

Head Quarters 3<sup>rd</sup> Brig  
November 15<sup>th</sup> 64

Dear Mother

I have very little of interest to write you, but sit down to tell you, merely for customs sake that I am well, hope you and the rest of the family are the same and so forth. It is now a little after six A.M. and I have after visiting our front line as usual at five A.M. taken a wash in a great tub of ice water which makes me feel brisk as a lark. Every other day I get up at half past four A.M. and go out to our line to see that the troops comply promptly with the order to be under arms at 5 A.M.

After visiting these, I return to my tent where my darky <sup>1</sup>(by the way perhaps I never told you that Parsons and I have secured the service of a gentleman of color) well we have and as I was remarking when I go out in the morning he keeps things warm for me so that on my return I enjoy a smoke for half an hour or so, and then just as it becomes light enough for me to see my way I start down the Apomattox (*sic*) which is picketed for a little more than three miles by one of the Regiments of our Brigade. Under some circumstances I could imagine this a most beautiful and pleasant ride, but when taken in the early morning the thermometer at about 15 Or 20 and all alone at that it is any thing but a pleasant task.

November 16<sup>th</sup>

My letter was interrupted at this point yesterday and I had no opportunity of finishing it. Seward Gould came over and took dinner with me, and that and one thing or another kept me busy the whole day. Last night I recd latter from Father enclosing two keys one of which I retain, the other I return in this. The weather for the last week has been very pleasant, but extremely cold. Water has frozen in my tent for several nights back<sup>2</sup>

Love to all  
Your affectionate son  
Sam Porter

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Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Porter may have been raised in an abolitionist household but he still exhibits the white superiority which he felt entitled to at the time.

<sup>2</sup>Parsons and Gould – see letter of Nov. 6, 1864.