

In the trenches near Petersburg  
Saturday Evening March 11<sup>th</sup> 68

My dear Pat - I have just today received your last  
letter and I hasten to reply for this purpose - I wish  
to say to you that while I deeply appreciate your affec-  
tional feelings for me in sympathizing with my situation,  
you must <sup>not</sup> think of coming to Petersburg yourself,  
while I should be rejoiced to see you in other  
circumstances yet I should be grieved for you to  
come to Petersburg. In the first place I have  
no place to carry you to spend your time, and  
in the second place I could spend but little  
time with you as we are not suffered to  
remain out of the trenches over six hours.  
While I should rejoice to get some of your  
good eatables to eat - I could not think of your  
making that sacrifice and undergoing what  
you would have to do should you undertake the  
journey. Another thing you are not Mrs. Thaxter  
or anything like her I don't wish you named in  
the same connection. You might send Mrs. Alm  
with Mr. Minn or School, but I am even  
dreadful in that case you would be losing too  
much at home in the way of ploughing. Every-  
thing that can drag a plow must now be at  
it or we shall not have a half crop of corn  
it is now nearly planting season and we  
stand by the land I reckon has not been  
ploughed up. Tell the "niggers" they must think

of making a crop this year, and I had thought the something about the children  
that you would not, I should be happy that  
their education was better attended to, and  
they might have a good opportunity to go to  
school - but I don't see how we can better  
arrange it - Every day as I pass thro' our  
children may be mentioned in the admission  
of the Lord's word that you may endeavor with  
the necessary quantities with due care, I  
and glad to hear that as the children have been  
piled, they all have gotten better and that you  
and village the residence. What do the people  
say about buying the tuggies into provisions?  
The thing is very unpopular among the larger  
class of the soldiers - especially those that are  
non-commissioned. I can't say whether or not  
it is a political act. What says Cousin Jack?  
I did not enter to coming him with the idea of  
buying up provisions. I expected the families of  
the men to send them boxes - for the men said  
they would. I had no idea of raising provisions  
in the manner you are doing. You know at any time  
boxes can be gotten up by the families of the men  
New, dear old Pat, farewell. May the Lord bless you  
and take care of you & thy best love as you care the  
children, for a good husband, for a good man