

Camp Griffin Va Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Harriet

As I came in off Picket this morning I received your worthy letter bearing date Jan 7<sup>th</sup> with the pleasing news that you were enjoying good health which was the best news you could have written. I am blest with the same enjoyment. the rest of the Glover boys ditto. I fear that you are getting to be a disobedient girl. who would have thought that you so pure & guileless would ever stray from the path of virtue so far as to go to the sugar tub in the absence of your parents & steal sugar & melt to cool on snow & eat. & even go so far as to say that if your love would come & visit you when the folks were gone you would treat him on the stolen sweet. only think of it. if that is not old Eve right over again I am no judge. I suppose that you are surrounded with a beautiful carpet of white snow

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& the cold bleak winds which Vt is noted for in Jan. we do not have to plod around in the snow here in Va but we have plenty of Va mud which is very friendly so much so that it is hard parting with it. it is very adhesive. We have had but little snow yet. the most we had was about 2 inches or a little less Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. since that we have had a thaw which carried off the snow & took the frost out of the ground. Today is Mon I commenced this yesterday which was Sun it was a warm pleasant day so much so that we had no fire in our tent after 10. A M in the day time nor in the evening. the boys were standing out in the streets minus coat & vest it was summer weather. today it is quite cool. yesterday we had a meeting out on the Parade Ground the Reg formed a hollow square the Chaplain & singers standing in the centre. We have services every Sabbath when the weather permits. Our Chaplains name is Edwin Stone nephew of Levi H Stone, We have seen no rebels yet some of the boys are quite impatient & find considerable fault

with the Genls because they dont order an

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advance but I think they know their  
business best. at least they ought to know  
better about Government affairs both civil  
& military than we youngsters do. I have a good  
deal of confidence in Gen McClellan yet  
I think his policy is to crush out this  
rebellion by sending great naval forces  
down the coast & taking important places  
There are two great expeditions about reddy  
to start if they have not already sailed.  
one down the coast the other down the  
Mississippi river. if these fleets are successful  
I think the rebellion will receive a blow  
that it will never recover from. I think  
when we make an advance it will be  
a successful one. I dont think we shall  
advance on the rebels strong hold at  
Manassas untill we can attack it on  
all sides. thus gaining a victory with but  
a small loss of life. I wrote a letter to  
Arabella Cutler about a week ago I have  
received no answer yet Yesterday morn  
after I came in from Picket & finished

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my breakfast & got a little rest I helped  
Chas Ufford fry some flapjacks for dinner  
they were real good I tell you. I will bet  
you with all of your boasted skill you could  
not beat them. with water flour & saluratus  
stodged up together without any shortening.  
I will now close this great epistle  
by wishing you health & happiness  
Give my respects to your Mother  
& all the friends

Receive this from  
your lover Dan

Topics include: maple sugar, snow, religious services, military strategy, pancakes

Transcribed by Gemma Philcox