Camp of 11th Battery
Fort Wheaton Jan 8th 1865

Dear Mother

Your kind and welcome letter of the 3rd was received ~~in~~ ~~the~~ to-day and I can assure you that I was glad to hear from you. You say that the ~~the~~ time since I left home seems long to you. It is the ~~on~~ contrary with me. The time seems very short to me. It is true that the soldier suffers some on his way here — but after they get in ~~cap~~ camp they enjoy themselves first rate. I have lived ~~the best~~ better since I have been to my Battery than I have at any other place since I left home. When I left home I did not expect the

Soldiers could take as much comfort as they do — Those that belong to Batteries do not have it as hard as the infantry — The infantry have to go out on picket almost every day — while we do not have to guard any thing but our teams — Caisons and guns We have to go on guard once in a week — I have been on guard but once since I have been here — The guns belonging to this battery is mounted in fort Welch which is situated about three quarters of a mile from here. — Most of the cannoneers are with the guns — but I am with the teamsters at fort Wheaton —

You asked me what the difference was between light artillery and heavy artillery

In Seight artillery they have nothing but cannons — while ~~in infan~~ in heavy artillery they have to do infantry duty — I like ~~infantry~~ light Art much better than I do any other branch of the service — We do not have any fighting here or picket-fireing — The place where I am is about eight miles south of Petersburg. You stated that some letters come there for me — You will please send them all to me — You stated that you had prepared some things for me — You can send them to me now and they will taste just as good as though I had received them New Years — I wrote you a letter a week ago last thursday in which I asked for some postage stamps — and some

money — you need not send the money for I think I can get along without it — I have been mustered for over four months payment my bounty which amounts to over one hundred dollars.

We expect to be paid of about the ~~twenty of this~~ 20th of this month — They did not pay us before I left — least I learned but I shall get it here — The stamps and fifty cents was all in the letter safe. ~~also~~ I did tell Mr Fitzpatrick to take the stamps from my letter and use them — He ~~was~~ he is a man that has been very kind to me — And has ~~done~~ done as I requested with my letters.

I would like to have you see the ~~house~~ house that I live in It is built of logs and covered with canvass — It is about eight feet high — ten feet ~~long~~ wide and fifteen feet long — We have a good fire place on one side of it and plenty of wood to burn consequently we live quite comfortable — we have good bunks in it and plenty of blankets to cover over us to keep us warm.

execution of one of their comrades who had been found guilty of deserting and joining the ranks of the enemy. — After the different regiments had been arranged as they would all have a fine view a procession made its appearance headed by several officers followed by a band of music which was playing the dead march — following these was an ambulance wagon accompanied by ~~two~~ a body of guards. In this wagon was seated the chaplin and the prisoner who was a well built youth of medium hight and about twenty five years of age — He was dressed in a half worn out suit of federal uniform — and instead of a cap he had a white handkerchief tied around his head. As they passed along the chaplin was conversing with him and he was weeping like a child.

his face was thin and haggard and his looks indicitive of great mental anguish. When they they arrived at the gallows the guards were stationed on each side, and the prisoner ascended to the stage which stood ~~in~~ by the gallows. After his ~~sent~~ sentence was read he knell down in prayer. How miserable life must have seemed to him when he heard the dead march played to his own funeral and saw the rope that was to be placed around his own neck. the coffin in which he was to be placed and the grave ~~in~~ wherein he must sleep for time to come. After finishing his prayers he rose and the rope was ~~then~~ placed around his neck and then at the word of command the ~~so~~ prop was pulled from me

There is six of us that tents together — My tent mates are all nice young men and full of fun, all of the men in camp seem to enjoy themselves first rate — We draw our rations raw and cook them ourselves — We rather cook them ourselves than to have them cooked for us for we can do it much better than the company cooks do — I witnessed a scene a week ago last Friday that I never did before and one which I care not to witness again.

It was a little before noon when the troops belonging to the 1st Division of the 2nd army corps assembled to gether in front of the gallows which is situated about one hundred yards from camp to see the

(I commenced this wrong)

~~There is bit of me that tents together. My tent mates are all [illegible]~~

under the platform letting him down so hard that it broke his neck — after hanging a proper length of time he was cut down and buried in front of the gallows. This is the seventh one who has shared the same fate at this place —

all guilty of the same crime. This may seem to be a hard punishment — but it is the only alternative. If men were allowed to desert and join the enemy it would endanger the lives of the whole army. — There was one shot here at this same place last friday — if you wish to send me a box you will direct as follows —

11th N. Y. Battery Light Art.
Artillery Brigade
2nd Army Corps.
Washington
D. C.

I have nothing more to write so I will close hoping to hear from you soon

Geo. D. Barringer
11th N. Y. Battery Light Art
Washington
D. C.