

Camp in the field near Petersburg Dec 23/64

My dear Wife,

It is a very rainy day and every thing looks dreary and dismal. But for all this we are at work as hard as we can fitting up our Hospital, and we get very little time for any thing else.

I have just come in from the operating tent, where I took out a portion of the bones of a mans foot which was shattered by a ball cast coming while on picket. It was a very delicate job, but I succeeded in making a very neat job of it, and the man will save his foot. This kind of work is very tedious, and the anxiety one feels to do it well is very exhausting.

You will see by my letter to Helen what position I hold as a Surgeon in the Army. Though material aid does not come directly from it, yet it is one that I have reason to feel proud of, God Smith to the contrary notwithstanding.