

Hilton Head. Feb 23/63

Dear Cousin

Yours of 15th instnt came to hand. while our Regt. was at Yorktown, and I presume you have wondered why I have not answered it sooner. there are three reason. on is, that I have not had animation enough. about me to write. another. is. I have been too busy. all our Commissioned Officers being home on sick furloughs. (one of which has just now returned) and the third is. that there is no regular mail between here and New York. or at least it does not go and come. very regularly. owing I suppose, to the contraryness [sic]. at times of the "winds and waves." But pardon me for trying your patience with so long an apology . for I presume you do not like them, and my only reason for writing one. is for want of something better to write. for somehow of late. it is difficult for me to think of any thing to write. I have just written to Gertrude and for the life of me I could not write but two pages. Our Regt is under arrest. and sent to this Island. and our pay stopped . and what will come next I know not. I think as a Regt we have been very unfortunate in some respects at least. Of course we were fortunate in escapeing [sic] with our lives at "Harpers Ferry," but since then we have been handled rather roughly . They charge us with having burned the Barracks at Camp Douglas Chicago, but I think they are "mistaken in the charges" this time for I believe the Vermonts did the mischief. but the blow has fallen on us. and I suppose there is no use crying about it. though it it would do any good. I could with a will. We have been Brigaded five times at Harpers Ferry, at Chicago, at Camp Seward, near Washington, at Yorktown, and now in Alfred H. Ferry and under Gen.Hunter. Haven't we traveled some? And now dear Cousin, in conclusion, I ask an interest in your prayers, Sometimes I am almost discouraged. and sorely tempted to give up trying to live a christian in the Army. Give my love to all your family, and write soon very soon.\*

\* Bottom right-hand corner of the page is cut off. No signature.