

Camp 11th U.S. Infy.
near Knoxville Tenn
April 4th 1864.

Dear Sarah

It is now
ten O'clock P.M. I have just
had a good bath, but have
taken my pen in hand to
write a few lines before
retiring for the night.

Received your welcome
letter this afternoon and have
perused it thoroughly. Have it
before me as I write and will
try to answer your questions
to the best of my ability.

In relation to the change of
Commanders, we have but very
little to say, as a good Soldier
obeys orders without dictating

Gen. Sykes was a good Officer
and well thought of by the
Officers of his Command.

He has been in Command of
the 3^d Corps a long while, and
of course we would have been
pleased to have had him remain,
but as he is ordered elsewhere
and Gen. Warren takes his place,
we cheerfully obey his Commands.

They are making preparations
for an early, and a severe Spring
Campaign, but I cannot think
this Spring will close the War.
Although I wish from the
bottom of my heart it might.

Yes - I will agree with you
this far, that it will be a
powerful step towards it,
if we are successful, and
I pray we may be.

It is my opinion the the Rebs
will fight just as long as there

are any men left to resist.
And you must recollect there

are no instances on record
where so powerful a people
were subdued in one, two, or
even three years. Yet we
must be successful sooner
or later, but where the end
will be, is more than I am
able to comprehend.

I have no idea that we
shall be ordered out of the
field, although there are a
thousand rumors circulating
to that effect.

You have guessed right
Dear Sarah in relation to
what I would you at Washington.
Marine Corps is the word.

I am very sorry to learn
of your Father's ill health,
but hope when Spring opens
he may fully recover.

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I am at present in Command of the Regiment, as Capt. Pease is sick, and goes on a Leave tomorrow. I have received the Appointment as Field Officer and shall hereafter have a horse at ride.

Night before last two of our men went out of Camp for some purpose, and as they have not returned we suppose they were captured by Guerrillas.

I heard several shots fired that night about eleven o'clock and suppose they were taken at that time.

A few days since there was a party of Guerrillas visited a house near Camp and made their boasts that they were going to have our horses.

Possibly they may get some Colts.

1
The Camp is Close Watched
and I do not consider it
safe for any one to venture
out after night fall, unless
he is protected by a Guard,
and well Armed.

Dear Sarah, I think I
shall be obliged to come to
New Hampshire if I ever
see the Sun again, for it
has stormed nearly all of
the time since I returned,
and really I have almost
forgotten how it looks.

It is raining now very hard,
but as there never was but
one storm ^(the present) but what cleared
away, I have faith to believe
this one will in due course
of time, besides I know of
nothing whereby we might
expect a Flood at this time.

Think I will now close

fold up my letter and return
but before doing so will
bid you good night and
pleasant dreams, also send
a kiss.

Most Affectionately
Your Own
James.

april 64

(26)