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1-20-65

Camp of the 53 in field Jan. 20, 1865

Dear wife

I once more attempt to write to you, but I hardly know how to commence to write not receiving any letter for so long from home but be it as it may I am in the best of health and spirits and hope this will come safe to your hand and find you and Johny and the connection all well and in good circumstances Barbary I have nothing to write that would interest you we are fare out in the State of South Carolina in the midst of an enemys country ten or twelve hundred miles from home and connection of friends. I have plenty and them that is true to their faith. I wrote a letter on the 12 from near Beaufort the same night I had a chill which lasted me more than two hours this was the first chill that I ever had so it was a pretty hard one. I was sick for a few days but had to march all the time. We have taken one strong line of works after another ever since we left 7 days has been the longest that we have ever been in one camp. Since I have been in the service I have become hardened so I can stand anything. I have become weaned from home so that if I was a single man and had no family I would see this thing ended if I was permitted to live that long but as it is I cannot stay, my memory will wander homeward and when I think of things that happened at home and the companion and the sweet little babe that I left I cannot reconcile my mind to stay away longer than my term so if I am liveing at the end of my term you may look for me home. So in the lonely hour of picket remember me also in the dreadful hour of conflict remember me. I wrote Mary Ann a letter a few days ago. We have had no news from our sick since I last wrote. The rest of the boys is all

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well. Write how Jenkinses folks takes Jim's death. You need not be astonished to hear of another death soon though say nothing about it. If that money comes safe you may send five dollars. Also send a stamp or two in some of your letters for I cannot get stamps here. I hope you are getting along as well as could be expected. I would be glad to see you and the babe so I will close by saying good by hoping soon to receive a letter from you. Write soon and often by the hand of your husband J. C. Esarey to his wife. Direct the same as before.