Washington, D.C.
December 16, 1862

Dear Mother

I received your letter on the 12th and was glad to hear from you that you were all well we have had two cold nights here but I was not on guard then I was in the tent both nights we have a skip once a week of one day I am not on guard today or tomorrow we do not go to the Regiments any more but mount guard here we are all glad of that for it was a good deal of work to get ready and we had to look just so or the old Col did not like it we had to stand while up there as still as a mouse and not dare to move your head witch was hard to do when the band beat off there was nine or ten drummers in the band they have changed the time to mount guard we used to go on guard at 10 oclock now the old guard stands till four in the afternoon then the new guards goes on the 24 hours it is not so cold as you think it has been nice and warm for it four or five Sunday it was as it was in Meadville when I left I am sorry that McClelland is sick for he must be some man by this time it rained some this morning but the sun is shining now we have better times now than we have had four believes now when we only had 3 so we have 6 hours to sleep we see some big men here Billy Hallowdy washere last week he is in camp acroys the Potomac bill Boslow was here Sunday I got the stamps and the one spot and have got the box and that is all that I have got now I was down in the city today and got weighed I have gained ten pounds in leys than 3 weeks Bob Hannah was never sick or in the Hospital I gueys little Till knows more about this Co and about other folks busineys than she does about her own there is news in the city that Gen. Burnside has retreated there was 40 or 50 officers went by while I was on guard well at present that is all, so good by, Willard A. Cutter