Camp near Culpepper  
Sep. 23rd 1861.

My dear Sarah,

I am not very well; the conveniences for writing here are very poor, and I fear they are rapidly becoming worse. I am now writing on my table, which is placed upon bricks. This will account for your writing which you will please excuse. I arrived here last night about ten, and with great difficulty found a place where to could stay over night. It was not much like the beds of N.J., but good soldiers are never known to complain.
Get up quite early in the morning and went to Gen. Williams' tent. Ordered to ascertain the whereabouts of our Regiment. We are located about two miles from town but expect to move in the morning if crop.

They have issued rations to the men and every thing is in order to leave at a moment's notice. I am assigned to Co. B. 12th, which is the Colar Company at present.

We are expecting another battle and am glad it shall not be disappointing.

The Coy. of Car. belonging to this Corps are returning this evening from Mitchell's Station where they have had an engagement with the Enemy. Lost four men, of one of the Ninth. Also captured a few prisoners.

The Enemy are in plain sight but more than a four miles distance.

I shall not write again until after the engagement when I will give you full details of the affairs. The officers are gouty, in good spirits and confide in success. They were very much surprised at and now do not expect another two weeks. And I now wish I had not disappionted him by a surprise. Your letters my dear Sarah are in my writing desk if it should be the will of God.
for me to return. I don't think you will want them 
but if not I know from 
what you have said that 
you do. I have the key in 
my pocket but the lock can 
be easily broken.

I write this looking upon 
the dark side of the picture, 
which I am not often to do 
but believe me dear brother. 
I think my life is best to 
end it now. I shall go home 
with my heart 
who declare all things well 
for the result.

I cannot write more long 
but will write tomorrow if we 
do not march.

I shall not have time to 
write to Mother but would 
like you to say of you see 
any of them that I am well.
Remember me to Adjutant and all other friends. I shall depend upon her to keep you company during my absence and tell her I hope she will learn her duty if she does not know it. Would send a copy of Army Regulations if I could. Can I spare her? as I hear now, she must attach at will for the deed.

If you write me, direct to Washington and it will probably be forwarded to where we are.

Co. A. 1st Oct. 17th Regt. 3rd Army Corps

or perhaps it would be as well to direct copies 17th Regt. 3rd Army Corps.

Saw me twice wishing your best wishes, orders, and sending good night kiss.

Yours ever,

[Signature]