

Camp of the 11th St. Regis
I. Ind. Battery
New Hatcher's Run
Feb 13th 1865

Dear Mother

It is under rather peculiar circumstances that I am now writing you these few hurried lines — We left our old camp early this morning — I am now in our new camp and am writing this letter by the light of a big blazing fire which is made of ~~big~~ pitch pine knots — I am now lying down upon a few pieces of ponchos and ~~using~~ using my knapsack for a writing desk — Our encampment

is situated in the midst
of a thicket of small pine,
near Gatcher's Room —

It would astonish you
to see the amount of land
that our ~~own~~ army
has cleared off within
the short time we have
been in this vicinity — ~~It~~ The timber
has been used for build-
ing quarters, construct-
ing ~~quarters~~ best-
works and making cor-
dway roads — I have
been to work here all
day helping to split out
timber for building our
cabin — We are going
to have a very pleas-
ant camp if we are
allowed to remain here
long enough to fix
it up.

But if the weather con-
~~tinues~~ tinues fine I think
it is doubtful whether we
remain here long. — To
night for the first time
since I have been in
I shall sleep on the
ground. For our tent
to night we have set up
a couple of crotches in
the ground and laid a
a pole in them and spread
a ~~blanket~~ ~~blanket~~ paulin over
it for ^{part} covering — I
think I take considerable
comfort to roll while
sleeping by a good warm
fire. It is ~~very~~ warm and
very pleasant and to night.

Not a cloud dots the
firmament above — The
moon sheds forth its pale
light over the surrounding

landscape - As far as
far as the ^{eye} can extend can
be seen the light of the blazing
Camp-fires - making a most
sublime and magnificent
scene - Feeling a little fatigued
from my eyes labor
I shall have to close my letter
for the ~~the~~ present - I am well
as usual - We are having very
pleasant weather here at
present - You need not be
surprised if you should not
hear from me soon for I shall
shall have so much work to
do that I shall not have much
time to write - I received
a letter from my Aunt
Susan today - She was
well -

Yours affectionately

J. D. Darringer
Address as before