

Falmouth, Jan.10 [1863]

Dear Father

My box has come and I have just time to write a few words in acknowledgment. At home and so situated that you can get any thing you desire you care very little for the delicacies that you sent me. Here however it is different, and even you were you here would long for a taste of now and then of cake, candy etc. The contents pleased me extremely; every thing came in good order and tasted home like. Nothing of all the good things I recd was more acceptable to me than the old cup and saucer. Hard as I am, the sight of those old dishes that I had eaten out of so many times with all the family around really made my heart beat faster. The finest china would not have pleased me half so well. The tent is all torn to pieces to day owing to our chimney having burnt out, and I am writing in Lieut Merrills tent in an awful cold corner which will account for poor writing. I shall write a long letter to Mary to night and as the mail is just leaving shall be obliged to close.¹

Your affect son
Saml Porter

P.S. I forgot to mention that I received this morning your last letter enclosing ten dollars also Mary's letter, am much obliged.

Notes:

¹ Henry P. Merrill, 1st Lt.Co.E was discharged on Dec. 30, 1862 so Porter must be using his abandoned tent. Mary Elizabeth Porter was Sam's sister.