Camp 17th U.S. Infantry
Near Nokesville Va.
April 8th 1863.

Dear Sarah,

Since I wrote you last, I have been very happily surprised and by a person whom I never saw before in my life that I have knowledge of, and yet I felt perfectly free to converse with him, as I should with any of my old acquaintances. I think from what I have heard you say, that you also are somewhat acquainted with the gentleman.

Think your Yankee Curiosity would ask the question, who he might be? And therefore
Wednesday I had occasion to visit the Camp of the 12th, and soon after my return went to my tent, and was somewhat astonished to find it occupied by a Stranger.

Now my dear Sarah, you must not think I am jealous of you, when I tell you that after the Ceremony of introduction was over, he spoke very flattering of you, and said he had enjoyed many good times with you, and I hope he may many more, for I like his appearance much, being frank and open. I judge from what I saw, said the new he was in my tent, by a certain picture I had left upon the mantelshelf, which he had been drawing and was much pleased with it.

Dear Sarah I don't think it proper to tell you whose picture it was for, don't wish you to know how many young ladies pictures I have in my possession but the gentleman was Mr. George E. Fall.

He spent two or three hours with me conversing upon various topics, looking about the Camp. Then returned to Warrentown, Junction. He wished to be remembered to you.

Thursday I had to go down to Brigade Head Quarters, and rode over to the Junction to see him again, but he had gone out to some of the Camps and returned without seeing him.
Today I have been out with Maj. McCabe, and thirty or forty Cavalrymen on a scout for Guerrillas. We took circuit through the Country, and probably went about thirty miles, but we discovered no Guerrillas.

In fact it would be almost impossible to find any for the Country is covered with little scrubby Trees, and a person might secure himself so that a body of Cavalrymen might go within thirty feet and not discover him, yet I have no doubt but what we passed within Pistol shot of a Dog during the day but our party was so long they dare not make themselves known, but we had the privilege of searching one house for a Rebel Quiet. Although we did not find him.
Tomorrow I have got to go to Alexandria to attend a Court Martial and don't know when I shall return. Probably not until Monday and perhaps not until Tuesday. Think if I am obliged to remain over the Sabbath I shall go to Washington.

I am enjoying very good health. And by the way dear Sarah, I have left off chewing Tobacco again. This I suppose you will be glad to hear.

Do you think you would enjoy a hike any better? I certainly should be most happy to test the experiment.

Do you ever think dear Sarah what a change has come over me since my first acquaintance with you? Then I had none of these vile filthy habits. Now I have them all.
But I trust when I get into Civilization again I shall throw aside these Evils at least to a certain degree.

Had almost forgotten to acknowledge the receipt of your letter this afternoon, not however because I did not appreciate it for it was gladly received. Think my last letter has not reached you.

As you ask several questions which were answered therein.

I close by bidding you good night trusting a kiss.

Devotedly yours,

Your own,

[Signature]