

Out on picket near
Stafford C.H. Va March 11th

Dear friend Murray

I will now try to write you a few lines to let you know that I am yet above the sod and able to eat my rations. It is quite pleasant this afternoon although it has been very stormy for the past three days.

Luther Harmon came here at noon to see me. I was vary glad to see him for you know that you and I have had some good times while attending Select School taught by the long-legged Deacon that took Miss Rexford for his wife-He has gone over to the next post to see Calvin he will be back here in a short time-He came to Dixie to see his brother Martin who is sick I think that he will go home with Luther. I have been on picket two days and have got to stay another day -It is very mean business (this picketing) but after all we have some fun It is rumored that we have got marching orders so perhaps when I go into camp tomorrow we will have to pack up and paddle off two or three days and perhaps a week in the mud knee deep-we have marched 27 days and have not seen any good road yet-If you want to see bad roads just come down here in Dixie-I have seen 16 horses hitched to one piece of light Artillery and they could not budge it an inch-I guess you have seen some such roads in Pa. Harmon has got back and has gone back to where Martin is. I have seen quite a number of the boys from around Volusia since I came into bee. E.H. Jones is all right-he does not pretend to be so pious as he used to be-that shows that his religion was not of the pure stuff but I hope you will not think that the soldiers are all demoralized for I have

not had any [hoodling] since I came to Dixie and I do not swear as much as I used to-Wm Bailey is not very well now he has got a lame side-he has been very healthy until lately. Lieut. Jenkins is quite sick yet He is much better than he has been. I think he will be able to ride home in a week or two and if I can I shall get a furlough and come home with him-but perhaps he will try to go home after I suppose you go over toward Sherman now and then. well that is all right and I hope you have good times and will know enough to stay at home where you can do some good. I was a fool when I enlisted but I thought it was my ? so here I am and I cannot help my self if the officers would do their duty I would not find any fault but when they connive to proding the men to fill their pockets with greenbacks stained with the blood of honest men who left their home and friends to put down the rebellion + then I say to you who are at home to stay there and not throw away your lives before a few wicked men. I hope the Presi-dent will go ahead and put down the rebellion but let the mighty nigger alone. I have not heard from Jennie in several days but I expect that I have a letter in camp. I wrote to you about 6 weeks ago but I think you have not recieved it get for you would have answered it like this. Give may respects to all the friends and tell Ozro that he must not neglect Miss Sizmore. this from your friend in Dixie
I.N. Porter