

Newport Barracks N. H.,  
Dec, 24<sup>th</sup> 1863

My dear Maria

Yesterday I rec<sup>d</sup>  
two letters from you, one containing  
the photo and I assure you it was  
a treat to me to see my dear little  
ones as they look at home. You did  
not have them taken in this dry day  
clothes as I desired but perhaps it is  
just as well as they are. It seems  
that Carrie is quite poor, I am afraid  
she runs and races too much. or what  
is the reason she looks so thin? I pround  
it is just as well if she is only healthy.  
Fred looks as crop & sober as can be  
I am glad his disposition is not what  
one would judge it from the picture -  
I am very much obliged for them and  
while I am away from you it will  
afford me much pleasure to look  
at the photo of my dear little family