

Camp in the field near White Sulphur Springs V^a Aug 8th 1863

My dear wife:-

One year ago today I received my commission for the Army - How many changes has taken place in this short space of time. how thankful we ought to be that there has been no change that has brought sorrow to our hearts. or vacancies to our hearth stone. When we reflect how many have been made to mourn the loss of dear friends and the homes left desolate. it fills our hearts with gratitude for the preservation of our own lives and the lives of those we love. Yet it is astonishing how little we appreciate these blessings and how thoughtless we are because of their continuance. I have past through many trials and dangers in the past year endured hardships that seems almost insupportable. Yet here I am sound in body, having met with but only little to disturb my feelings, living on good terms with my fellow officers and the men.

How will another year find us. How can we see the future? Shall we be able to say as I have just said, we mourn the loss of none we love? But why ask these questions? Let us hope and have faith to believe that the end of another year may find us all together. enjoying the full