Camp 17th U.S. Infantry
near Cattle's Station,
January 3rd, 1863

My dear Sarah,

We arrived at this camp Dec 24th in getting the troops mustered for pay, and in constructing houses to make ourselves comfortable. Supposing we were to remain here during the winter, but it all seems to be against us in this as in many other things, for we move tomorrow somewhere in the vicinity of Appomattox Station. Will write you our whereabouts after we reach our destination and get settled.

Should be most happy to accept your invitation to take a sleigh ride, not so much however for the ride in itself (although it would be very agreeable) so for the company. Hope I may be able to do so before the winter is over.
We had a visit from a little young girl yesterday (the first of the season) which reminded me very strongly of Home and its surroundings. And really wish I had wings to fly like a dove, that I might make an aerial journey to Old Hillsborough, and have a social chat.

My dear Sarah, you cannot know how often I think of you, or how glad I should be to see you. Indeed I cannot express it in words myself.

Your visage is constantly before my mind, and you are uppermost in my mind by day, which sinful thought it may be. I cannot be blamed for so what I may it will not banish.

Yes my dear girl, I have frequently lain upon my lonely couch, late at night, with the moon shining into my lint upon me, and thought of you until overcome by sleep, and carried away to the land of dreams.

Those dreams were generally very pleasant, but sometimes they were mixed...
frightly, and felt thankful that they were not a reality.

Think I have written enough upon the subject, above mentioned, and will now inform you in regard to myself.

My health is very good. Indeed it has been most of the time since I came to the field. Still I have been some sick days, yet not many at a time. Last week I had the Cholic pretty bad for a few hours, but an application of mustard, soon relieved me from pain, and now I am as well as ever.

Think upon all, that field service agrees with me pretty well. We have some hard times to be sure, but we have a great many pleasant ones to make up. I perhaps more than balance them.

Think I know now, how to appreciate the blessings of a good home, for better than I have ever done heretofore.

Have just received one of your letters written in N. Y. and will enclose the envelope that you may see where it has been.
Some of the officers of the regiment have just left my tent. We have been having a feast on fresh cucumbers, which was a treat & amuse you.

I was obliged to lay aside my writing during the time they were present, and now it has got so very late, I shall be obliged to close my epistle, for I have to make my appearance somewhat earlier than when on recruiting service.

It is now nearly one o'clock.

Remember me kindly to all. And believe me as ever,

Jan 5th 1862

Affectionately yours,

[Signature]