

Camp Butler, Newport News, Va
Sunday, June 16th 1861

My dear Wife:

Three of us sit here writing, and
John Stearns is just sitting down to write. The articles sent
by our friends in Bradford arrived in safety last night,
and they may all feel assured that the whole company
are grateful for the necessaries and luxuries received.
Almost every thing was in good order. The firkin that
you and Laura and Zetta sent I was glad to receive -
The tea was very acceptable as we could not get very
good here. We tried some, last night and all pronounced
it good. The cookies tasted like home. The maple sugar
we shall find a use for on rice and crusty pudding.
Give Lucy Strickland our thanks for the pickled tomatoes
and tell her that we are all obliged to her. Every thing
came that was sent. We are probably not suffering as our
friends supposed we were when this stuff was sent to us.
I wish you had sent me a thin coat and my Panama
hat. The boys had eggs this morning for breakfast, but they
have had eggs before, and cheese &c. They have had
almost every thing that has been sent them, that is, eggs,
potatoes, cheese, dried apple &c. yet this stuff is just as ac-
ceptable, for we shall need it all, tho' the captain says
that we shall have to enlist for three years to eat up the
the whole of it.