

Yorcktown 70

Sept 23 1869

My dear Maria

Perhaps a few lines from me written at about this time would be very acceptable so I will endeavour to scribble a little.

To day has been a long and lonesome day and I have many times thought of you and our dear little ones away up in good old Vermont. I would be see you just now, and I can in imagination, with your sewing in your hands and Corrie & Fred at your side teasing you to make pictures on the slate for them or perhaps singing their Sunday School song or repeating their little verses, how I wish I could just step in and surprise you, in your quietude, would it not be joyful.

This evening I am enjoying the comforts of a fire and find very pleasant. I bought a stove and pipe to day as we have had quite cool weather for a few days past & I was surprised to hear you were having uncomfortable warm weather in Ver<sup>t</sup>. We are making calculations on staying here this winter and are fixing up for cold weather. I have got a cow for our mess.