May 31st, 1863

Dear Mother, your kind letter was only received this evening, it was dated May 26th. We have been having anything but nice weather lately, with rain and drizzling, but so dry and dusty that a fellow cannot breathe. I suppose that a citizen would call it fine, but it is. But no charms for rain, we have to do so much marching reviewing and marching that such weather is very disagreeable. A little rain would make it very pleasant.
When I read your letter to where the lot had been taken to pay for the tax, I was
refusing away but when I come to where it and
redeemed I was all right again. We have been paid
again, two months past this time 44. 00 five dollars (415. 00) fifty of
which I enclose to you
and then I have for
my self 100. 00, but will
lend you part of this
if you need it bad, it
may be some time before
we get paid again although
this is current that here
after we are going to
be paid every month
if so I can send more
Every time I think of old James I have to laugh. he presents rather a comical looking picture when he attempts to clink a greased foot on fourth July with his pockets full of buns and rounds. he'd applying the bung to his hands to keep from slipping around. I guess he has been partaking to freely of pinto-catering drinks. he is very fond of firing salutes but it costs him something once and awhile. I suppose you remember the time he shook all the glass out of the brick tank windows with that old six pound brass piece and then fired encouraging...
I was on picket yesterday at the Lacy house, the Rebels are very quiet about talking across the river, but I think they don't mean much like the way Grant is coming the quietest on third in the west. The Sanitary Commission depot is at the Lacy house and Mrs. Lee makes her headquarters. Keeneer is in command of this Corps now, but I think only a white Congress goes home on a furlough, he probably will be back soon.
Eli need a letter from his mother to write but he complains of news. I don't want to complain you for I don't like to be complimented on my self but I do thank you might amuse more than most of the people writing from there. And how some people will write to a fellow and devote the whole of his or her letter to reminding you that they want all the news that you can possibly write up, but I am very fortunate not to have any such demands. Van creek presents our division the other way, riding fast with...
more washing young
officers tier to his hild
I mean the new hild
and that is really
I got a letter from Louie
Smith Godard now
in Carson Territory
and he sais he owns like
the county but that way
is are very high from 80
to 94 so few day he also said
that provisions are high
in proportion to wages
He thinks he will come
back to the states in
about 18 months or two
years and take the post
only as long as he likes I thin
from what he said that
he is sick of the new county
Well Penthed this my respect to all my
friend love to Brother C E Dowdard