rear rank is looking over my shoulder
well he has left now. I visited the soldiers homes and
talked with the old broken down soldiers some of them
have been in the service thirty years but there they have
a comfortable home they wear the uniform yet some of
have ~~lost~~ lost their limbs and go on crutches we visited
the traitor / A. S. Foyds plantation and the presidents
residence we also visited the soldiers burying ground there is
a great many new graves there

January 5th 1862

to day is the sabbath and I will finish this letter
before I go on inspection there will be preaching in camp
to day but I think I will I guess I will not
say what I think of the matter we have not been
payed yet. when you write let me know wheather
you have broke the colts or not and how they are
a wintering &c Give my respects to all yours in haste

Cassimer P. Churchill