

well, I have been very healthy and
have stood the hardships we have
to endure on those long tedious marches
- as unaccountably well, we have done
a good deal of marching since we
entered the service and accomplish-
ed but little, I have seen some
fighting but not as much as I
expect to see, it is not very pleas-
-ant to ^{be} supporting a battery where
the shells are cracking around you
in all directions, but I have no
reason to complain as long as I
come off safe, you ask me how
I like it, the answer is I don't
like it at all this soldiering is
very hard tedious business to follow
we have been about half starved
about half of the time we have
been three days without a mouth
full of anything whatever to eat
and marched with heavy knapsacks

on our backs, and brought up
in face of the enemy with the intention
of fighting one of the heaviest battles
fought in old Virginia, we fired
a way at intervals for two days
with artillery the rebels seemed to be
setting a trap for us, during those
two days there was seven days rations
within a mile of us and they would
not issue any. But finally we got one
days ration and then returned as
Langrey as we went, a great many
of our men are homesick and give
up to despondency lay down some-
where in mud or ashes and finally
die. I try to keep a stiff upper
lip and not borrow any trouble
it is the only way to live here, we
are in winter quarters for the present
time, we had to carry our timber
for our camps a mile and a half
which was pretty hard work

Jan 11, 1864

This must have been a fine looking
country before the war, an army
marching and countermarching
through a country leaves it in
a most a deplorable situation
yet there are some fine looking
mansions left - in some localities
we can hardly see a building left
in a day's march nothing but the
chimneys left the houses about all
burned and farms going to waste
I have not seen a young man in
Virginia that is a citizen all gone
to the war they have made a clean
sweep - I hope that something
will be done to bring this war to
a close a great many think it will
not last longer than Spring but it is
impossible to tell I think the 19th
Regt - will be located near us soon if
so I will find out your Brother and
try and make his acquaintance I wish
you would write to me often we Soldiers
are very fond of getting letters from our friends
and relations, we have a mail every night
give my love to all the family and tell
them I will come and see them when I come
Home from your affectionate Brother
Hiram A. Colman

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Camp Near Michel Station Va. Jan 11
Dear Brother Hiram
I received
your welcome letter last evening
and you may be sure I was much
gladified with the reception of a letter
from you, I hope you will excuse
me for not writing to you before
my excuse is that I have a goodly
number of friends and relatives to
write to and often situated in
such a way that it is impossible
for me to write to those that I would
wish to, this Division is located in
front of Perry near the enemy and it
requires us to be very vigilant in
the execution of our duty we are constan-
tly on guard, quite a number of
our men are sick which makes
it come very hard on those that are

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