

Falmouth, Jan 6th [1863]

Dear Mattie¹

I believe you are the only one of the family that has not received a letter from me since I became a soldier, and as I know you will enjoy one as much if not more than the others. I have determined to devote this last sheet to you. All the rest of the folks have at some time written but you I believe have never sent me even a word to remind me that you still remembered your absent brother. I wish you could look in upon us tonight and see our seat less style of living. Our front room is at the eaves a little over said three feet high, and in the center nearly ten. It is almost 7 feet by 8 on the ground, not very spacious but large enough for our wants. In the corner of this is a fireplace which works admirably and keeps us very comfortable. In the rear is our sleeping our sleeping about three feet lower than our front one and fitted into it in such a manner that we can have communication open or not as we please. We have managed lately to secure some new blankets and now sleep warm as toast.² The man that cooks for us is engaged tonight in picking over some beans that we were lucky enough to buy to day and my mouth fairly waters at the prospect of baked pork and beans. I received the letters from home stating that my box was on its way and was very much delighted. I am very much obliged to all who contributed in any way to its packing and forwarding. I have already written to H.H. Sperry³ as Father requested and shall expect it soon.

Colonel Powers & Lieut. Amiet Co.I of our Regt⁴ leave tomorrow early the first for Washington and the latter for R[ochester], they both having sick leave. Lieut. Amiet has Fathers address and will call on him before leaving home to bring any little thing you may wish to send. Tell Father I am a little anxious to learn about my old commission and should like to hear if he has found it. I wish you would send me the *Democrat* or *Union* or both regularly as we have nothing at all to read.

Your affect Bro, Sam

{ Written on the blank reverse side of sheet – page 4 in the quarto format)

Dear Father

Yours of the 1st inst was just brought to me and I will add a few words in answer to it. My health which you enquire so anxiously about is good and I feel to day as well and I think as strong as ever. Yesterday I had a little game of ball (pitch and catch) and enjoyed it very much.

Don't have any fear with regard to Pierce. I am all right with him and shall now make use of him without scruple. It never was in my nature to nurse a quarrel even if I did despise a man's actions. I am very glad to hear that you have sent so nice a box.⁵

Your affect son
Sam

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

Notes:

¹ Mattie is his younger sister Martha T. Porter (1851-?)

² The tented cabin is quite a topic of conversation for him, he mentions it a number of times in various letters.

³ H.H. Sperry was the Monroe Rep on the Soldiers Relief Committee based in Washington D.C.

⁴ At this point the C.O. should be called Lt. Col. Charles J. Powers since Col. had not yet officially departed.

Amiet is Carl V. Amiet, 2nd Lt. Co. I, 108th NY. He will be killed at Gettysburg during the cannonade prelude to Pickett's Charge on July 3rd 1863.

⁵ In the note to Father Re: Pierce, a rather unflattering side of Porter is shown. He shall make peace with Pierce but will use him for his own ends and he does!