

I have got a long letter commended for Helen

Camp near Sincrab's Creek Nov^r 1862

My Dear Wife:-

I received your letter in due time, and should have answered it before, but for this reason - viz The day I received it there was a great battle going on but 14 miles from here - and we were in a great hurry lest we should be ordered to the battle field, and still we are under some excitement as the battle is still raging. Ever since last Friday our ears have been ringing with the terrific roar of the deadly canon. Last night we could hear the boom of artillery till after eleven o'clock, and it is the noise that has lulled me to sleep every night this week. If you will look upon the map you will see about where we are and how near we lay to the battle field. Leesburgh was the scene of the first action, or first days fighting - We are but 11 miles from Leesburgh down the river. As the battle went on from day to day it did ^{not} recede much from us though the field of action changed - but took a sort of curve down the river - To day the firing has been more distant. We have no means of knowing what the result of the fighting has been. So much for the war.

You cannot know how much happiness it gives me to hear of the good health of you and the children. It makes me cheerful and happy, and I go to me duties every morning with an elasticity that surprises myself. How many times I have wished that you could see me when I attend to the "Surgical call" every morning. There will come up to the "Call" from 70. to 100 men to be examined to be excused from duty - and you may be assured that I have my patience sorely tried with some of the scamps. I talk to them sometimes in such a manner that you would think that I had a heart of stone. Some are so nasty that they are very offensive, others are miserable shicks. Sometimes my