Camp 17th U.S. Infantry  
Near Beallton Va.  
Dec. 17th 1863

Dear Sarah,

I have not heard from you for some time and therefore I have come to the conclusion that you have started to visit your friends in Sudbury, as you proposed in your last letter.

Hope if that is the case you may have a pleasant visit. Think I have heard you say that your friend in Sudbury was very deaf. That is truly a very great misfortune for any one but we seem to feel it more
Deeplly when our friends are Thus afflicted especially those with whom we come in Daily Contact and while we look upon them with an eye of pity, we can but feel that it is the work of the Almighty Creator, and that "he doth all things well" although at times it may be very hard to believe this, to believe that a just, all-wise and merciful God would afflict and surely has those whom he loves much. I think we have every reason to be thankful that we have thus far escaped not only this, but a thousand other afflictions.

Now my dear Sarah, I will try and tell you how I have passed this time since I wrote you last, which was but a few days ago. I have been very busy with papers as usual for two or three days, making our and forwarding Disbursements Lists of men about 2500. Also making Final Statements with Inventories of the Effects of men killed. I had just got through with those when I was detailed on a Court Martial which will probably last for thirty days as there is a great many cases to be tried. I have not got any time built up that expect the men will put it up removed so as to be quite comfortable and have every thing ready. I think there is a prospect of our remaining here a while.
Perhaps during this winter
This being the Case I can
probably get a short Turfday
To visit you. Shall exert my
self to that effect you may
rest assured for nothing
moved give me more plea-
sure than to be able to put
this project into execution.

I expect Col. Green will
down leave the Regiment as
he has been notified of his
Furlough as the Eight.
Then I shall be second in
Command. (which will be much
closer than my present station)
Although it will not increase
my pay or raise my rank
as I will be only Acting Col.
got it will relieve me from all
Company provisions and that is
no small relief when a Company
two half of it weighs about
We are living very well at the present time. Our butcher came up about one week ago with quite a variety of articles such as butter, cheese, apples, tomatoes, canned beans of all kinds in fact a little of everything. But the prices are enormous, and a person having any salary thus gets to be very economical in making little ends meet.

Cannot write any more tonight but write in hopes that I may receive a letter from you tomorrow.

Yours truly,
James.