

Washington, D.C. Jan 11th /65

Dear Brother

I received your letter quite a long time ago and am almost ashamed of myself for not answering it before but at last I thought I would answer your letter on Sunday the same morning I received one from Mother so I laid yours aside and answered Mothers right off, the weather has been very rough for the new year so far the Reception at the White ^{House} New Years day was a big thing there was over Four thousand Public Parents and R was in force, all the Guard that was on that ^{day} was there to keep order outside of doors, while the Police kept things right inside of the House Everything passed off very well no disturbance nor any one hurt Last Monday Night old A. had another time of Shaking Hands with the People there was a Public reception at the White House from half past eight till eleven but about the time it was over it commenced to rain and rained all the next day, last night the weather changed and got cold and froze the mud up so it is better walking

so a person can get a round
without getting swamped it is a
Beautiful day to day but there is
no telling how long it will last.
Perhaps twenty four hours for the weather
changes often at this time a year here
we are to have a Temperance Lecture
here in our Barracks to night, that
will be something new for us for there
has never been anything of the kind
held in camp or Barracks since we left
Crawford County. I was a racking
around the city last week I stopped
in the ~~Patent~~ Office to look around
and see the things last summer.
The Patent Office was all painted
off inside and is well worth seeing.
Then there is every kind of Machines
and every thing else in the Patent line.
From there I went to the auction on the
other side of the street but did not
buy anything while there the 5th Regt
of Light Artillery that were in the
Shanadoah Valley with General Sheridan
they were going to city Point I watched
till they all went by thinking there was
some one that I might know but
nary a one did I see that I knew
so to make a day of it I went to dinner

in the Afternoon I went down to the Capitol to see and hear what was going on there a Gentleman from Pennsylvania and one from New York spoke but soon one got to running down Penn and the other New York till at last it was time to adjourn business there is some of the best Paintings in the Capitol I ever seen they look like living things than Pictures. the last time before that I was in the Capitol the Frame work that held up the dome till they could build it was there but that was all out which made quite an Improvement in the look of the room all around the sides of the Room are Pictures hanging against the wall that are life size the dome is not finished yet you can see some two hundred feet up that far it is finished I went in the Library which is about 100 feet long and nearly half as wide where there is more books than I ever seen before. last year the Rail Road Com, has built another track from 17th Street Below the war Department up to the Depot and the new street cars are running from the Depot up G Street to 17th St

and down 17th Street just Penn Avenue
 where the Com. has built a large Building
 for to keep the cars in, Well I must
 tell you how we get along in the
 Barracks some of the Boys used to
 say anything but Barracks but since
 we are in them I think there is not
 many but what likes them better
 than they did the Tents for my part
 I do, for here you can keep your gun
 much better for the tents leak when it
 rains hard and rusts the arms but
 here you can put your accoutrements
 up and they stay as you put them, the
 Bunks are made six together two below
 that is for two then 3 feet above for room
 then the second with 3 feet for head & the 3rd
 on top we are detailed by twos for to keep
 the Barracks clean and chop the wood
 and some of the Boys that are not able to
 do duty are in the cook house ^{to help} which is down
 stairs we being in the 2nd story as a matter of course
 so at meal time all we have to do is to go in
 the table being set ready, well now I will
 answer your question about Gen Hancock he is
 raising 20,000 men but not to stay in the
 City by a darn site as for him staying here
 that is not so for where is the men here but
 our Com. & Invalids and if it takes 20,000 men
 to fill our place we must all be heroes continued