

CAMP NEAR STRATFORD CH. February 9, 1863

Dear Frant

I wrote you a letter last Monday so I shall have to write today in order to write once a week. You must excuse me for not writing sooner as you see by the heading, we have changed our place of abode since I wrote last. We have had to march through mud and rain and build a new house with a fireplace in it. Ha-ha and it has kept us pretty busy. I reckon we have made about \$3000 since we have been in Virginia as this is the third house we have built and the report is that we have got to leave this in two or three days on a expedition. If the movements which are on foot are successful that the war will be short and they are not there, there's no telling when and where it will end but I guess Frant, I have wrote enough about the war so I will change the subject. You can't guess what I had for breakfast. Well, ~~it~~ was soft bread. I tell you what- it was good. We had a lot of butter on it only cost \$1 per pound not very cheap at half price. I wish you could just step in and see our parlor and carpet. It is evergreen although when we get it black with mud. What will you do now Frant, your Father is not where he can write about me. I can do just as I please and you won't know anything about it. _____ But then I will try and do right when I am doing anything I always ask _____ down to Charelton~~s~~ but we can tell nothing about it until we get started so we do not worry about it at all. We have made up our minds that if we go we shall see more of the country but I think I have seen enough unless it is better!. For my part, I would be willing to settle down and take Dinah for a wife but if it is necessary, I can travel my three years out and three more and fight besides. But I wanted to count and let our head men fight the Rebels and not fight amongst themselves. I think if our generals take the right course now and move cautious and not let the Rebs get the start of them and when they do strike~~s~~, strike with all their force that this rebellion will soon be closed! What would Frant say if she should see me. I was thinking this morning how I would like to spend 1 pleasant Sunday at home once more. Oh would it not be bless to be free and happy once more. I get a little

downhearted sometimes when I think how I am sold out for three years but I guess it will come all right. This is the second letter I have wrote to you since I got yours but then I use to go down to your house as much as three times and you did not come to our house once. I will send you a ring in _____ it is not very nice erk costly but will serve to while away a little time and you can see what we can do that keeps us ~~so~~ busy. We can't get time to write but I must close. Write soon and remember me as your true friend. I promise to write a better letter but have failed.