So Coventry Sept 20 1863

Dear Brother,

I have thought for some time I would write you. But we have expected, expected, Sarah to make us a visit at last. She don't come, so I will write you a few lines. I have just wrote to John & Sanf. They were well the last I heard from them. We are all quite well. He have a fine boy of 3 months he weighs 22 lbs. He has 2 teeth in sight. He is quite well. Sarah & husband & Mary B. have been over home & made a short visit. I promised to make them a visit this fall, but it looks rather doubtful. I have so much work. I wish you would see if you can get a Blacksmith for us. This Winter one that can make shoe nails in particular. If you hear from me let me know it.
Our Town is Drafted from Tuesday
The 22. I expect to get out if you
know of any one that you can get
for me to go as substitute. I have
done he will pass examination
come 12 let me know it immediately
if I will send you word to come
with him. I don’t suppose you
can get one for less than three
hundred dollars. If you should
get one for me I suppose you would
financier as for yourself
O Derby has been very sick
But is better the folks have been
out the. You must come out
and make him a visit. If you can’t come let Sarah
Come. If you should come to Tabor
you will come to my house first.
Then we can carry you as County
Dept is the nearest you can get by
public conveyance. I must close
and is getting late. Write soon our
love to Sarah be sure I make us
a visit there.

From your Brother
W. J. Parker
January 1st 1834

Bandy Station Va.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter on the 20th. And have been to Lewis's-he have not had time to write since then.

I have not wrote many letters since I have been in this business, I must have done better.

We have been working on our winter quarter for 2 or 3 weeks and now we are pretty comfortable, but the mud here is awful. And do I look guard and sent all the soldiers and sent out the guard right to the distant. Guard duty is the worst of our duty in the winter as what sleeping we do there is at a hole on the ground. To day we had two turkeys and some pudding and rami and a quart of the, and we are going to have cysters for supper, only funny of that. We should not be a solder
but we have to pay for it. I am afraid
for the Army this Winter as some quite clerk.
it would suit you exactly while the
Army is in winter quarters.
I thought I should perhaps have a chance
in the Army, this Winter, but they
will grant no more forager's to enlisted
men unless they will recruit for 3
years more, that is the plan in our
camp, but I shall put my 3 years here
I think of trying it again. I think
next Summer's campaign will be
enough for me. I had next
summer, more than you can imagine
our commanding officer is a damned
old grannie, and makes it worse for
the men than any officer we ever
had. We have had 100 per cent in the
command of my company since
I have been in it. The first and third
are Major, Major-General. There
are Mr. Preston and Mr. Kitzel two of
just men in the service.

Suppose you will have a good time to-day. I wish I was in your
place and enjoy myself. I hope you will take a drink or two or
me for a happy New Year. I wish I was in the Valley near the Hutch-
House this afternoon instead of on this farm. Plain I would enjoy yourself
Don (if you would have laughed
to see me and my bunky building
a chimney to our house we had nothing
to build it of but sticks and mud
but we made one and it is a good one
it is my bunkey is a gay 60 orange
painter from Boston used to run
with Barlow at 11 and was the
first and second foreman, Master
in Worcester his name is Rogers,
Dadie had a letter from my brother
this week and my wife was down.
Dadie at that time I expect a
letter from her but she hasn't
I wrote to you, did not hear from you since you went from the mail will be to blame. Give my respects to all my friends and give my love to your wife and the baby. This for me and tell Mrs. Bushfield to give the baby a kiss for me and I will pay my respects when I come home.

Yours truly,

And J. Creasley
Brandy Station, Va.
Feb 28th 1864

Friend Sam,

I have got here all safe and sound. I stopped one night in Meriden with my Brother and left New York at 7 o’clock next night and was in Washington at 5 on the morning of the 28th and left there at 10 for the front. They was glad to see me back more especially. Bottomly, the cross questioning I got from him was equal to his Mother’s.

The night after I got here, Friday night we had a show of Dramatic powers from our Dramatic Club. The play was ‘Toodles. with Singing’ and...
Dancing. one Clog dance. 3 songs.
1st. London after 12 at night
2d. Limerick Races.
3d. Brave Atoho, and Fair Imojo.

Everything passed off very well. The officers were present with ladies. And some officers from Head Quarters. It was better than anybody expected.

Last night (Saturday) we had a dance! Flag dance, and to play Sunday. We have Church. Fall in the same building.

Yesterday was a movement to the front beyond Culpepper. One division of Infantry with the cavalry & Artillery on a reconnoissance. I heard some firing in that direction last night but heard no word yet or whether they found anything or not.

I expect the whole Army of the Potomac will soon be on the
On to Richmond, and I have 7 months to tete around. This God foraken Country. Since I left here my company officer has been ordered to post West for duty. I shall have to mount guard to night at Herrington. Think they have treated me well they did not put me on the first night.

I can say I enjoyed myself while I was at home. Though am ashamed of what I done Saturday afternoon that is my desparing. Your will in not going along there when I promised I hope she will overlook it. Give her my best love and ask her to forget and forgive the fault of mine. Give a good meal to both of you and will not be soon forgotten.
I forgot to tell you when I was there to get a lock for Emma's door, one spoke of it when I left. Give my love to your wife and receive this for yourself from your loving brother.

A. Jackson Croxley

C. U.S. Engineer
Saturday March 19/64

Engineers Camp Brandstotn

Dear Sir,

I received your letter and was glad to hear you were all well and happy. I hope your letter found me enjoying myself the best I know how. The re-enlisted men of my command have commenced to return and some of them are in a pretty hard fix: one of our men came from the Railway Station in an Ambulance because he could not walk and some of them have to go soldierly, crab fashion and though they got $1,000 bounty some of them have not got anything left to flatter myself. I am better off than they are now with 9 months to serve and they have 2 years.
and 11 months though no doubt they had a gay time in the company. Some men that went with McKenney (or as we call him “Kill Cavalry”) have got back. They came from York City to Alexandria. They gave us a pretty good account of the “raid.” They had some hard riding to do and the Saint had a narrow escape from capture by the horse giving out but he got another one. That was within two miles of that “goal” of the Army of the Potomac “Richmond” but as some thing always goes wrong or somebody don’t do the thing he ought to do they did not accomplish much of anything.

There has been a rumor here in the Army that Genl. Halleck was going to take command here and still another that our
Our Theatre was open last Tuesday night the play was "The Irish Assas" and went off remarkably well it was played in a good style and by request of the officers was repeated again Friday night along with the farce of "Conjugal Lesson." I can assure you it went off very well indeed considering the disadvantages we labor under next Tuesday night we shall have the "Iron Chest" or the "Golden Farmer" I do not know which the one that is the nearest ready will be played Tuesday and the other on Friday night the singing and the one big dance was pretty good and our "Orchestra" is not bad. It is of course, and taking it all together it is a big thing I wish you could see it yourself.
I am very much obliged to you for your kindness in getting that hook and putting it on for myself. She told me about that the first night I was there and I ought to have done it before I came away. Since I wrote to you before there has been two smash ups on the Rail Road about a mile below our camp both times it was the mail train but accidents are very frequent on Military Railroads.

There is a good deal of Artillery firing to day to the Left and front of us. I do not know what is the cause of it. I do not hear cannonading. I think there is nothing but a thousand and one rumors are flying around camp. The chief of which is that the enemy have advanced across the Rapidan but that can only be a rumor.
25 men left here this morning for West Point, N.Y. to bring on some recruits for this battalion and among them was Jerome Bottomly the sergeant of the detachment says he is going to try to get them men a pass for two days so they can go home to see their folks but I have heard since they left that they are only going to be absent five days from here if that is so it will take them all the time to go and come.

Give my love to Mother when you see her next I shall write to her soon. I told her I should see her again the last time I saw her. I reckon she will think my visit was a long way off and rather abrupt, from my last one. I expected to stay another day but I thought better of it and it was well I did.
Remember me to all my friends and give my well wishes to your wife. In the letter I got from Emma, she says she would not have pardoned the offense in anyone else. I am expecting a letter from Emma, but I suppose I shall not get one before next Thursday.

And when you have succeed in reading this scrawl you will be dry and I should advise you to take a good drink for both of us. But if you do not bring some whiskey back with you I'll choke him not that I care about the liquor but I did not forget him. I bought a bottle when I came.

U.S. Corps of Engineers, Fort Monroe

J. Jackson Brooks
new "Lieut" Genl. Grant was to be the man but still Hecade is in command. Genl. Grant was out here last week but he did not go around much. I expected there would be a grand reception but it was raining all the time he was here.

Our Commanding Officer Capt. Mendell has got his wife out here. She is (or would be) a good looking woman but she is cross-eyed. Abstain lends enchantment to the new man's case very much. Our officers quarters are on the right flour of the camp and every night after "taps" a sentinel is posted in front of their houses until "Reveille" and the horses they tell of the Capt. & his wife would make you laugh to hear. If the Capt. could hear he would not think R. much of their modesty.
I was over to the 2nd Army Corp last Sunday and was to the 15th Regiment. Osaw Richardson, Gleason and Wood they are all well and dont wish to become veterans. Gleason was as mad pretty tight. Richardson is Sergt and Charley Wood is Corporal. Gleason was Corporal 3 days but he was drunk all the time so he was reduced to the ranks again. He is a hard case there is 1 I believe only 3 men of the original D Co left in the ranks. That's Bernard Richardson and Gleason.

I dont think that shows very well for the 21st Regt that row in the theatre. If I understand it right because they are soldiers and veterans is no excuse for them if they cant behave themselves.
Drumey Station Co.

Friday April 15 1864.

My dear Sir,

We are still laying in camp and now there are no signs of moving but for all that we might be up and off before this reaches you. Yesterday I was on guard and the day was fine and dry and to day promises to be another fine day, we have had very foul weather here the last two weeks. A.S.B. Companies went to the Rappahannock river this morning to drill Bridge drill tomorrow my company I go to D. will have to go if the day is fine yesterday the men were out on target practice there were only the men that was off duty that is about half of them. They fired two rounds at a target 16 inches in diameter distance 800 yds, the result was 10.9. B.S. C. 14. D. O. The cartridges were very poor.
half of the balls dropping at half or two thirds distance.

Wednesday night in our theatre we had an entertainment the play was "The Golden Farmer" and was very good the scenery was appropriate and it would astonish you to see how well for this place it was got up. Last night we had a "concert".

The performers are the members of General Pleasanton's Cavalry band. They used to travel as Clark's minstrels enlisted as a cavalry band and are detailed at head quarters. They are pretty good. There is 19 of them the "gal" or what you call mimi (the ballet dancer) was a gay duck and danced "bally". There is a young boy with them about 12 years old. He danced a jig dance and essence of the Virginia and done very well in my humble opinion. We are having gay times, how long it will last I do not know, but the sooner the 14th of October comes...
around and the better I shall like it. Last night we got 10 more recruits from Boston, but our recruits get 75 cents a day. I suppose men are worth more than they were two years and a half ago. Our officers don't like it to think that more of the men won't re-enlist only 1 man of the company I belong to came from Boston have re-enlisted one of our officers consoles himself by saying we know too much to be good soldiers. And I hope this will find you all well. I have not heard from Home for a week but shall I think, to-night. I have got a bad cold myself and not feeling as good as I might. Give my love to Mrs. Bradbury, and tell her to give the baby a kiss for me the next time she goes up there and I will pay her back sometime if you are willing. And I am so fortunate as to get the chance.
there is not anything stirring or any news
here of any kind I can read more in
a New York paper of the doings of the
Army than I ever see in six months
I suppose I do not take any interest in
what is going on only as it concerns
myself I saw a column of troops
moving to the left yesterday day but
I thought nothing of it to morrow
I may read of some important things
that are going to be done but I know
that it was only to strengthen the
Picket line at the rebel cavalry
can operate on our flank B to when the
must Blockade which it somebody is not
to stop them hoping this will find
you gay and happy

remain yours

P.S. You had better go and drink
my health.
Engineer Camp  
Brandy A. Va.

Sunday, April 18, 1864

Friend Sam,

I received your letter Friday night just before I mounted guard. It commenced to rain about 10 o'clock Saturday morning, and it did not stop till this morning. I had a rough time of it considering it was for punishment partly, we have had a big time here this week the officers got afraid of the men and the men got a little mutinous. The way it came about was like this the "Minstrels" that came to play for us last week came again this week and proffered themselves for a nights entertainment so Tuesday night we had the play of the "Iron Chest" and they came to...
over to see it (of course) and they wanted to play next night so of course we were willing and went and got permission from the officers they assented but mark what they did. They found out invitations all round to officers and at night put a guard on our Theatre in fact all round it with orders not to let any enlisted men to come near it by to enter the building nothing but shoulder straps be admitted we thought that was a sell but we could not help ourselves and the performers they was mad but rather than make a bad matter worse they come to please the men not Officers gave a kind of an indifferent performance. The men swore vengeance and commenced to throw rocks at the commanding officers but to shell him out.
as they called it on purpose to
give him an insight as to what
we thought of it. Capt. Turnbull
saw he had got to do something to
stop it so he said if the men
did not keep quiet or attempt
to cause any row, he would reduce
every non-commissioned officer
to the ranks so he got us at
a disadvantage again but next day
we tore hell out of the Cherub
used that up and the men at
Pittanton's Hill also burnt up the
Hinschel's Hall because they came
to our camp to play for nothing
but officers. Thursday night there
were some officers drinking in Capt.
Mendell's tent and one of the men
threw a stone through the window
and struck one of them. Genl
Mead's son was in there the
same time Capt. Mendell got so
Scared
Friday night he dared not stay in his tent alone, but he has now forty men detailed every day on camp guard, he thinks the men are in a state of insubordination. I suppose he thinks he will give us hell this next summer but I think he will find a tough crowd. Capt. Turnbull got a hard lesson at Georgetown last year he remembers yet he can go so far and no farther they have got to punish men pretty severe. In that detachment that went to Fort Point two men got drunk and neglected their duty and they were court-martialed for it one lost a month's pay and 7 dollars taken from him pay as long as he stops in the service and the other to walk post 5 hours a day for 30 days carrying a knapsack weighing 30 pounds.
and another man was tried by the same
court that deserted from A Company
in March 1861 and was sent here last
month. They did not do anything with
him only said him for duty to his Co

Orders were issued on the first for
all extra baggage to be sent to the
rear preparatory to resuming active
operations. Commissioner was not to be
allowed any more baggage than can be
carried in a small valise I have got
as I despise these young Golli

I shoulder straps the old officers
we used to have in the commencing
of the war were gentlemen every
one we get seeing more aristocratic
and widening the gulf between officers
and men. This only applies to few
comparatively speaking if it was general
there would be but very little done
and as they become older in the service
They see they are of no account except they have the confidence of the men. I wrote to my wife the middle of last week. I have been expecting orders to move every day. I think we shall not stay much longer in this camp. Where we shall go is hard to tell.

The rebels are fortifying the South bank of the Rappahannock, and it is thought Grant will fortify Culpepper and make it a depot of supplies. It is the opinion of some that Lee will transfer the battle ground to Kentucky and invade the North by the state of Ohio but no one can read the future to tell what is going to be done.

Your brother is at home from the Army of the Cumberland. I believe he has re-enlisted. There is no Iowa troops in this Army at least I do not know of any.
You must have a hard time up north now according to all accounts here people represent things as in a bad state out of the Army our officers were recommending that all men that could re-enlist to do as times would be so hard they would be better off in the Army than out of it. I am sure they would be themselves.

Emma wrote that my father was not very well. I hope he will have got better by this time. I recommended that he should use that front room some place way and not let such business interfere with his domestic arrangements when I was at home I am glad that it is fixed so at last or be stopped entirely for I think it would not pay the other way a long while.
Give my love to your wife. I told her to tell her to give the baby a kiss for me. She did not ask me whether she did or not.

There is nothing going on here today and no trains are running at all. To this Station. The flood carried away the Rail Road Bridge across the Rappahannock River last night. I did not get the papers you sent yet. I suppose I shall get them to-night if the mail is run up.

From your

Jack.
Engineer Camp near Brandy Station Va

Saturday April 30th 1864

Friend Sam,

I am very much obliged to you for those papers you sent me. I received them while I was at Brister Station. I am now back to camp and have got to go on guard to-night. That is the reason I have been left back in camp or I should have been to work on fortifications for the protection of the railroad near for the last two weeks. We have worked all the way from Bull Run bridge to Culpepper. I did not work at any other place besides Brister that is 4 miles from Manassas. These works are for the protection of the bridge. The way they are built is like unto this. The site is selected so as to cover the bridge and not commanded by the hills around within easy rifle range. We commence by digging a trench 3 feet deep and take logs 15 feet in length hewed on two sides so as to fit.
close and set them up on end close together and once in every two feet or three logs have a loop hole cut for musketry we built two of these at Bristol one on each side of the Rail Road 80 x 25. These are for the Rail Road Guard to rally in when threatened by the enemy's cavalry or are overpowered by Guerillas you see it would require a large force to drive them out and the only damage than could be done would be to burn the bridge which they could not do under the fire they would be exposed to from these stockade forts the one we built at Catletts to protect that bridge was a very good one it was in this shape

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The corners were covered by tolerable tents for the garrison you see on this there is no flank without fire.
The bridges from the Department of Washington are at the following places and order first Bull Run, Canon Run, Broad Run, Kettle Run, Cub Run, Cedar Run, Little Run, and Rappahannock River. Mountain Run, those are the bridges at every culvert there is a picketguard. Do you see that it takes a good many men to guard a line of Rail Road an enemy & country and a 1/2 mile from the road a man would be gobbled up in no time an officer going from one post to another must have an escort of cavalry. The road is patrolled all the time and every train has a guard on it and the farther we advance on this road to Richmond the more men it will take to keep our communications open so you can judge what can be kept of 100,000 men after all is considered, we can do the fighting in front.
There is more preparations for the opening campaign this spring than ever I heard tell of before. I expected to have had something to tell you of before this, but the army is in their Winter Quarters yet everybody expecting to move sometime soon. My minute or to-morrow but here we are still.

I wrote to my wife yesterday. We have had our camp photographed and I shall have a copy made if I get a chance. Give my respects to your wife and if she is in want of something to do some time ask her to write to me as it is the one great pleasure of a soldier to read letters from friends; it relieves the hard tack and flour.
Head Quarters Army of Potomac

May 19th, 1864

Friend Sam,

I received your letter of May 6th today and I also received the papers for which I am much obliged to you.

We left camp at Brandy Station on the 13th of May and marched to Richards Hill and cut a new road from there to Gold Mine Ford next day we crossed the Rapidan and camped about 5 miles from the river we broke camp next morning and went about 2 miles and laid all day on Reserve next morning we were attached to the 1st Division of the 5th Corps we laid in a Rifle pit till about noon that day and then we stacked arms and took tools and went to the front to build Rifle works we were supported by the 1st Brigade of Infantry and the Louisiana Brigade we worked all afternoon.
till near dark and had got most
finished when the Enemy made a
charge to the right of us and one Div.
of the 6th Corps broke gave way and
let them down on our flank and
then we had a run for it we run
for the place were our arms were
stuck red and promptly rallied but
such excitement you could form no
idea of staff officers yelling and
calling on the men to rally and
support the artillery and that men
throwing away their guns and running
like mad men and them Rebels
a yelling as they came up on the
charge with that peculiar yell they
have it sounds like a lot of school
boy just let loose I thought hell
had broke loose then artillery fellows
see us rally so well they gave us
three cheers and one staff officer
then called out Thank God
Engineers you are just in time to save your country. I should think
more than 5,000 men rallied right there and formed line and
when the Rebels come up they gave them "Merry Hell" all this happened
in about 3 minutes quicker than I could tell you of it we laid in line on
our arms all that night and the
Rebels made a dash during the night
but were repulsed without much loss
just at day break next morning they
was sobre back again and our
troops advanced again and we were
re relieved from the 5th Corps and ordered
to Report at Head Quarters this fighting
Happened in what is called the
Wilderness, and I think the name is
very appropriate it is all woods and
heavy undergrowth very few cleared
places which gives the enemy a great
advantage we being the attacking
party and they knowing the country so well they do good execution with their artillery while our own artillery have done but very little our Infantry have had to do this fighting under great disadvantage.

The night of the 7th we reported to Head Quarters we marched to the vicinity of Spotsylvania Court House were we [have] been Marching & counter Marching ever since were we are now in a fine looking country some good looking Houses and Plantations on the 11th of May we went down to the River Po' and built a Carduroy bridge and two Canvas boat bridges and just about the time we got them finished our force had to fall back was too weak to hold their position we had a lively time for a few minutes to destroy the bridge and take up the boat bridge material and get out of the way so the Artillery and Infantry could work that same evening was a very hard fight for position and the
Officer in command of us Capt. Turnbull took us down and reported to Genl. Barlow, 1st Div. 2nd Corps but he sent us back so we did not get under fire that night May 12th we were building and repairing roads all day next morning marched at day light and the 2nd Corp. this morning charged the enemy works capturing 300 prisoners and 19 pieces of artillery. The day that Sedgwick was killed I was about 50 yds from the front our men were to work throwing up a rifle pit the 13th we were hard to work in front I came near being hit by a piece of shell I could not get out of the way of it but I saw it and dropped in the mud and it struck about 3 feet over my body if I had not seen it I should have been a goner the shells were flying thick and I was taking no notice of it before but you bet I watched the
general direction of bursting shells. After that while I was around that place the 14th we were to work on the road to Fredericksburg cutting a new track through the woods towards the Plank Road and since then we have done paracely anything but the army have been fighting every day more or less and some days more all the time since we crossed the Rapidan we have got a good many reinforcement now and the 18th of July will be remembered by them a great many men have their time out and there is some queer old Shenandoah when a fight is going on, the 1st & 2nd Divisions of the 2nd Corps and the 2nd Division of the 6th Corps have been pushed pretty well so far the 15th 19th 20th 28th 7th 10th 37th Mass are in then Divisions and the 1st 11th and 16th Mass have been attached.
to them their times are most out all but the 37th and I saw one of them last night. He told me they had lost over 200 men. If you see my brother before I write to him tell him that Capt. Jas. C. Holmery, of the 37th, is seriously wounded. We have lost an enormous lot of men. I am at a loss to state how many but I think over 50,000 killed wounded or missing and the end is not yet but I never saw such a proportion of men wounded in the arms, hands, head and most all flesh. Wounds there are a great many. Slightly wounded. Gleason of the 15th has got a finger shot of which will just excuse him for the rest of his time. I presume he will soon be home, and you will probably see him. John Richardson had not joined his regiment on the 16th. He is just a lucky dog if he gets out of this.
they seem to be preparing for another hard fight here putting up hospital tents and advancing our lines in place but I tell you there are some hard fights around these hospitals that is a danger on the glory of War to see the effects of it in the rear.

we have cheering news here in the army from Butler's forces and the cavalry corps of this army have been reported at Hanover junction but these may not be true we do not seem to make much impression on them in front of us.

we have not had much chance to judge of Genl Grant's maneuvering an army as yet as this is no country for much of that what we have had so far has been right down desperate Infantry fighting
There is a good deal of straggling this time in the army which I am bound to see as you can imagine how it takes off the strength of an army and I look at it in this light that every man that straggles in the rear only endangers the life of his comrade by reducing the numerical strength of this command as I believe in the moral effect of numbers all stragglers are so much taken off as and put on the enemy you could not imagine the extent of this evil unless you were to see it. I saw the Provost Guard this morning with as much as a brigade that they had picked up and I might say that there are thousands scattered through the woods this only makes it worse for the men that do stand up to their duty and straggling ought to be punished severely and stopped if possible. There is no such thing in
The Rebel Army every man counts one there and the morale of their army is good and there is no earthly reason why our army should not be on a better footing than it is there is a great chance and plenty of room for improvement in the Union Army it is conducted too much as if we were at peace and no War going on.
I was up to the Hospital of the 20th corps (Burnside's) the other day I had a little time and I was going to write Home and I wanted to find out if Butterworth was all right if I could (which by the way I did not) and the hardest sight I ever saw I saw there. Men were lying there wounded 4 days before and their wounds not dressed yet out in the open air in mud and dirt Union & Rebel all mixed up together and nobody seeming to care for them though there was any quantity of
men around doing some Heavy standing about 1/4 of a mile on the 12th towards the city I saw a wounded man belonging to the 58th Mass in the woods he had got out of man balance to do a job and they drove away and left him he could not walk he had no blankets or rations and was about 6 miles from Head Quarter Hospital. Some of our men built him a rough house and fire and gave him some rations. I am heartily sick of the kind of life I am leading though in the place I am in it has been no comparison to the Infantry and the Artillery have been harassed a good deal but the Infantry regiments have had a time of it fight all day and lay on their arms all night probably be called
into line or change position several times during the night and make these awful charges. This Army has done more charging in these two weeks I think than ever it done before all together it looks wicked to see divisions that on the opening of the campaign were 10,000 men now nothing but Skeletons of their former size. I saw the old 15th the day before yesterday and I do not think they had over 75 men in ranks. C. Word is corporal and I see he is on color guard. 

"Rag Guard" he called it for their colors look like nothing but a mess of rags. A braver or better Regiment than the old 15th Mass does not belong to the Union army.
I wrote to my wife on Sunday last and I suppose you will see her pretty soon so that if she hears from me as often as she has lately she will not need to have much anxiety about me.

You spoke about them pictures I should have sent you one if it had been possible. I wrote to Washington but could not get any answer and all citizens being ordered away from the army I could not see the photographers agents at Head 25th before he went away and the Army going on to active service you would have had one before this time but just as quick as we get settled again if ever we do I shall try to get a couple of copies made of the camp & company street. I do not get much mail now and not often and it is
reported that no mails are allowed to go beyond Washington, how true it is I don't know.

Give my love to your wife if she does me the honor to write I will try to write her an amusing story of what I have to do. Than I thought I should when I commenced. I hope this will find you enjoying yourself and able too.

It is raining now and I have to go on guard to night it has rained a good deal here lately but here hoping I may come home safe I found and we will have a good time all round.

Jack
Head Quarters Potomac

May 29th 1864

Friend I am since I wrote to you before, we have had a good deal of marching but not so much fighting as we have had previous. We are now on the South bank of the Pamunkey River, about 5 miles below Hanover Junction. The Army are in good spirits and in good hopes we are not over 20 miles from Richmond. Some time less than that. We crossed the North Anna River on the 24th and Genl. Grant & Head had his Head Quarters across one day but recrossed the river again on the 25th and on the night of 26th and morning of the 27th. The whole of our forces recrossed and the same day moved to Monongah Church (the 27th).
where Head Quarters was established on the 28th we crossed the Pamunkey river the 2nd & 3rd army corps crossed at this place the 9th corps above and the 5th corps below. That is our present position. I suppose everything will cross the river here and our base of supplies will be again at White House Landing as it was in 62 under Gen. Clellan.

I was reading a Worcester paper the other day and was much amused to read the news of this Army as reported in that paper (Aegis Transcript). There is no dependance to be placed on these sensational rumors in the papers, and if by any chance they do get hold of any truth they color it so highly and exaggerate it so much that it is not to be relied on.

Generals do not make confidants of newspaper correspondents and if they do a paper would soon be
stopped that would make public any thing detrimental to the Army. I have seen in the papers that Genl. Grant fears the same as his men and that he makes no display but I am here at Head Quarters and see all this. Genl. Grant. Mad. A Staff could not be better or fare better in the best Hotel in the North than they do here in the field and to see the show that the Staff & Escort makes you would think at a distance it was a Regiment of cavalry. Among the prisoners taken since the 24th is one woman dressed in man clothes she was mounted just like a man and belonged to cavalry though she was taken as a spy. She wore her hair long and did not like to have our men looking at her some men stopped to look at her as she went by us and she picked up
rocks and threw at them.

Our Rations were
out on the 26th at night and we had
a wagon with 4 days rations for our
battalion coming up that day but it
was got tied up the rations taken
out of the wagon and we have
not got anything yet but fresh beef
without salt but we expect some
to night may perhaps think I am
hungry but that is no name for it.
I would give 10 dollars to be in
some Eating Saloon about 15 minute
There is nothing to buy here and less

We worked hard all day

and nothing to eat it is what I
call pretty rough but can not be
helped. The supplies ought to have
come last night but if they do not come to day I shall do some talk saying it is bad enough to be shot but to starve is worse than the contract calls for a soldier can not expect to get his rations always where we are moving so but when it comes to going without for a week it gets played some body has not been doing what they ought as there is no earthly reason why that supply train does not come up if Grant is successful this move we shall make a big start he has now got within striking distance of Richmond if he works quick he will have Richmond without much trouble, there is nothing going on to day much and I do not feel much like writing I feel more
like eating hard Tack and I cannot write to suit me. When you write again I wish you would send me a good pencil cut it short enough to go in a letter or cut it in two.

Give my love to your wife and receive the same from

JACK

I saw John Knight yesterday; he is all right. He is Preferred on the color guard. He has just note and neither wishes he had not re-enlisted his time would have been cut in 21 days if he just

[Signature]
Give this to Jam.

Aug 30th

We marched from our camp where I wrote you from and marched to this camp yesterday the 30th, we passed through our quarters which was fortified in case of a rebel attack we shall not have to fall back across the Pamunkey. In marching yesterday we crossed the battle field where our cavalry fought we lost a good many men from the number of graves I saw and I picked up 2 or 3 carbine Rebel cavalry guns but I could not carry them so I threw them away again. They are the same as a breech loading Sharps Rifle but shorter being only about 7 feet long altogether the Rebels have a strong position in front of us our men
tried to take it last night but failed. But Genl. Hancock means he will take it before night. There is a good deal of firing going on.

We held Hanover court house.

And they say Manassasville but of that I am doubtful. We are about 12 miles from the city of Richmond at Hd Quarters. Our advance is of course nearer than that. There will be a general advance very soon. How we shall succeed remains to be seen. The enemy fight very well. I think the contest every foot in front. I shall send you a picture the first opportunity.

Jack
Cool Harbor    Head Quarters Potomac

June 6th 1864

Friend Sam

I received your letter on the evening of the 4th inst. and took a good deal of pleasure in perusing your words. I have been in much for the last few days in regard to having much to do. Our lines of defense for such they are extend from the Chickahominy on the left, at Bottom's Bridge to the Pamunkey River on our right to about Littlepage's Bridge so if you look on the map you will see the position of this Army at the present time. Our battalion was split up by companies and sent to the different Corps. Head Quarters my Company "C" was sent to the 5th Corps. Genl Warren on the right of the line or rather the right of center. we were sent there on
night of the 3rd and stayed until the night of the 5th and then came back to camp and have been here doing nothing. All our officers are out with the different corps on the staff and have one company with them in case of need of any work that might have to be done in our line of business. We bring out to the right were sent the farthest from Richmond and there seems to be all the work on the left of the line as the companies on the left and centre have not come in yet and are having a pretty hard time of it. We lay in camp on reserve. Genl. Warren sent us back so that he would know where to find us when he wanted us. All I hope is he will not want us. The 2nd Corps seem to have the hardest position. A company of our battalions is with them. The three last night the Rebels have attacked them last night they attacked them about 8 O'clock and there was some sharp firing before they were repulsed there was the
most Artillery we plan that I have heard this campaign and the Musketry was just a perfect roar I saw a man this morning that was wounded on the 2nd of this week in the Charge of the 2nd Corps that was only just being brought in he having laid out there in front all this time he had 7 bullet holes in him our men could not get at him till this time that is what you might think was pretty rough and so do I the Rebs might have took care of him but they would or did not because he was in their lines most of the time. That is one of the consolations of a charge on the enemy's line if we are requited the wounded have to suffer while on the other hand our people take the Rebel wounded if possible and take them to Hospital and are treated the same as our men. These Rebs fight desperate now though a good many of them run in to our lines when they can get a chance so you see some of
They are getting sick of the C.S.A. I don't think any of our men desert to the enemy. I have not heard of but one case and he did not get away; it was up near Spotsylvania C.H. I saw a man tied to a tree, with a guard over him to see that he did not get away. I asked what was the matter and the guard said that the General had ordered him to be tied up till he died for attempting to desert to the enemy. When we were back to the South Anna River there was a heavy artillery man hung himself there. I suppose he was in low spirits he had not the moral courage to face the music but was brave enough to string himself. These heavy artillery men have been awfully deceived they were enlisted has they supposed to garrison forts only to have no field service but Genl Grant has got them out here acting as Infantry and a
sight. Best set of fellows you never saw. They thought to lay around Washington and then places but they are now out here doing Infantry duty. They are bringing everything in the field now and this army is stronger to say than when it crossed the Rappahan in regard to numbers but we have lost some good men that will not be replaced in a hurry.

It seems to me if the Government would have supported McClellan two years ago in the way that General Grant is being the war would not have lived through 1862, we have not yet yet the position that Little Mac held two years ago when he begged for reinforcements and prayed for them but could not get them. Then was the time to do what they are doing now and in my opinion the sacrifice of life and munitions of war since that time are a complete loss, and the
Government or the men that represent it are to blame in this matter if General Grant is right and doing the thing that is going to come out right little man was at 1,000 times right two years ago, and some of the blame is due to Mr. E. Bella and shows no matter what the admires of Grant may say that if our favorite general is the man that would have led the brave old Army of the Potomac to victory if it had not been for the dastard jealousy fools that was afraid that he was becoming too popular and said he was ambitious and wanted to be President "Ceasar was ambitious &c."

Our base of supplies is now as it was two years ago at White House then we had a position across the river within 3 or 4 miles of Richmond now we are gor 10 and not not seen
likely to push much farther at present and it is likely we shall go in camp here and settle down to the siege and God knows where it will end. I sincerely wish that a speedy success may attend our efforts but at the same time I think two years ago I should have been more sanguine of success.

...perhaps are not an admirer of Mr. Blelson if so you can not put any or base any opinion on what I have wrote. I would rather you would not you can judge for yourself but here in the Army we have our likes and dislikes and I see do not wish Mr. Genl. Grant we have only the past to judge from and he is a successful man and the government seems to place every confidence in him but why did they not support the man in 1862 the same. Perhaps they
had not then learned that Washington was not the place to control an army that was in front of Richmond but there was plenty of men that would have put them right on the subject and saved perhaps the country from a two year war and probably more but the say bought war is the best.

There is some skirmishing going on in front to day and occasionally a shell comes over but it is pretty quiet our Lieutenant has just come in and probably we shall have to go out to the front again shortly.

It is very warm to day and I hope you will be more comfortable than I shall be when you get this I feel like sucking Sherry cobbley to day if I had a cool and shady place to lay in but I think I want to day
Give my love to your “Papa.” I have not received that letter. She is going to write yet and my stock of paper is running short. I shall have to get some more before you hear from me again. I got the papers you sent me and they are a godsend laying here in camp to while away an hour or so.

Sarah Ann is I suppose almost out of the world down there in Exchange. I shall surprise you some day by walking into town if I have good luck. Some time when you least expect me I am sick of this business and want a change. I detest from hard tack & fresh beef to soft bread & vegetables. I think it would be good for my health though I never was in better health than I am now, but I am satisfied that this is not a healthy country at this season a colder atmosphere would
Near our camp there is a house and in that house are 3 young ladies, Seccess as the devil, but I think if they stay around here much they will become Heart Union from the gray officers I see around there. They live somewhere in front near the lines, and have come back here for safety, they have got guards on the house to keep the soldiers from going there, but I see a good many officers there, and I am afraid they will get come down on it they are not careful not that care, but they might have some respect for the Confederacy as they have husbands and lovers in the CS army.

Jack R.
near Petersburg, Va.

Head Qtrs Army Potomac
June 26th 1864

Friend Samuel

I received your kind letter on the 25th and this morning received that piece of tobacco. The papers have not yet come to hand. I shall probably get them tomorrow morning. The writing paper came all right although the postage on it would not have been so much if you had rolled it up and left the ends open.

The weather here is still very hot and no rain which makes water a scarce article. You can form no idea how the men suffer from heat at this time and getting wounded is about equal to being killed. Such weather as this. We are camped out on the open field near the Jerusalem Town Pike road now, we were about 1½ miles from Petersburg E.N.E near what is called the Jordan House near the first line of works. Taking from the enemy when we first came up here but we were in range so we moved here.
There is but little firing going on to day and what little there is is on the extreme right and from the sound I should think it was Gun Boats at work. Last night there was a good deal of firing Infantry and Artillery but did not amount to anything that I can learn. We are strong thing of lines and seem to be holding here for some purpose or another as every precaution is being taken to guard against surprise.

A disaster happened to the Brigade in which the Mass 15, 20th, 19th Regiments are on the 23rd June in forming a new line. The left of the command was left open did not connect with the troops to the left (I do not know that I can explain it to you) there was a break in the line which the enemy took advantage of and made a dash in there and captured nearly all the 15th 19th, taking the colors and every commissioned officer. Cas Ward and John Donnelly were taken. Barnard the orderly Sergeant of Co. D was killed trying to get away. All this happened through carelessness of the Brigade commander or
somebody else who was not attending to his business I understand somebody has been put under arrest for it a good many such moves as that are made and I think officers ought to be in command who are capable of it not any body who happens to get into favor.

Major Hooper I saw on the 24th I think up an ambulance wounded I heard from Jim Mulvane this morning he is all right his regiment the 11th U.S. Infantry have lost 32 men in the last 4 days and on the 18th they lost 46 men getting into position so I think it will need a good many recruits to keep up that Regiment they have had a good many lately and there are some Worcester boys if you remember Capt. Goodnow was recruiting for that Regiment in 1812 the 20th Mass have got but 3 commissioned officers left a couple of fellows I knew from Pittsfield got a leg a piece minus on the 24th out of A Co 20th Mass they are whittling down this Army awful it is reported we have lost near 20000 Men since crossing James River
On the night of the 24th we built an 8-gun battery in front of 2nd Corps, and one of our companies is out on the right went last night. We do a good deal of work; we get no credit for it; the credit of building the James River was given to the 50th N.Y. Engineers. But as I can only bring around the middle of October all right, I shall not envy anybody any glory that can be accorded from that. It is well you ought to read Genl. McClellan speech at West Point on the inauguration of that memorial monument to the Regular Army. He gives a good account of it, and knows why no interest is taken by newspapers on that subject. See Brahmyn in every little while, he is acting drum major of the 11th U.S. Infantry, and there fore as it is no danger or little as the bands play in the rear if anything is going on he looks first rate and is anxious to have his time out so he can come home. He has not quite three months to stay. There will be but few men of the 15th to come on the 12th of July when there time is out from the field.
I have been long enough waiting this letter to have written a dozen so I will conclude. You must remember me to your wife. I shall have to get her picture if she be wanted when I come back again as there is no right out here. One of our men was discharged last night; he was transferred to us from the 15th Mass. His name is Green and belongs to North Oxford. He had some trouble getting his discharge being some mistake in his papers.

Bottomly is all right and said his respects to you. One of our 5-year 3-men have re-enlisted and are gone as the quota of Boston; they would have gone for Worcester if they had known in time what bounty is. We offered $375. I believe they get $250 a month. $350 down if my time was out I don’t think I would not for a 100000 a minute as a common soldier.

Yours Jackson
near Petersburg, Va.

July 15th, 1864

Old Zavary, Blanca

Friend Sam:

Since I wrote to you last we completed the work on our left and our lines have been strengthened and we have moved camp nearer the center of our present position. I was out on the right of the 18th building battery in front of the 1st Division, 5th Corps. We built it in the advance rifle pit within 300 yards of a strong Rebel work if they had opened on us they would have given us “Jefferson shot” but it was fired out of us though a mortar ball hit the right of us threw some shell on the work opposite to us but did not get anywhere it is ratherelightish work cutting and working in the night on front of an enemy but one gets used to it in time so he is not but little afraid.
This forenoon I went to see two men hanged. I had never seen a man hanged and to gratify my morbid curiosity I went to-day for the first and think the last time to see such an exhibition as I don't want to see another man hanged as much of dying as I have seen since I have been in the Army it was the worst case I have seen.

They were hanged for the crime of "Rape" committed on the person of Mary E. Stiles in Prince George County Va. on or about the 16th June. Their names were Ransom J. Gordon & Daniel Geary of the 92nd N.Y. V. (better known in the Army as the 2nd Expedition.) There were some more tried by the same Court Martial for the same offense but he proved that it was a voluntary act in consideration of a given quantity of Coffee & Sugar but it was not the same woman I believe any way he got clear these two that were hung their time was out since the act was committed.
We take it very cool in the army in regard to the Rebel Raid upon
Maryland, &c. I only hope I shall get ordered up there myself. I like to campaign
in that country better than this. The 6th Corps have all gone to Washington and I expect
they will have a bully time of it. I only wish I had been ordered there. The
lost account we had they was fighting on 7th Street Washington outside of Fort
Stevens. I don’t think the Rebels have got much force up there any way as quick
as they find that Grant is not going to leave there but to push them the first
opportunity they will soon leave there for here and if they are smart they might
capture the whole lot of them. But I have just got another month of my
time. It is now but I am detailed to go out on a working party to
might and I have not much time to. I must quit and cook myself. I hope I shall get some Whiskey.
night before last I was out and I had allowed me all I could drink. That is what we call Dutch courage. I was as brave and bold as a sheep after I had drank about a pint of Commissary.

July 16th, 1864

I got back to camp this morning after being to work all night and did not finish it. I suppose I am good for it right now. I had my usual good luck that night. I was fired at on our front, but to the right of us, and kept it up lively all night. I did not get any whiskey last night but when I got back to camp the Sergeant gave me 3 or 4 drinks. I did not have a friend among our non commissioned officers all last winter, but now I am a favorite. Since we have had so much work in front even making me take charge of the men and a part of the work last night.
and working to suit myself we were to work on a battery. By the 15th NY occupy the work and they helped me a good deal. I got no instructions how to go to work and I could not find any one so I got the battery men to tell me where the Rebel guns were and their direction of fire and made the embrasures accordingly and tried to get them 10 feet of earth on the top of the parapet but the working party of Infantry played out before morning so I did not finish and I expect we shall take another hatch at it to night a part of the 23rd Corps have been supplied for operations. In Maryland that seems to be getting rather a serious affair and we have had no mail for a few days so I think they must have possession of a part of the R.R. but they seem just as strong here as ever they was.
I noticed on the Rebel line for two
or 3 days back there is a good many
white shirted fellows that must be
citizens a good many prisoners come in
and they say that it is citizens that
keep up so much firing in front of
Burnside's Corps. But that Irather
doubt and I take notice as a general
thing these fellows tell some big stories
though some of them are honest enough
and glad of a chance to getaway from
the C.S.A. We have still a dry time
of it though we a more plenty of
water in the camp we are in now
than any we were in since the crossing
of the James River I had a wash
because this afternoon which is hard
work for me it is something I wont do
as long as I can get any body else but now
I have only got one shirt and one pair of
pants so this afternoon I went to the
brook stripped wosed my shirt pants
and myself for the 2nd time this
week
it is rather warm work without any clothes in the hot sun but I have got to do I can stand it pretty well.

Our "Grub" has had a decided improvement the last week which makes things still along a good deal easier, we now get some vegetables and soft bread occasionally and we get soup at noon about every other day, but that Sanitary Commission don't get around to us if anything is sent it is "gobbled" by the officers the men do not get it out of that. I am perfectly easy about it shall not owe any Sanitary Fair anything after I get home.

July 14th 1865

Last night I was out to work on a battery at the junction of the 5th and 89th Corps near the R.R. there was some firing there which made it rather unpleasant for us we had a negro regiment with us to do the shoveling the 39th US Colored Inf. this was the first time I have ever had anything to do with negro troops and the Leobet
I have been much occupied with the business of the place, but I have had time to write a few letters since my last. It was suggested that I might travel along the front lines, but I have been too busy with other matters. When I was last night, we saw strong intrenchments and the infantry dug holes in the ground and covered them with earth to protect them from mortar shells. You must know the difference between guns and mortars. Breastworks are good protection against artillery, but mortars throw shells up in the air and can drop them behind the works. We have to get bombproofs to be safe against mortars, as they throw a shell very far in the night. We can see the track of them by the burning fuse, and if they burst before striking, they are very destructive. I make a scattering way the track of them, is like this.
I got a letter from my wife the same day that I received yours and she spoke about the baby's getting smart again which was about the first indication of the being sick. I am very glad for the interest you all take in me and which I can not do of any avail at present and I can assure you I appreciate it. I feel that I owe to you all brotherhood.

I have (which a whole life time can not make than repair) a something which I cannot describe. So I will stop here.

Give my warmest thanks to your wife and perhaps to gently permission I shall to a get a picture of yours.

I will if I can get a picture for her. I may as she requested; and if not I shall have it taken for her in Washington so it will look as well as now and perhaps no better

The pencil I send you in this I picked up on the battle field of Spottsylvania near the body of a man lying there.
Home is looking fine and feels gay as ever but as asking for the time to come when he can say his soul is his own one man as discharged from my company to day his time being out he is from Chilhowee and one was discharged day before yesterday. It is so cursed hot I can hardly breathe and it is almost impossible to write or do any thing. We have not got Petersburg and don't think of Richmond and Gold at 2:20 what is the country coming to and this army is pretty well played out and no wonder after near two months hard campaigning but they will be a grand rush for some place some of these days and you will find when you wake up some morning a report in the papers of the Yanks doing in Richmond or some other place.

Yours truly,

Jack.
Mar Blisburg, Ga.
Sept 17th 1864

Head Qrs army, Rome.

Friend Sam. I have not wrote you an answer as promptly as I generally do for this reason. The day before I received your favor we were ordered to go to your left flank, to fortify to be gone 3 days. But we were gone two weeks and I did not take any writing materials with me. We got back here about 11 O’clock last night and hasten to write you.

In regard to what I shall do when I come home, is a matter of importance which I must say have not thought much of as yet. I shall perhaps stay in
in this country there is many chances of me getting knocked over yet and I do not think I shall make any binding engagements until I can see for myself. I have been going to build for some time now and now I am more interested in my future and we will wait a month and then we can attend to matters & things which you will think is the only thing I can do. I saw Chas. Bottomly & Button last Sunday & Monday. They are in the front line of battle between the 5th & 12th Corps to the right of the Weldon R.R. Road. They have got a good place and are well fortified. The "John B." will not break that line in a hurry. The Army R.R. Road
is now running to our extreme left flank and it is most every day but have not done much damage so far it was expected the enemy would make an attack on our left the reason of my Co. F.D. being sent down there fortifying but I should think it is strong enough now when we come up last night troops & artillery were moving to the left there is a good deal of moving around now as it is expected Lee is going to make a break some where The men here say there is a big game of Chess going on just about now which is about as lucid an explanation as any for all this moving as I have heard yet at night you might see a lot troops in a position to support some threatened point
but at daylight next morning you would not see a man they would be miles away to the left or right and to the game continues. Check. Check. Ne. but some fine morning somebody will be checkmated and the Danville R.R. in our possession as it is reported we receive reinforcements at the rate of 10,000 per week there is any amount of artillery here but seems to be a lack of that main stay of an army (Infantry) Cavalry are of no account only on the flanks which may be open I think that the Union Star of Victory never shone so bright on our Army as at this present time we want no peace but to carry this struggle to the
bitter end. We want no Democratic Peace conventions. We want no Peace Presidential Candidate. The spirit of men who have fallen out against it, but a downfall of the so-called Confederacy and death to traitors. Vigorous prosecution of the war and an honorable Peace on a permanent basis.

While we were out we put up about 3 1/2 miles of works on our left. Near we put up 8 batteries of 10 & 12 guns and we commenced one of the best works I have ever seen and the largest earth works. We put in magazine and profiled the work put in the Aravis in fact done all the Engineer work and then turned it over to the N.Y. 50th Engineer. Our commanding officers (Harwood)
he wanted us at N.Als. Suppose we are going on some expedition or another.

Give my love to your Wife. I hope I shall have the pleasure of coming to see you all in a bout a month and you can if you write as often as you have will not have time for me to hear from you again. I drank some Whiskey the last night some we had issued and as a natural consequence my head aches this army Rum is diarrhous Stuff and will kill as far as a Moomie.

Take care of yourself I shall till you see me or hear from me again and ever so long afterwards.

Yours,

A. Jackson Crossley
Dear Samuel,

I received a letter from you the other day date Jan 15 stating that you were well as usual and your boy was growing finely. I hope you will be impressed with the importance of giving him a good religious education and setting a good example before for imitation. Mother says give my love to them all to both parents & child and she wants to know what you call him. Mother think you can not be thinking much on the subject of religion or you would say something about your father as seen so many die either under the influence of Medicine or opiates of some kind or other that his heart is sad.
to see so many dying without any evidence of any good hope of future safety. I do not think that you need to expect Mother & I this winter
Mother's health is very poor this winter
Butter is removed from Fort Fisher is now whether he was to blame or not I do not know. but Butter will be prominent in the history of this war when it is written.
The signs of the times are very favorable for a speedy termination of this war. So mute it be. I had a letter from John last night he is well with the exception of a cold. He says he will spent four New Year's day in the service but hopes he shall not spend another there he won't to be a citizen once more we all join in love him the boy for us.

From your Father
(David Bradbury)
To Coventry June 1st. 66

Dear Bro & Sister,

I received your letter some days since. I have neglected to answer until now. I have been quite busy. Lizzie came home from Father of about a year ago to-morrow. I was sick with Cold & Sun Fever nearly 3 weeks. Frank has had a Cold & Sun Fever & a sort of Distemper. They seem nearly if not quite recovered. Father & Mother have been over & Staid about a week. went back last Saturday. I expect Father up one week for next Monday with them. I expect I have bought him out. I am sorry you have got to move. I am afraid of the result for Sam. Sarah is Sam doing any better
if he is not, let me know.
If he is, let me know.

What & how are you going to do. Break up Thanksgiving. I suppose Sarah come out & stay with us, we will make it as pleasant as possible for you.

Listen Mary was married Tuesday to Mr. Brainard. They have gone to Boston.

Please send some to you. Please write soon and college.

P.S. Now Sam if you are not doing any better, I don't think you ever will. Just look & see where you are might have been worth 30 or 40 thousand dollars as well as not, you can't live long. If you don't shift your course, now I hope you & Sarah can write me that you
are doing better, have become a temperate men. For your wife sake, look at her, condition it ought to make an impression for good.

Your love.

[Signature]