

Near Petersburg

July 26, 1864

Dear Del,

I should have written sooner, but could not well as I have been on the sick list for the past three days. I have not been very sick but sick enough to unfit me for any kind of duty. I am a good deal better today and expect to be as well as usual (sic) in a day or two. I suppose by this time you are safely housed in your new home and I hope enjoying yourself as well as your health will permit which I think will improve by staying in the country a while. I recieved Annie's letter and will answer it at the rifle pits when I return. I am writing this at the cook shanty where I have been staying while sick. We expect to have a big time here one of these days how soon we do not know but probably before long as everything appears to be about ready to commence. They have ^{mined} ~~blown up~~ one of the largest of the reb forts in our front. It mounts thirty two heavy guns and if successfully blown up at the time of attack will probably cost them their whole line of works. I see by the papers that the rebs say that it can not be mined and make all sorts of fun of Ground Hog Grant as they call Gen. Grant for attempting it. It was finished yesterday and I saw the buses to hold the powder carried in this morning. They will put eight tons of powder under it and if it don't upset some of them I miss my guess but time will show. I am getting in a hurry to have Petersburg taken. I want to go ~~back~~ to town. I have not seen but four Ladies since we left Washington, and one here would attract more attention than Gen Grant would were they boath (sic) to ride along the lines. I know of nothing of interest to write about now do not feel very much like writing today and will try and do better next time. Give my love to all at home and keep lots for your self.

Your loving husband,
Steve