

Camp in the field near Warrenton V^o July 29th 1863

My dear wife:-

Most welcome our two letters from you, and one from Helen yesterday. The first I have missed for nearly a month, and to learn of your continued good health was extatic. I know the real value of letters from friends at home one must be placed in circumstances similar to ours. The long waiting, the hopes and fears, and the many anxieties that we experience when we wait so long for news from home, gives a thousand fold value to the letters we receive that no other circumstances can produce. We look at the letter almost dead to open it, yet impatient to devour its contents. Then when we have perused them it would make our friends at home proud, and happy too, to see the extatic joy depicted on our countenances. Then we sit down in groups and tell little bits of news we get from home, each one having some little home incident to relate that adds additional happiness to that already received. Though we suffer many hardships in the field