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Head Quarters Detachment
8th Wth Vet Regt. Illinois Ia
April 12th 1864

Dear Laura

[Again I seat myself to write you a few lines, though not having much to write that will interest you. I believe that the longer I stay in the Army, the more care and responsibility I have - I have now 565 men under me and only one officer to a company & most of these new ones & 5 out of the 10 are acting & not real Lieutenants. I naturally feel a great anxiety to have them learn so that when the Veterans get back, the recruits will be able to drill as well as they do. Another thing, we are liable to be ordered into the field at any moment & I feel as though we should improve every moment, to be fit to do this.

Especially since the great battle near Vicksburg on the 8th & 9th. You cannot imagine how I feel, in hearing the news of this battle, my intimate friends have some of them been killed many wounded, probably many that I have not yet heard of. Many of the old Regiments, however are known as Veterans.