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Camp 17th U.S. Infantry,
near Knoxville, Tenn.
March 29th 1864.

Dear Sarah,

Your welcome
letter was duly received a
few day since. Was right
glad to learn of your good
health, although you seem
to be somewhat annoyed by
your Cousins 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 every one.

Have you letter before
me, and cannot help smiling
to think you should take

Clarm at 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
indulge 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 letter 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 storm'd more than
half of the time since I returned.
It rained this evening very
hard. Commenced about seven,

Seems like a Thunder
shower in New Hampshire
minus the Thunder,

However it does not distress
me as I have very comfortable
quarters, yet I may lose my
fire thereby

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 long I felt, when I first
returned to the Regiment! - how
do I ever wish you to
know from experience, for
it was a sad feeling!

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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
one word written thereon.

Remember these are called
hard times, and you must
be economical —

The Army of the Potomac
is reorganized, and our Brig^{ade}
is to be the 3rd Brig^{ade} 1st Division
of the 3rd Corps Commanded
by General Warren

I suppose we will leave
here about the 1st of May,

Remember me kindly to all.

Affectionately,
James.