

Jan 28/1863

not try to get out of it,
until I can honorably;

But I must close soon
I had a letter from Gail
a few days ago, he said Phebe &
the children were quite unwell.
She was in Belfast, to work at
his trade (shoemaking) he said
he was doing quite well this
winter.

I had a letter from Edward &
Ruth, also Jacob & Mary,
yesterday morning, they say
all well. They said
business in Camden was
very dull this winter.
Said they had had no good since
Thanksgiving.

My respects to
your family (Souldah
included)

Tell Souldah I will write
to her as soon as I can get
time. Yours as ever

Darius S. Pichee
57/86 Prof
Nov 28/62

Camp near Halmouth, Jan 28/63
Dear Brother: I have just read your
letter, (of date 15 & 16) and I was glad to
hear from you, but very sorry to hear
of your misfortune. I had heard (by way
of Sather's letter, also Ruth's) of your ill
luck, of which I felt very bad
for you. My health is quite good at
the present time, and I hope this will
find you much better than when
you wrote. I have not much news to
write. I believe Gen. Burnside has
resigned, and Gen. Hooker taken
command. Whether he will do any
better than Burnside remains to be
seen. In regard to ^{the} risk and wounded
I guess you are better posted than I.
The log at Fredericksburg was not
so large as at first represented.
Burnside intended to make another
attack on Fredericksburg about a week
ago but the late rains prevented the
movement.

Jan 28, 1863

We have had fine weather here until
about a week past, since that time it
rained about every day, so day is snowy
and rainy, it looks like our April weather
in Maine. You wished to know if
the Soldier could not get straw, hay,
or husks to sleep on! That would be
impossible, in this part of Virginia.
As for boards, we can't get eno-
ugh to make boxes to bury the dead
in. When a Soldier dies in the
army, he is buried like a horse, or
mule; wrap a woolen blanket
around him dig a hole, and lay him in,
and fill the dirt in on to the body.
One of our Co, died a few days since,
and I was detailed to dig a grave.
So I took six or seven men, and
went at it; we dug it, but thought
it best to build to bury a man in
that style; so we got some pine
boards, put them in the bottom of
the grave, then I got some short

boards (about 12 or 14 inches long) set
them up in the corners, laid little string
across, then got small poles, and laid
lengthways; lined the grave at the
sides, with boards. After the corpse
was laid in, we laid small poles
over the body, on the stringers,
then covered it with boards and
filled it up with dirt. It may
quite a coffin, I tell you!
at any rate, I thought if I should
die out here, I should rather be
buried in that shape than to
be covered up like an old horse or dog.
But enough of this.
at home, I am just as contented
but here as I should be at home's
and, as long as I see things move
right, I am willing to do all I can,
for the benefit of our Country.
I intend to do my duty, as long as
I am in this show! and I shall