

Camp Douglas

Chicago Ill. Feby 22^d

Dear Maria

I will now write you another of my dry letters for nothing transpires worth writing and as I have but little material of course they are dry I have just been to dinner of buckwheat and find I am able to make roay with my share of them and I am still very fleshy. You say you hope it is not by drinking that I have become so fleshy. When I was unwell for a few days about a month ago, the Doct^r advised me to drink Ale every day and so I have and I think it keeps me in a better state of health than I could enjoy otherwise and I think as long as I stay in this climate it is best for me to use it, but I use it temperately and have no fears of becoming so habituated to it as to be unable to quit it at any time. To day is very cold and the wind is blowing a perfect gale and as there is a light snow on the ground it is flying in every direction and the boys are having a hard time on guard and they complain bitterly because they are obliged to go on so often, and many of them have got very severe colds and some are getting to be quite sick and quite a number have lost their voices but none of my Co. Lieut Jewell is very hoarse and it is with an effort that he can talk at all. he has just got a letter from his wife