May 21st, 1863, Camp Rogers.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 15th inst. last night and I was so rejoiced that I concluded to write to you right away, as far as I am concerned, I am in excellent health and spirits, and am glad that you are the same. You mentioned in your letter the shooting affair on Saturday. I can candidly tell you that I, at that time, did not feel any more scared than I do at present in Camp. Just look at the idea! After having been more than once in battle a fellow gets kind of used to the whizzing of the bullets in close proximity to his cranium to say nothing of the charging on a battle or hand to hand conflict. But backs not excluded. You must not think that I was never in a tight place before, for I have seen some of my comrades shot down almost by my side, and wondered as to why

C. A. [Signature]

M. D.
I do not think much of the Cape Company. They seem to be down on my [illegible] company because we are acknowledged to be the crack Company in the Regiment, and as such they can not put on any airs with us. This is why the Irishman said, they would get whipped if they did.

When I enlisted I hailed from Boston.

I have written both home and to uncle that I have joined the glorious stars and stripes, and have rec. letters in return.

My Regiment expects to be on Boston Com. by the 20th of June, therefore I shall have the pleasure to see you in a short time.

I consider myself a citizen of the U.S. do you? I suppose you are speaking about going out bushwhacking down your road.

We have plenty of berries here of all kinds because we are, or rather this Camp is, situated in what used to be in times of yore an orchard, for instance: blackberries, currants, strawberries, cranberries and etc. to numerous to mention and we live

I am very sorry to hear that you have been sick lately very much so, for you have been always, since I left home, the best and staunchest friend I had. If my wishes and desires are recorded above, when asked in a humble manner, I do not doubt but that you will get well again speedily. — Happy to hear that Mrs. Joan is in good health again. Please to remember me to her as a grateful and ever honouring boy.

To Gertrude and Louise — sing carings once in a while? I can remember perfectly the carings when they used to sing together and I can but think that I was foolish for not joining them. Do you or can you guess why I did not? — We have got a regular club in our company and we have meetings every night, sometimes to sing and at other times to declaim and make speeches, pretending to keep the blues out of our heads.

I think it is a pretty good investment, don't you? I congratulate Dr. Dean of having got 'rid of the draft.'
Dear Sir.

I have rec your letter of the 15th inst. to night and I was so overjoyed, that I concluded to write to you right away. As far as I am concerned, I am in excellent health and spirits, and am glad that you are the same. You mentioned in your letter the shooting affair on picket – I can candidly tell you that I, at that time, did not feel any more scared than I do at present in Camp. Just look at the idea! After having been more than once in Battle a fellow gets kind of used to the whizzing of the bullets in close proximity to his cranium to say nothing of the charging on a batter in hand to hand conflict, grey backs not excluded. You must not think that I was never in a tight place before, for I have seen some of my comrades shot down almost by my side and, wonder full as it may seem to you, [over page] [I] have as yet, escaped unhurt. I am very sorry to hear that you have been sick lately – very much so, for you have always, since I left home, the best and staunchest friend I had. If my wishes and desires are recorded above, when asked in a humble manner, I do not doubt but that you will get well again speedily. Happy to hear that Mrs Sears is in good health again. Please to remember me to her as a grateful and honouring boy. Do Georgietta and Louisa sing evenings once in a while? I can remember perfectly the evenings when they used to sing together and I can't but think that I was foolish for not joining them. Do you know or can you guess why I did not? We have got a regular club in our company and we have meetings every night, sometimes to sing and at other times to declame and make speeches, purpo[r]ting to keep the blues out of our heads. I think it is a pretty good investment, don't you? I congratulate W. Doane of having got ridd of the draft. [next page]

I do not think much of the Cape Company. They seem to be down on my company because we are acknowledged to be the crack Company in the Regiment and as such they can not put on any airs with us; dos whay as the irishman said, they would get whipped if they did. When I enlisted I hailed from Boston. I have written both home and to uncle that I have joined the glorious stars and stripes, and have rec. letters in return. My Regiment expects to be on Boston Common by the 20th of June; therefore I shall have the pleasure to see you in a short time. I consider myself a citizen of the US, do you? A propos, now you are speaking about going and huckleberrying down your way we have plenty of berries here of all kinds because we are, or rather the Camp is, situated in what used to be in times of youre an orchard; for instance blackberries, currants, strawberries, cranberries and etc. to numerous to mention and we live [over page] pretty well you may be sure.

Everything is quiet in Newbern and vicinity at present and therefore I have not many news to tell you, in the fighting line. My Company, at present, is on detached service in garrisoning a fort, situated about 5
minutes walk from our Camp, and mounting five guns. I see by the papers that two negro regiments are on their way here; one from Boston and one from New York. Do you think it is a good plan to make the negroes fight for the union?

But hark! Taps are beating and the sergeant tells us that it is time to extinguish the illuminator, it being 10 o'clock and as I have no desire to get into a row with him I think I will now close these few lines. Give my love to all who may inquire for me and remember me kindly.

Fred.

Cô A. 43d Regt M.V.