

Yonkton 7<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Maria

I got a letter from you yesterday and it was a good long one and I fear you will not get so long a one in return - I have been very busy for a day or two making out Ordnance Returns but have got them mostly finished now. Maj' Garris is at present here but as you suppose, it does not make my duties any less for I am still in command of the Regiment. My duties are not very hard but still I don't see so much spare time as I could wish. The health of the Regiment does not improve much yet and what we generally dread we at present are longing for and that is cold weather for we expect when it comes to see our sickness decrease and the Reg<sup>t</sup> be of some service. At present we report only 88 Satisfied men for duty and 18 Officers. I stand it very well and am quite fleshy but don't feel real tough and active and there is not a man here that does, I have warned Lester to take care of himself well, and not over eat or drink much water but I see his appetite is of the Barney sort and he can't refuse good food. We expect soon to be ordered away