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 Smelbury, 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 trip in Smelbury was very dear. That is truly a very great misfortune for any one but we seem to feel it more
Deeply 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 "the crooked 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 sorely try those, whom he loves most.

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. Have been very busy with supplies as usual for two or three days. Making our and forwarding Discriptive Lists of men about sick. Also making Final Statements with Inventories of the Effects of men killed. 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 house built yet, but expect the men will put it up tomorrow so as to be quite comfortable I hope every thing ready. Think there is a prospect of our remaining here a while.
perhaps during the winter
This being the case I can
probably get a short furlough
to visit you. Shall exert my
self to that effect, you may
rest assured for nothing
would give me more plea-
sure than to be able to put
this project into execution.
Expect Col. Drum will
down leave the Regiment as
she has been notified of his
promotion to the Eight
Then D will be second in
Command (which will be much
easier than my present position)
although it will not increase
my pay or raise my rank
as D will be only Acting Col.
it will release me from all
Company matters and that is
no small relief when a Company
has half of its members absent.
We are living very well at the present time. Our sutlers came up about one week ago with quite a variety of articles such as butter, cheese, apples, tomatoes, canned meats of all kinds in fact a little of every thing. But the prices are enormous, and a person having my salary has got to be very economical to make both ends meet.

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

Yours truly,
James.