Camp 14th U.S. Infantry
near Hokesville, Va.
March 29th, 1864

Dear Sarah,

Your welcome letter was only received a few days since. I was right glad to learn of your good health. Although you seem not to be somewhat annoyed by your Cousin's presence,

Think I have seen and heard enough to justify me in saying that perhaps she is not so much to blame.

Yet she is truly an object of pity to harden one's heart.

Have you letter before me, and cannot help smiling to think you should take
Alas! what I wrote you in relation to a conversation I had with Uncle James, perhaps I ought not to have mentioned it, but you may rest assured dear Sarah, you are in no way connected therein, yet I do not feel disposed to relate full, or indeed any of the particulars until I see you, and then if you have a desire to know I will inform you, because you have my entire confidence and I know it will go no further.

The last letters I wrote you were dated one day ahead of time, as I have since learned, but I really thought they were right.

Time seems so very long here, that I forget even the day of the week.

It has stormed more than half of the time since I arrived.

A heavy rain this evening very hard. Commenced about noon.

Seems like a thunder shower in New Hampshire minus the Thunder.

However it does not disturb me as I have very comfortable quarters, yet I may lose my fire there.

Have not got the inside of my tent arranged yet, but will have in a few days.

Am writing this letter on the top of the box I took from home with me.

Oh! Sarah, you don't know how lovely I felt when I first returned to the Regiment. For I ever wish you to know from experience for it was a sad feeling.
In your last letter you express a wish that I should explain myself more clearly, now you must pardon me if I express my wish. It is this, that you must not send me any blank paper. When you write letters to me, please fill them with interesting news, not send a whole half sheet without a word written then.

Remember these are killed hard times, and you must be economical.

The Army of the Potomac is reorganized, and our Brig is to be the 3rd Brig the Division of the 5th Corps Commanded by General Warren.

I suppose we will leave here about the 1st of May, Remember me kindly to all.

Affectionately,

James.