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To Miss Juliett Loper, Huntington, L. I.

Camp Vermont, Dec. 25, /62

Dearest Cousin: I wish you "Merry Christmas" and suppose that in all probability it will be a merry one to you but, it is no Christmas to me, neither do we have any Sunday in the Army. We have had preaching only three or four times since we have been in the service. It is customary to have inspection on Sabbath morning and dress parade in the afternoon, unless there is work to do in which case we, of course, have to do it. When I wrote my last letter to you and received its answer I was on Arlington Heights, we stayed there nearly three weeks when we were ordered to pack knapsacks and march, we knew not where, but after marching about five hours, found ourselves in our present camping ground, (Camp Vermont). I presume it received its name in consequence of so many Vermont regiments having encamped here. It is ten miles from the Heights and about the same distance from Washington and three miles from Alexandria where the Gallant Elsworth was killed. The Capitol Building and Washington monument are in sight. Also Fairfax Seminary and on the whole, I think we have a very pleasant camping ground, though not quite so sightly as the former. We there had a full view of Washington and Georgetown, but t is camp has the advantage of the other in being on higher ground, & consequently healthier.

We have been here two weeks and we <sup>are</sup> again under marching orders and will probably leave tomorrow for Fortress Monroe. I hope I shall see Theodore but do not much expect to for all the army corps seem to be in motion at present. I presume that before long I shall again be in battle and perhaps may fall but my trust is in the God of battles, and dear Cousin I wish you to pray that if consistent with His will my life may be spared, if not that I may be admitted into those "Mansions" prepared for those that love Him. Uncle Sam has not paid us yet so I cannot send my picture yet. Roger's address is T. R. Loper, Co "I", 2nd R.I.V. Washington D.C.

Please write soon, and give my love to all and believe me as ever  
Your affectionate Cousin Milton.