

Washington, D.C.
Camp at Soldiers Home
July 18th, 1863

Dear Brother

I received your letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you I am glad to hear that you are all well for there is nothing like having good health especially in war times. I am well at present we have a good time out here in the country we have a large country that we can stray around in with out being afraid of being taken by the patrols as we were when in the city for we could not go up wctown without a pays without being afraid of going to the guardhouse now we dont have to get a pays to go round the country the guard duty here is not so hard as it was at the White House we have the same number of men on guard as we had at the city but we only stand six hours a day but have a bigger load to carry we have forty rounds of ball cartridges and have the fun of shooting at the target every other morning but it takes 15 minutes to clean up the gun again you can see yourself in the guns when they are in order for inspection we are to have a general inspection on Monday if it dont rain all day there has been a great deal of rain here for the last week our Capt got a letter from liman killgore Lt. Tenant in com used to be our orderely he said there was only 133 men in the regiment left fit for duty at the time he wrote pose you think I am married but I am not Aunt left in march and there is a white cook in her place she is a nice good looking woman there is green corn in the market here and has been for some time we have a pole up here 50 ft high Tad got a flag and a brays eagle for the top it is the nicest pole in the town I got the 25 cts our fellows are battering at fort Sumpter and Charleston will soon be ours it is reported taken in the morning paper I must close hoping to hear from you soon I remain your brother still, Willard A. Cutter,