

Falmouth, Va.  
Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> 1863<sup>1</sup>

Dear Father

I have only time to say a few words, but as we are expecting every minute to receive marching orders<sup>2</sup>, and your letter requires an answer I shall write what I have time for now, and if we do not move today write to Mother in the evening.

The bills you send are all correct I believe with the exception of Sabey's; that is wrong only in the item of bugle which I never had. The cap so soon after hat is the one Farley wore when I was at home and is one that I purchased when going to Albany to attend Marble's funeral. The hat cover was to my military cap.

Love to all and believe me your affect son

Saml Porter

P.S. I have written to H. Sperry informing him of the receipt of my box.<sup>3</sup>

Sam

Diary Entry January 1863.

Dear Father

Yours of the first inst was just brought to me. I will add a few words in answer to it. My health which you inquire so anxiously about is good and I feel today 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. I am very glad to hear that you have sent so nice a box.

Your affectionate son

Sam

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

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Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Two diary entries for Jan 19<sup>th</sup> have been included with the brief note to his father.

<sup>2</sup> The anticipated movement was Burnside's second attempt to take Fredericksburg – a plan which devolved into the Mud March of Jan 20-22 when a winter storm struck the area.

<sup>3</sup>H.H. Sperry was Monroe's Rep on the Soldiers Relief Committee based in Washington D.C.

James Sabey was merchant located at 105 East Main St. Rochester, NY.

Farley Porter was his younger brother.

Marble funeral – no record found.