

Transcription 1973 by Marie Gott or 1998.13.8e

Washington, Friday

May 10, 1861

My dear sister,

I have just received your letter dated May 8 and was glad to receive it from you. I am well and was glad to hear you remain the same. It is not very pleasant here today, it looks as if it would rain. Last night I was up to the presidents house to a levee(?) all commissioned officers were up there and a good number of ladys. We had a good time. Major Anderson was there. I had a long talk with him and Mr. Lincoln. All the big men in the place were up there. What do you think of your brother in such big company as that. We got home at 12 o'clock had a band of music in the house. Saw Mrs. Lincoln but did not speak to her. It was a high time I tell you. Splendid house inside. Mr. Lincoln said where did you come from. I told from the big town of West Cambridge. He said you all look well. The company are all well and in good pluck. The bundle by express, I have not yet received. I have run down to see about it three times and cannot get any information in regards to it. I have sent down today hope to get it as I want the strap to wear when I go out to call in the evening. I would like to see Capt. Ingalls and his company out here. He said so much to me before I came on I want them to march 22 miles over a railroad in the still hours of the night with nothing to eat but sea bread and pork then see what they would say. Slept in the woods 2 nights, nothing but a horse blanket to cover over them and in danger of an attack every moment ----- in the woods ----- one thousand men from Baltimore are awaiting to see a chance to come down on us but they did not dare to come. We would have give it to them if they had came. We had a ----- guard on all night and lay on our guns. We have not received an orders as yet to leave here yet as we are all under orders to be ready in one hour. You speak about the companys getting drunk in West Cambridge send them out here and they cannot get drunk for they cannot get it and if they did the guard would take them and keep them 24 hours in a close classroom. We have not had a man drunk in our company as yet and when we do they will get something they did was like so much but sis --- comes the mail from Adams Express, lets see if I have get one, yess there are from John dated on the outside May 7. I will look at the inside and see what it says but I find it is from dear Mother ---- is a good long one, dated the sixth of May. I must make this do for an answer to both for the present as my own --- to ---- and pen and ink is all taken up by the men. But there seems something ---- for me from the --- . This makes them --- they have been in to give me ----. I have commenced writing to you.