Near Petersburg

July 9, 1864

Dear Del,

Your very kind letter of the 4th came last evening. It was as your letters alwasw (sic) are very welcom. (sic) I was sorry to find you spent the 4th in so much seclusion. I am afraid you allow my abscence (sic) to worry you to (sic) much. Not that I would for the world have you think less of me but you should take a more hopeful view of the case. I am truly sorry that my not writing oftener has given you so much trouble and given your friends cause of complaint. This so far as can shall be remedied in the future. I think that if some of those who complain had went through as much as I have in the last four weeks they would not have had enough of sole (sic) and body left together to write when they got through. I know that I

am careless about writing and alwase (sic) was but do not think that I am to blame in this particular case. On a march we can carry no baggage and consequently no paper. A Capt. on such marches as ours have been has all he can do without it. A company is in many respects just like a large family and the Capt. should see that they are properly cared for, and where men are continually giving out the cares and attentions required are not a few. I am aware that Mag (?) thinks I do not write as often as I should for she has written to Connway about it several times. The other night he brought me one of her letters, and said I must write to you. I took it as an insult which he soon saw. And gave me to understand that he inferred from what Mag said that it was but seldom if ever I wrote to you. I brought out your letters and very soon convinced the young Gent that the case was not so bad as it might be. I think it will be some time before he troubles himself about it again. Mag may think I should write oftener than he does. But I do not, for any second Lt. has more time by half than a Capt. even if he dose (sic) his part. Lt. Jewett (?) Connway belongs to Co. F which is without a capt. And I am afraid that if they do not manage better the promotion will be made from some other Co. This is all the paper I have dear, so I must make it do this time but will write again soon. I send you all the love I have for I care not what others say. I have none for any one before you, and trust you will believe me. I do nothing but what I think will make us more happy in the future. Write as often as you can or feel able.

Your loving husband
Steve