April 26th 1864

My dear Sarah,

We have been very busy for several days making preparations for an early move, yet I can hardly believe we shall leave here under two or three weeks, or at least until we are relieved by other troops.

This morning we sent off all our surplus baggage to Alexandria to be stored during the summer.

We were inspected last Monday, and received a very good report. Everything pleased to my entire satisfaction.
And to the satisfaction of all present.
You ask if my duties are laborious as Field Officer.
Not by any means, but I have been in Command of
the Regiment nearly all of the time since I returned.
Since I am responsible
for its Conduct. Although
the Order is anything, yet
the responsibility is considerable
surrounded as we are by
Guerrillas and liable to be
attacked at any moment.
It is quite difficult to
distinguish them from our
own men as nearly all of
them in this vicinity wear
our Uniform.
I notice by the Washington
papers that the 20th U.S.
Cavalry got Credit for the one we killed.

That is about as near as they get any thing.
The paper says, "a party
of guerrillas attacked the
Camp of the 20th U.S. at Cattle
Station on Wednesday 13th. and
one of them was killed by one
of the men of the 20th U.S.
He had in his possession
property belonging to Capt.
McKenzie", the leather of which
is paler, yet he had a Ring
on his finger that belonged
to J. Burns, one of the Officers
that was Captured.

I have nothing of importance
to communicate. Consequently
Close sending my best wishes
which are always yours

Diplomatically

Gen'l Burn

[Signature]
I have just received your letter stating that mine of the 8th was received last Friday. If none of mine of a later date have reached you, my dear girl, there are two or three yet due for. I have certainly written two since that time.

My dear Sarah, I have just heard a report that we leave here on Friday. But I do not believe it for we have had no official information regarding it. If I were likely to know about it as soon as any one in the Regiment.

Think we should have at least two or three days notice in order to make some necessary preparations for such an event.
My dear Sarah, in your letter you speak of George and Adeline being very much attached to each other.

Think you their attachment is greater than ours?

Oh! my dear Sarah I do most earnestly pray to God my life may be spared that I may prove to you the depth of my affection, the sincerity of my love.

I have enjoyed many very happy hours with you, and by the providence of God I hope to enjoy many happy days.

Ah! tears,

Dearest Sarah you will find I have many faults which in all probability you have not yet learned, but
I hope by your gentle guidance to overcome the most glaring of these. Still I do not claim to have more or greater faults than other men, yet I am willing to confess them which many men are not.

Do not think, Dearest Girl, because I entertain a high opinion of your goodness, gentleness, and purity that I consider you an Angel and faultless, for many of us are free from them, in this World at least.

I have just been to my tea which I have at the gentle hour of nine O'Clock and now return to my letter. Have not heard from John Walker for a long time. I suppose he is still at Boston.

Received a letter from Mrs. Bacon a short time since, saying that Mrs. Emma said if I wished to hear from her I must write her, to which I replied for her to tell Emma that I was always open to Correspondence but she has not thought proper to write one yet.

Also received a note from Dr. Selby about some time. He is still with Dr. Bentinck but thought some of letting up for himself. I wish him much success. For I have great confidence in him, not so much of his abilities for his honesty, and yet he is a man of Considerable Ability.

These two qualities are very seldom found at the present day in Surgeons.
I think they should be highly appreciated when pressed together.

It seems you are just beginning to learn the character of the people at the Bridge, while I, who have been hundreds of miles away learned it a long time ago.

I don't think you are a very good judge of character, and besides you don't like the papers to get information neither would I advise you to take them for I do not think it would in any way improve your opinion.

If such transactions are permitted to persist untill I know not when this program will end,

Good night, and may the Angels of Heaven watch over you.