

Camp of the 108th
Falmouth Va
April 11th

Dear Mattie

I have just finished a letter to Mary, but as it is so long since I've written to you I thought I would improve the few spare minutes before drill by writing a short note. Wednesday there was a grand review by President Lincoln, and his son a boy of not more than eight year old rode a horse all through the lines. We have great fun playing ball now days and every pleasant [day?] half the Regiment can be seen out on the parade ground engaged n this pleasant sport. Lately we have commenced fixing up our camp with evergreens so that we now present quite a festive appearance. All our camp duties continue as usual and we have plenty to do to keep us busy I can assure you. I suppose the skating season is over with you before this, but I hope you improved every opportunity this winter and learned to skate as well as any of them. I hope when I come back to find you the best instructed of the family. I received a letter from Father last night in which he said that Farley was hardly growing at all and that he feared he would never ever be so large as he is himself. I doubt if I am growing any in stature but I weigh about 15 pounds more than I used to at home. I am sorry to make this letter so short but must close as I am called for duty.¹

Your affect bro.

Sam.

Notes:

¹ Martha T. ('Mattie') and Mary Elizabeth Porter were his younger and older sisters respectively.

President Lincoln's review was on April 8, 1863.

Farley Porter was his younger brother.