My Dear Wife,

I read a letter from you today, and was very glad to hear from you. I hope you will not delay writing, because you do not hear from me. I shall try and write to you often while we remain here. I made a letter to you this morning, and another to Mr. Conklin.

I should not write you to-day, but I have got an idea. Is not the Redick supposed to help a great place. Now if he can manage to procure me a commission for a Lieutenant in a Company of Twenty Men, I think it will just suit what I would like. For I think, if I had a commission I would be able to go home, and my stay would not be so long in the army.

This idea was given to me today by a soldier from one town. He had just received a letter from a man (he knows not your name) saying he could get him a Lieutenant's commission if he wanted it. I thought at first I would write directly to Redick in regard to this. But my next thought was to write only to you and I wish you to let me one know what I have written. Nor see this letter. But go and see Redick, relative to the matter. But I want the thing right, still in a proper way.

I am living partly well now a days. I have just had a fine meal... It was fish (though small) potato and beans cooked together and some hard tack. I wish you would have a few letters in case of your writing...