

Camp Near Stafford Court House March 14th 1863

Dear Sister

I take my pen to answer your letter which I Recd. last night. It found me well as usual, as I trust this will find you & yours. I got the Box the 6th this month so it would be just as well if you hadn't sent the Receipt. The Boots are a first rate fit and the Bread & Butter and apples & Fried cakes were first rate too. I am sorry to say all of the "goodies" except the Boots are demolished. The other boys that bunk with me got a Box the same night that I did with dried fruit (Apples & Berries) dried Beef Jellie, Etc. so we are having a nice time. I would have to pay \$10.00 for a pair of boots as good as these are here and they are worth all the Army shoes Uncle Sam has got I have been on Picket 3 days this week. Yesterday we had an inspection. We are to have furloughs for 15 days 3 men out of 100 are entitled to go at once but it wont be my good luck to get one Our Capt. came back last week. But if I am to get discharged by the 23d of April I dont want one. How glad I am that those beligerant forces didn't charge on the Zouave for then we should not have known when the Peace would be declared. Tell Judah that I think you are entitled to a furlough this spring. you have been in the service long enough to have one and you have been a good soldier I will have you promoted when I get home. I have been promoted since last Jan. to Corporal. I am destined to succeed Gen Fitz Jon. Give my love to all

John N. Porter