

Camp near fredericksburg va  
feb the 2 1863

Dear father

it is with pleasure that I Sit Down to write to you it is to let you know how I get along and that We have made out to get our pay for two months onley they Say that We are going to have Some more pay the last of this month then I will send you some more I Could of Sent you some money this time but the most of the boys sined the alotment to send there money home so they Dident have much to pay there Debts Capt mills and lieutenant Birdick nor eny of the officers get but one months pay but I guess they will pay part of what they owe me and so will some of the boys. you want to take this Check to olean and Draw the money and if you owe eny body pay them When you get ready Dont let them know that you have got eny money Spend it as you are a mind to and where it will Do you the most good be as endipendent as you please it is morning and a very pleasant morning as pleasant as Spring We have got prety good quarters here and if we Can Stay here We Can get along very well now you musant feel hard towards me for not sending you more money but I Cant this time for I havent got but five Dolars my self and I have needed money a great meny times and I Want to keep a little for fear that I Shall need some some time prety Bad and if I Dont have eny I may Suffer for the want of some for I have seen times and things that We \_\_\_ \_\_\_ here are very Dear I have Seen Brandy Sold for Seven Shillens a Drink I tell you When a man has been out on picket and Comes in all Wet and Cold and if he Can buy brandy for seven shillen a Drink money is no object I was on picket the other Day on the raphanock river and the rebs Come over and gave me some tobaco but I Dident use it I gave it to Capt Mills they said that they was sick of the war and wanted to go home as bad as we Did the regiment that was picketing of the rebs was the 10 alibamia some of them throwed Down there arms and Come over and gave them selves up the raphanock is not a very large stream and is very rocky and a man Can get across prety easy Jump from one stone to another and get acrost very easy I Wouldent take the panes to go across and get all wet and give them tobaco as they Do to our men I Shall see home by next time if I am alive War or no War it makes no Difference to me howe I must see I want you to make a great quantity of *[the rest of the letter is missing]*

[Devilleo Wheeler, private, Co. I, 154th New York, *National Archives.*]