

## Letter 10

Camp 1<sup>st</sup> NY Dragoons  
Culpeper Va Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 1863

Dear Cousin,

I rec'd your very welcome letter last week but have not been able to answer before. I just came in from Picket this afternoon where I passed the night in the woods, and pretty cold at that. The weather for the past week has been quite severe. Some of the time hard rains, together with snow. Made picketing quite disagreeable. Still as long as my health is spared to me it is all I can ask. Last week our reg't made a reconasince, starting near dark, & after riding some time latter till three o'clock in the morning, when the order was given to mount & on we started. Rode constantly till we reached Camp at three P.M. I find that one gets as tired riding, as walking.

I rec'd a letter from home a few days since. All were quite well. Uncle Dick talked of starting soon for your City. I know he would enjoy the fair you speak of very much, & probably will be in time for it. I would love dearly to spend a few days with you all, & I hope the time is not far distant when I can have the pleasure of seeing & enjoying the society of my friends in civil life once more. Furloughs are being granted to Officers & men of ten days. I have not applied yet, for the reason there are a number of our officers who have not been home as yet. I thought it just to give them a chance first. I perhaps may get home towards Spring. Some time after my last letter to you, I rec'd your letter containing your fotograp together with Coz Sam which were very acceptable indeed though not as good as the last, & still hope to receive a still better one. In writeing to Libbie I sent her the one I rec'd last. Mag in her last letter Said Libbie intended to go to housekeeping on a small scale. I think it rather a novelty to begin housekeeping in the Army. I have concluded t wait till more peaceable times. Our Division has met with a great loss in the death of Gen'l Beauford. He was by far the best Cav Officer in the Army of the Potomack. We all had great faith in him. I hardly know who will fill his place. You have my sympathy in your affliction, & I trust your health is much improved \_\_\_\_ (?). My love to all. As my tent is so cold I must close, hoping your health my be spared to you. I am ever your affectionate Cousin Sam