

Washington, D.C.
January 11, 1865

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 Mother's 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 people present Com. K was out in force all the guard that was on that day was there to keep order out side of door's while the police kept things right inside of the House everything payased off very well no disturbance nor any one hurt last Monday night old Abe 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 out 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 around without getting swamped it is a beautiful day today 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 picture here in our barracks tonight, 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 stoped 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 reg of light artillery that were in the Shenadoah Valley with General Sheridan they were going to city Point I wached 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 gentlemen 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 yorn buisneys 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 looks of the room all around the sides of the room are pictures hanging against the wall that are life size the some is not finished yet you can see some two hundred feet up that far it is finished I went in the Library which i s about 100 feet long and nearly half as wide where there is more books than I ever seen before. Last year the railroad company 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 and down I7th street past 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 accoutraments up and they stay so you put them the banks are made six together two below that is for two then 3 feet above for room then the second with 3 feet for head and 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 goin the table being set ready, well now I will answer your questi n 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. and invalids and if it takes 20,000 men to fill our place we must all be heroes continued