

Fredricks burg Va

the  
Jan 12 1863

Dear sister

I received your kind and welcome letter and was glad to hear from you & to hear that you are all well. I am well at present and hope that these few lines will find you the same. We are in camp 2 miles from Fredricks burg. It was a nice place before the battle. It contained 8000 inhabitants. I have to go on picket 2 a week. I come off yesterday. We have to go in the morning rain or shine & stay till the next morning. We can talk with the rebels across the river and some times we go across and trade papers with them. They are friendly and they say that if we will hang old Abe and Horace Greely they will hang Jeff. Davis & Beauregard & that would end the war. I wish that it would end. I don't much care how. You wanted to know if I suffered for clothes and grub. We have plenty to wear and a nought to eat such as it is. John Demmon writes that he sees hard times. I don't believe that he has seen as hard times as I have. You may know whether we have seen hard times. Our regiment has got about a 160 fit for duty. You wrote that Mary wanted that I should write to her. If she will write to me I will answer it. I am glad to hear that she has left Thompsons. You wrote that if I wanted stamps that you would send some. I have got plenty now. They are scarce here. We can get butter at the sutlers for 75 lb & cheese 50 cts sausage 50 cts cookies 10 for 25 cts onions 5 lb potatoes 5 cts lb apples 5 cts piece bread 15 cts loaf. No more at present. Excuse bad spelling and writing. Write as soon as you get this. Give my best respects to all.

From your affectionate brother  
E Conrad  
to Mary E Conrad