

Camp Desolation March 19<sup>th</sup>

Dear Sister

I am sitting on the ground with this paper on my little count book and am going to try and answer your letter that I received yesterday my arms and accoutrements lay beside me on the ground the men are hurrying to and fro about me we have stopped here to wait until the transports can come and take us a board we have to guard the ammunition train which consists of one hundred and twenty waggons drawn by three hundred and sixty teams I have been detailed as one of the pioneers our duty is to go ahead and see that the way is clear we have shot and shell enough to bury Richmond although we cannot tell whether we are going to advance onto that place or not. We are on a hill that overlooks the Potomac there was a large number

of boots

left here yesterday and I see quite  
a number of Steamers anchored in  
the river and taking in coal for a long  
trip some where there is some gun boats  
here now probably you will hear from them  
before long. well this is rather of a hard  
place to write I guess that I will shift  
my quarters and see if I cannot do better.  
I am sorry that you are not suited with  
the picture I sent you. you would not  
ask a man to open his eyes here he had  
not had them shut for forty eight hours  
and as to hobting my head so high  
as a soldier is obligid to or he will have  
what I call a dog collar to wear  
around his neck. you say that I looked  
rough well that is natural or at least some  
of the regulars think so. it is a strange  
fact that the regulars and the volunteers  
cannot agree the have knocked down and  
robed some of our men but once they barked  
up the wrong tree for they got severely  
whipped and taken to the provost marshal

where they were were put under guard  
and will be punished according to the  
sentence of a court martial. Do not  
know but that I shall have to get you  
another picture seeing that really look on  
the outward appearance but I cannot tell  
how long it will be before I can get it  
I the same suit with me that I had  
on when I had the other taken I left my  
dress suit at Camp Denton you wish  
to know how much I weigh and my height  
I am a little afraid that you would be  
ashamed if I should tell you but however  
I will tell you my height is six feet  
two inches and one half weight two hundred  
and twenty seven lbs I am the heaviest man  
in the regiment. you want to know if I will  
write you and work for Charlie which  
I will do as soon as the rebels are whipped  
if you tell will take good care of me and  
not let any of the girls hurt me as to  
the playhouse I remember as though it was

but yesterday asto chibblains I have not  
thought of such a thing this winter.  
those wooden guns <sup>at Manassas</sup> were put up to fool  
us and draw us into a trap. but I think  
that we will approach the fort from another  
direction. the reason why I did not answer  
your questions was that lost your letter  
I put it into my overcoat pocket and while  
we were out on a march I lost it and  
with a number of others that I would  
not have parted with for their weight  
in gold. your western boys are doing the  
fair thing I wish I was with them I guess  
it is a plan to get them surrounded and to  
cut off their retreat and then attack them  
in front. I cannot tell when I shall  
have a chance to write to you again I am  
very much obliged to you for the picture  
you sent me I guess that I will keep the  
old one and let Eliza have it when I go  
home ~~year~~ You can direct your letter  
the same as before and you may rest  
assured that let what will happen I  
shall not shrink from duty to give my  
best respects to uncle and Aunt Yours  
in haste from your brother Cassius