

Camp Stoneville Brig
Dec 27th 1863

Dear Sister -

I feel to-night like, taking off gloves, & pitching in to give you a regular down scolding, two weeks have gone by, & still no letter from home, I would let you know that I am still as "terre fir me" & as glad as ever to receive one of your showy epistles, for they are indeed as a ray of sunshine to me in these dark & troublous times, how eagerly we all look for the mails & how happy to get letters home but a soldier can tell. But I will reprove you for a few days, but must insist that you make up for lost time, by writing longer letters, I want no more half sheets.

We're at last in winter quarters, I have been very busy for two days building me a hut, will try to finish to-morrow & then I will feel more at home.

We have all been looking for Mr. Miller for some days, but hear that the council is broken, so have in some measure given him out, until the rainy season is past for it has been raining here incessantly for two or three days & suppose you are visited with a similar blessing. How did you spend your Christmas. I was on picket on the Ropidan, had Corned bacon & bread for breakfast & bread & bacon for dinner & for supper, nothing-

Hope you faced more ~~succesfully~~, Some of our officers
disgraced themselves by getting drunk.

Why is it that Christmas (the birth day of our
Lord & Saviour) should be especially set apart to
be thus desecrated? Certainly it should be a day
of rejoicing to us. But that it should be thus
spent, how disgraceful & sinful.

I have heard that Miss Kate Corbridge is mar-
ried & that to Lieut Smith of the V.M.I., a Is it true?

Morning seems to have gotten to be quite a nuisance
with the Lexington ladies. I wonder if Miss
Barclay will not soon be off.

I expect it
would be a good idea for me to employ an
agent to act for me, before the crop is all sent
to market. Will you consent to act for me? If so
do not pick an inferior article, I would prefer to
wait for the next season, I understand that there
is a good show for the growing crop.

Have you heard from Edward lately? Give my
love the next time you write. I am ashamed to
write myself, after putting it off for so long
a time. I expect Watson will have to come into
service again as I see Congress is after the
Substitute gets with a sharp pole. Love to
all friends. Good bye -

A. Barclay