Camp 12th N.C. Dept.
Oct. 25th, 1863.

My dear Sarah,

I wrote you a letter yesterday from Camp near Baltimore and told you we were expecting to remain there a few days, for we had been ordered to go into Camp on regular furlough. I have got our tents pitched and everything arranged to be as comfortable as possible, and protected me from the rain which was descending in torrents. When greatly to our astonishment and surprise the General Call was sounded and we were obliged to pack up at short notice for a move.

Marched until nine O'clock last night through the mud and are now stopping to rest somewhere.
between New Baltimore and Brownsville Station. It has been our fortune to do a great deal of very severe night-marching. We awoke after the engagement at Brownsville. The men marched until after three o'clock in the morning.

I think I have rather belong to any other Corps in the Army, for the 3rd Corps is held as a reserve to support any weak spot which may occur in the lines. Consequently we have all of the marching to perform which is undoubtedly more arduous than the men than fighting. We take our rest by the hour, as we seldom get more than that at any one time. Although we were at New Baltimore three days,

Don't think there is any prospect of a bottle at present. Sir Read is simply getting his forecast in position.
By dear Sarah, you cannot have any notion of the magnitude of this Rebellion. Neither can any one until the brave men something of its and its effects. For miles and miles on the Country through which we have marched, every thing is laid as waste, houses burned, fences taken for fuel, and even good horses taken for theSAME PURPOSE in fact. Every thing presents a desolate forsaken appearance.

People at the North talk a great deal about the Union feeling which is exhibited South but I have never seen anything of the kind. Whereas I was not for their system to express themselves. The men are very quiet, but the women think they are a privileged class and take every opportunity to mock Union Soldiers especially in the vicinity of Calpepper.
I received your letter just before we left Camp last night. I am sorry to entertain the friend that something will surely befall our boys. I trust that nothing very serious will happen.

Permit my dear Sarah, this & think as I should feel very sad and truly wish that I had never seen the Army. However, I am not allowed myself to think of so in such a crisis. I believe that God who rules justly in all things will permit me to return safely to my friends, and to you who I love like my own life.

Will write again when we are getting a Permanent Camp. If we ever have other pleasures, until then.

Good Bye. Remember me to Helen and all the friends.

Affectionately & truly,

Your own

Powers