Washington, D.C.
Jan. 11, 1863

Dear Mother

I received your letter on the 9th and was glad to hear from you it rained all day yesterday and all night I was not on guard so I did not care so I said let her pound who cares for nobody it is colder here today than it was yesterday we had a big thing here New Years there was thousands at the White House to get a wag at old Abe We had to have a big guard that day for the people made some big rushes to see which one would see old Abe first and the boys had all they wanted to do I was not on guard New Years in the day time but I was on at night Mrs. Lincoln gave us a new years present four big gobblers Mrs. Lincoln give the Christmas gifts not the peopleI sent two newspapers to you did you get them we can get the news here wo or three days before you can in Meadville I seen the fire when fords theatre burned it was the bigest fire I ever seen I was just called for to go on Guard I was at the camp and could see the flames it lit the city for a mile around there was one man on capitol Hill that read a newspaper which is a mile and a quarter or so from the fire I was down in the city yesterday and seen where the fire was the building was brick and was a big less twenty thousands dollars while in town I went to the Patent Office and got weighed and weighed 173½ lbs. When we moved from soldiers home and was here a week or two I went to the Patent Office and got weighed 155 lbs I weighed 156 when I left home and since 151 I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you all enjoying the same great bleysing we will stay here till spring I think McDowells and all the boys are well McDowell wants to know what has become of Sam Minnim that he dont write tell Bill Lorkins if he gets a good offer let her pound for Jeff Davis will have it yet give my love to mother and all the rest of the folks and tell liz to write and tell Eva and George to write I must close so good by I want some silver I have not seen any 25cts pieces will do in small pieces. Send 25 or 30 cts 5 ct pieces.
From bold soger, Williard A. Cutter.

I dont know when we will get one pay the paymaster went to pay the army of the Potomac off and we dont when he will get back.