

Washington, D.C.
Jan. 1, 1863

Dear Mother

I received your letter the 29th and was glad to hear you are all well there is a great time here today the White House was opened for visitors from 11 till 2 and the President was there to shake hands with all that come there was a great many officers and privates and all the rest of the people that was any thing on a shake as for me I did not go for fear I would jerk old Abe off of his legs for when I get whold of any body I hold on to him like death to a dead nigger they shook old Abe most to pieces I gueys he was glad when they shut the House up I was on guard the old year out and the new year in from 10 to 12 there was a barasses band out playing last night that could beat anything I ever seen or heard the went her in warm as summer here Tuesday night at half past five a fire broke out in the City the alarm was given shortly after wards and at 6 I went on guard and the fire was raging and the flames went as high as from 75 100 feet and before it could be checked it burned down to the ground the biggest fire I ever saw the loss was \$2,000 it was Ford's theatre the second time it has been burned there was two privates houses burned with it there has been 4 or 5 fires since we have been here that was all a forgery about the 150 leaving it was all the talk here sometime ago but not now the nights are cold and frosty here at present the foreign ministers were the first to shake hands with the President the officers next and soon about that money of mine that Taylor has it is all right I think com K was mustered in Wednesday for pay but we do not know how some we will get it we had 4 or 5 turkeys for the new years gift but the men were most all on guard so we did not have the turkeys but will have them for dinner Jan. the 2nd so that will do just as well or as far as I am conserved a little better we had some turkey for our dinner that one of the boys in the next tent from ours Mc has got his boys it come all soft I wish all of you a happy new year so good by from bold soger W. A . Cutter