

[December 1863]

Camp near Brandy Station Va.

My dear Wife,

I have but a few minutes to write and am writing under some difficulties. viz - a very sore thumb. Three days ago while getting some wood in the dark I knocked a little skin off my thumb. Yesterday without thinking I anked a man and who had erysipelas. Last night my thumb began to swell and pain me very much and it has been very painful all day to day. While I write it is paining me and I have it done up so it is with difficulty that I hold my pen. But I felt that I could not let this opportunity pass without writing. It is the