

Washington Feb 3d 1862

Dear Brother

I received your letter in due time and I must say that I have not received a letter that was so interesting to me as yours was some folks have a mistaken idea about what kind of letter soldiers want written to them such generally tell us of our privations and hardships we will have to endure and the dangers we will encounter they think we have not found them yet but mind you soldiers do not want such letters they want to know what is going on in the domestic circles and in the barn yard and wheather sister Lizzy grows or not and who keeps school and who goes home with Fovia from spelling school and wheather they have good meetings

or not and all the rest of the every
day news a little good advise does
come amiss to a boy in a strange land
I will try and write you as good a letter
as you did. The other night when the
brigade officer was making the rounds
it was very dark and just as one of
the sentry challenged them the S.
(who comes there) (one of them bumped his
skin on a little stump) and by so doing
he said the devil the guard says
halt the devil advance one of his
imps and give the countersign and
as he approached the sentinal he said
to him self (that hurt like the d d)
the guard says that is not the ^{right} count
you stand and mark time or I will
shoot you and he kept them there
until the seargent came and let
them pass. The other night I had
mind to leave camp and find where
our officers passed away their evening.

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for they are coming into camp all times
of night so I got the countersign and
started out of camp (which I had no weight
to do) I went down to seventh street
and happened to meet one of our Cap
tains he asked me what business I had
out here I thought the guard house was
my roost for that night but I asked
him how many of our officers were in
that lady house yonder none of your business
says he you may go back to camp with
me says I have you got ^{sign} the counter
sign. It dont make any difference to you
come along says he I turned around
with all importance of a general and
called out guards here is a man worth
out the countersign. he got the panick
and took to his heels expecting that
there was a patrol after him I made
my way back to camp to enjoy a good
laugh with the boys over my excursion
There is a report in camp that we

a young to Florida probably it is
not true I went to the city to day
and got my likeness taken for Emme
I went to the Capitol and into the
house of representatives and stand about two
hours and heard the congress men scold
and shake their fists at one another the
gentlemen from Maryland introduced
a bill to raise some home guards in
that state the gentleman from Mass opposed
it he said that we had got more troops
than we could manage and he hoped to
o' God he would send us some one to
manage them and that these home
guards were to uphold the devilish
institution of slavery and to prevent
them from escaping from the lash into
the free States, at this the man from
Maryland jumped up and roared out for
the speaker to call that man to order he
sw more soon the bough sounds for lights
Chesmer