

Falmouth, Va.
Jan. 1st 1863.

Dear Father

Your letter reaches me this morning and I take this earliest opportunity of answering it. I wrote a long letter to you only a few days ago and shall now merely write a few lines and reserve my energies for another occasion. The weather has been rather unpleasant for the last few days, but this morning the sun came out once more and we have a delightful day. We tried hard to get something a little better than usual, in the eating line, for our New Years dinner and had very nearly given up in despair when the Quarter Master drove up from the R.R. Station with three wagon loads (*sic*) of express stuff for the Regt. By good luck the Capt¹ and I got three boxes and with the contents made quite a meal besides laying up any quantity of butter cheese etc. for another occasion. We have been under marching orders for several days and expect every hour to be ordered off but as yet there is a kink somewhere and they can't get things started. For the past week we have been living very comfortably in two A tents one of which is built upon logs to the height of about 4 feet making a good deal of room. We dissolved partnership with Merrill Christmas and the next day the Major left us so that we have plenty of room and are much more comfortable. I am very glad to hear that Col. Palmer promised me a 1st Lieutenancy and hope you will remind him of it and try to hurry him up if it seems necessary. As regards a staff appointment I don't think it will be necessary to say any thing more. You know how much I desire one. Don't fear that I shall do any thing to exasperate the Major.² He and I get along very well in fact just as well as ever except that I shall never feel the same towards him. Mother's letter still remains unanswered but I will write to her in a few days. Please send me some money and a few postage stamps as soon as possible. Give my love to all the family and believe me your affect. son

Saml Porter

P.S. You have never said any thing about my commission. I sent it home when I first got here and had it left at D.M. Dewey's please call for it. I mentioned it in one of my previous letters but suppose it miscarried. Loder has some little maps that I picked up in F[redericksburg]

please send Minnie Bush either the shell or the little basket with my compliments.³

Sam

Notes:

¹ The Captain he does not identify could be Captain Byron Thrasher, recently appointed to captaincy of Co.F.

² Henry P. Merrill, 1st Lt.Co.E was discharged on Dec 30, 1862.

The major is Francis Edwin Pierce and the feud over the captaincy of Co. F.

Transcribed by Terry Crooks.

The original letter is in the *Porter Family Papers*, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections,
University of Rochester Libraries.

³ D.M. Dewey owned a bookstore in the Arcade Hall in Rochester and was leader of the ultra Republican Union League.

Loder is George F. Loder, 1st Lt. Co. F discharged for disability on Dec. 28, 1862. The items euphemistically “picked up in Fredericksburg” were probably acquired by Porter when he took part in the sack of the city on Dec. 12 (see letter of Dec 20).

Minnie Bush could not be identified clearly but she could be Mary Bush the woman Porter will marry after the war or a relation of hers.