Camp 1st M'nos Vol. Culpeper Va
December 30th 1863

Dear Mother

Your kind and interesting letter of the 21st of this month duly arrived today. I cannot help but think when I am reading your of the 25th (for I do it often) that you are having a pretty hard time to get along and at the same time the money I send you at Falmouth is still in the Bank in a greater portion of it. How much provision are there and if you feel like quitting keeping boarders as pronto immediately and use all the money you have sent home, do not kill your self working but try and get along until I get out of the Army. I am having a fine time myself and I dare say better than you although our " grub " is not quite so good we have plenty of apples and the commissary food tastes better than the choiceest cake, pie &c. Christmas our Squad four in number had for dinner potatoe cooked in two different ways and Felicia soft bread coffee &c six bottles of ale which by the way was not very good but would have in a crowd for good company.
The army. Charley Ely is on fatigue duty today, making roads to the Rail Road.
We have just got through making our day's work and will be mustered for pay by the last of this month, then about the 20th of next month the Pay Master will be aboard with his green bags.
Chaplain Carroll has just returned from a mission of charity to New York, he has been gathering information at the home of a condemned man about his early life, how old he is &c. If you have received all my letters when I was at Gettysburg you must certainly have heard about him going to Washington and getting the President's pardon for a young man in his Company of the Sixty Ninth Regt charged of desertion, this time he went on his own hook, paid his own fare and got the desired information. He thinks if the young chap will get clear of the army he only needs his time that he was away from his Company of Regiment.
The Chaplain preached in Brooklyn and he says that he created a good deal of excitement relating his experiences in the army.
Charley North is almost well again you will remember that in my last letter that Charley was having a bad time with his arm, now he is some better and will be ready for duty when it comes.
his town. When the 10th Minnesota Volunteers go home this Spring you will think they are old men for they are all getting new clothes and fixing up fine.

I heard to day that General Hancock had returned but I do not know whether to credit the report or not although it is not impossible. Well hope you will overlook any mistakes for I have been working some these days and have tired

Respect to all Friends,

Love to Brother Orion and a good shan to your self

Charles Goddard