



Camp Douglas
Chicago Ill Mch 20, 63

Dear Maria

I will now try and write you a few lines on this disagreeable morning. This is a very business and snowy morn, full as much so as any morning we have had this winter and to day is the first day of spring. I pity the men who are on guard as it must be rather tedious business for them, but as our men are well clothed they stand it well. We don't hear any thing about being sent away from here yet but Gen Stannard expects to be ordered away soon and he will do his best to get our regiment into his brigade. I wrote you once before that in case the major's place was vacant that Capt Ripley would get the place and there is not much doubt but that it will be so he being an intimate friend to our Maj and his brother being an intimate friend of Gen Stannards. beside this he has the fortune to be wealthy and can command a large amount of influence on this account, he has been very diligently at work for the position for a number of