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Camp Douglas
Chicago Ill. Jan^y 1st 1862

My Dear Maria

This is the first day of the new year and I wish it may be a happy one to you and not only this one but that every day in the year and through your life it may continue the same. This year comes upon us with rather gloomy prospects and when I think of how things are going I am almost discouraged but hope comes to my relief and I think perhaps all is waiting for the best and that before this year shall close the war will be finished. I hope it may be so.

Oh won't it be a happy time when the great armies can return to their peaceful and quiet homes and once more enjoy the society of their families and friends. We can think how good it will seem to us and then imagine thousands who are situated in little circumstances. It seems that things will change in long and that soon some way will be opened by which peace will be restored to our now distracted Country (God Grant it).