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Hdq. 154th Regiment N. Y. S. Vol.  
Camp in the field at U. S. Ford  
12 miles above Falmouth, Va.  
January 19, 1863

My dear Dora,

I received your kind letter of the 11th inst. last evening and was right glad to hear from you, especially so to hear you were all well. I was greatly surprised to hear that Ma has not received my letters regularly as I have always written home at least twice a week ever since I left home either sick or well and have generally done so every other day. Lately I have written twice a week. In my last letter to Ma I told her that our Brigade had been on an expedition for cutting roads to the river. When I wrote I was there in camp near Falmouth. The next morning after writing that letter we came back to the same place and have been here ever since, engaged in cutting more roads to the river and in clearing away the underbrush on the bluffs this side of the river for the purpose of planting batteries.

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The Pontoon Bridges that were used at Fredericksburg are about a mile from here awaiting the finishing up the roads to allow their transportation to the river. We are in a very thick pine forest--nearly as thick as the pine grove in Camp Brown--Jamestown. Consequently all our operations have been covered from the observation of the rebs. Everything looks quiet over the river as well as on this side but in a day or two our Army will cross, or attempt to cross, the river here and without the rebels have evacuated which they probably have not--there will be another severe battle sometime this week. The opinion of the officers is that our Brigade will not cross the river but will be held as a reserve as we have been doing fatigue service for a long time. But whether we shall be in the contest or not may the fate of battle favor our cause and protect our brave corps.

I saw Capt. Wood several times during his sickness--he seems to have a presentiment that he should not recover and was very anxious to get home before he died. Poor man, his condition would not allow the gratification of his dying wishes.

I am quite strong now and am improving every week. The weather is pleasant--the nights intensely cold and the roads as hard as a pavement.

I would be glad to hear from you often. I expect you and Charley will be good children. I know you will and aid Ma all you can while I am away. Hoping to see you all soon and hear often from you.

I am your affectionate father

Give my love to Ma and Charley.