Camp 17th MD. Infantry
Near Cattique Sta. Va
January 17th, 1863

Dear Sarah,

Your kind letter of Jan. 10th reached me last night and I was somewhat surprised to learn that none of my letters had been received since Christmas.

I have written several since I came to this camp, but cannot tell how many, as I write every opportunity, probably three or four at least.

You must recollect that I do not have the time to write letters that I did while on recruiting service, as I have so many business letters to answer and other things to occupy me.

Think you promised to write five letters while I was at Harrodsburg, but one in return. I get I really believe I have written the most, at least more than I have received.

I am happy to learn that the loan of which you speak was a success, and hope the proceeds will be applied to a good use.

The object certainly is a good one, but I tell you it is a thankless abuse. Should have been must happy to have been able to attend such a gathering.
Dear Sarah,

Your kind letter of Jan. 10th reached me last night, and I was somewhat surprised to learn that none of my letters had been received since Christmas.

I have written several since I came to this camp, but cannot tell how many, as I write every opportunity, probably three or four at least.

You must recollect that I do not have the time to write letters that I did while on Recruiting Service, as I have so many business letters to answer and other things to occupy time.

Think you promised to write two letters while I wrote but one in return. If you only believe I have written the most, at least more than I have received.

I am happy to learn that the letter of which you speak was a success, and hope the proceeds will be applied to a good cause.

The object certainly is a good one, but I tell you, it is thankless work. Should I have been most happy to have been able to attend such a gathering, but believe my services are needed here at present.

Capt. Peece (who has had command of the 7th since Col. Bruce left) went away...
This morning, and your humble servant is in command. Therefore it will be impossible for me to get a Leave of Absence at present, and I fear I will not be able to get one this season, much as I would like to visit you and my home.

Still I have no reason to complain when I compare the time I have been in the field, with others who have not been out of service for the last two years.

I will send you the Photographs of Capt. Pearcy, and Mr. Wilson, but shall want them when I return to put in my Album.

Received a letter from Dr. Allen a few days ago giving me information what is happening at and in the vicinity of Philadelphia.

Conclude the Change in St. Pleasant was of short duration from what he says.

We are having very fine weather just now, but it has been quite cold until within a few days.

Yesterday we had a General Inspection and were reported in good condition by the Inspecting Officers. The Regiments, although small presented a good appearance and everything passed off in good shape.

I am still anxious to visit this small but dearer as it is my All at present.

Remember me to all enquiring friends and I remain,

Devotedly yours,

[Signature]