

Letter No 21

Branch Station Va.  
Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> / 64

Dear Parents &  
Brethren; Again I seat myself  
to acquaint you by means of  
pen & paper of my circumst-  
ances & of the state of my health.  
My health is good & every  
remains the same in camp as I did  
when I last wrote, there was  
a little excitement here the 5<sup>th</sup>  
a battle on the Rapidan, there  
was an order to be ready to move  
at a moments notice with  
everything packed, soon another  
order came to take nothing but  
blankets & rations, & to leave  
a guard on the camp & pickets  
to remain where they were,  
I was on picket at the time, I  
could hear the roar of musketry  
plain,