



[Illustration]

The Union for Ever

Head quarters of the  
Six Main Main Encamped  
at Maxall Hill Va Dec 7/61

Friend Samantha

I received your letter last night and was glad to hear that you was all well and find that my money was safe and I send you two dollars in this letter I dont know as I shall send any more before that we are paid again or not I have got and sent out about eleven dollars and I want to keep some money on hand the next time that we are paid of shall send about all of my pay if not all we shall be paid again in three weeks so you see that I shall soon have quite a lost of money at home

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
MMN # 80445

Date: December 7, 1861

Description: Pvt. John E. Stewart wrote to "friend" Samantha Leighton of Columbia, also Stewart's hometown, apparently answering questions she had asked in a letter.

than you wanted to know what  
that I wanted done with that  
Silver [?] of mine if I should or never  
come home again I will give them to  
you but I hope that I shall get  
back one of these days the Banner  
I never got but it may have been  
miscarried and I may get it yet  
I have not got my box yet but  
have sent for it to day by Lewis  
Pierce I have had no chance to go  
myself but it will come most likely  
to night yet written to know  
how often that I had to go on  
pickett guard well I go most all  
of the time when any of our Reg  
is on and that is once in three days  
Some times I tell George that I want  
to go and he knows that I can get  
clear so he will put some one else  
on Camp Gard I stand about  
once in a week am on guard to  
day but as there was one - two many

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about thoes that makes the best shot  
this is all that I know about it  
is this about three weeks ago we  
heard that them that made the best  
shot would be excused from the next  
pickett so in the morning we all  
tried to do our best it fell to Cook  
Willey but when that the next Pickett  
came he had to go on the same  
and that was the last of that if  
all of them in our Company  
should do their duty we should  
not have to stand oftener than once  
a week as there is only twenty  
three on at a time but this  
is about one day of us that  
has to go on the whole time and  
if we had some one else for an  
orderly Sargent should not  
have to stand guard so  
often but there is one thing  
that I know we can stand guard  
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I will write a few more  
lines this morning I  
received Both Banners last  
night the first one was detained on  
the road some how and was glad  
to get both of them and shall  
have a plenty to read to day  
was not a good lecture in the  
Banner I have just commenced my  
sermon and shall read the rest after  
I am done writing I was glad to find  
a chew of gum in the Banner  
and I also found the fine Comb  
and shall use it two but am clear  
free then at this present time  
but I shall soon have more of it as  
we cannot keep clean from lice more than  
three days at a time but if one is  
carefull can get along very well  
I thought last Sunday that I was  
going to see a rebel at any rate

[illustration]

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we was on pickett when that a Major  
of a New York Reg come and told  
us that there was some rebels in a house  
about one mile from where that we was  
and said that he wanted thirty men  
to go with him and search the house  
so thirty of us started with him  
and when that we got most to  
the house we started on a run for the  
house found the house all fasten up  
but saw that there was some one in  
the house so as they would not open the  
doors we stove the out side one in and  
when that we had got inside found  
nothing but a lot of negroes and two  
little boys they told us that there  
father was in the rebel army we searched  
the house all over but found no rebels  
so our tramp was all for nothing but  
we had some fun that was to see  
the negroes Children run but we  
left them all right and I guess that  
they got some over there fright before

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we left there is a lot of girls out  
here but they are about all Secess  
and I tell you they all talk the  
same that Mays did they is not  
so many sick in our regiment  
as there was I dont much think  
that Sproul will come back again  
and if he does to them I believe  
that he will stop long if he does  
he has not enjoyed very good health  
this last month and then if  
we get home I should suppose that  
he would want to stop as long as  
through the winter and I dont  
think that we shall have any  
fighting this winter and I hope  
that by time the war will be over  
and if we should have to stop out  
here next summer shall see some  
warm weather they have not found  
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pen that is very coarse  
@ Yours John

*[The remainder of the page contains several lines of extremely faint, illegible cursive handwriting.]*

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