Hart Island Dec 7th
1864

Dear Mother,

Your kind letter of the 11th was received last evening and I was happy to hear from you — I am still enjoying excellent health — You spoke of my vest — I have come to the conclusion that if have not purchased the cloth for my vest, that you had better let it go for I can get along very comfortable without it —

If you have time you may get a box of eatables ready to send to me — But do not send it until you hear from me again.

I receive the paper you send me every week— but it generally comes one day later than the letter— You had better send the Editor one dollar and that will pay for it for six months—

I would not know how to get along without the county paper—

I am having very easy times at present— I do not have any thing to do but keep fire in the barracks of company "C" We have two good coal stoves and plenty of coal— So you can see that it is not very hard work— There is only eighteen men in our ~~company~~ company consequently we have very peaceable times— We have ~~enjoyed~~ considerable better

then we did when there was ~~at~~ a large company of us — All of the companies in this battalion are very small at present — Have you heard any-thing of Uncle Jhon — You need not be alarmed about ~~the~~ my getting in the hands of the rebels at present — For unless some-thing unusual turns up I will not be likely get very near a ~~rebel~~ rebel. Some of the mens papers have been misplayed and I have been told by the orderly that mine is with them I will undoubtedly have to remain here untill they are found. And I cannot tell how

(Please Address as before)

how long that may be — But I presume that will not be a great while. They sent away a small squad to-day — They were bound for city point —

We had a very severe snow storm here last Saturday — It was the first we have had this season ~~but~~ It turned to rain before it was over — and most of the snow disappeared — It has now ~~clear~~ cleared off and is very bright and pleasant — Samuel Aplin left here for his regiment last week — There is no one here from this section of the county at present — but I have got acquainted with a number of those are here and feel perfectly contented — I have not much more to write so I will close hoping to hear from you soon — Please send me some postage stamps — I received those you sent in your last letter give my respects to all inquiring friends

Your son, G. D. Barringer.