

April 2nd 1863 Camp John Manley Va

Dear Sister

I write this to let you know that I am well & hope you are the same I Recd. a letter from you last week We are under marching orders. We got orders yesterday to be ready to march at any time but I dont know when or where we will go probably it will be in the direction of the Rappahannock for the orders read that the had appeared in force on our front. Capt John F. Nelson has resigned his commission and gone home, sometime ago, it was soon after he came back from home. We are all glad the "old Mule" has left. You needn't direct any more letters in his care. Simply put on the co. & Regt and they will come as well Lieut. C. P. Vedder commands the Co. now He will be Capt. He is from Co. G. We like him better than Nelson, at any rate he knows more

This is the camp that we were in when I wrote last but they named it after a man in Washington. He has done a good deal for the Regt. in forwarding Boxes Etc. from Washington. He lives in Catt Co N.Y. He was here to see the Regt. a short time since and brought a Bbl. of Whiskey. They cheered lustily for John Manley after drinking the whiskey.

We draw Whiskey quite often but luckily for me it is so bad that I cant drink it so I sell it or give it away There is no danger of my learning to drink in the Army if they keep such poor whiskey to deal out as they have done

One boy died out of this company last week The Co. subscribed \$2.00 apiece and sent his remains home It is the first death there has been in the Co. since we have been in Va.

April 6th Night before last we had a heavy snow storm the snow fell about 6 inches deep. Our Marching orders have proved to be an "April fool" Gen. O. O. Howard has command of this (11th) Corps now I saw him day before yesterday he has lost part of his right arm. I saluted him and he took the reins in his teeth and returned the salute I had a letter from Lizzie last night. She was well. She had not heard anything from Janey

Capt C. P. Vedder has Recd. his commission Our 2nd Lieut has been promoted to 1st and the Orderly Sergt. in Co. C has been promoted to 2nd Lieut in this Co. It will be my turn next

I must close this letter in order to get it into the next mail Give my love to all enquiring Friends From

[John N. Porter]