Dec. 19, 1862

My dear wife, I now take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and present and hope that these few lines will find you and the children the same and all the rest of the family. I will tell you all our fright at Petersburg where we struck into the rough and ready way in the morning about four o'clock, and marched to the battle-ground and laid there five days and nights on our arms all the time we retreated from there out Tuesday morning our army lost badly our regiment was in the front line and we were under fire and behind the rebels red it up and cross the river. They threw shells in our ranks when we tried to cross the river but did not kill any of our men, but it was an awful chance for us. The mud was thrown all over us by them. The Rebels were very much to the model in the field. So long I saw against many men fall, the Rebels way behind stone walls and in houses so that we could not see them and they had rifles.
I never expected to come out alive but I did and I thank God for it. It was a awful thing to hear the men cry for help on the field on Saturday night. It was very cold and we laid right in with the dead and wounded that night and the next day. Then we were relieved by a California regiment on Monday night then we went back in the town and laid there. That day with balls and shells all around us there was a shell struck in the yard behind us. We threw dirt all over my company the companies on both sides of us jumped and ran. I was near a church close by some of the boys got up to run and I made them lay down again. Then there was three or four more came right over us on the other side of the road one man was struck in the head right of all of us the balls struck all around us but didn't strike me. I wish I could have sent you something that I got in the town, but I can't send you much. I will send you something to remember me by and to remember Frederick bury any way in this letter and more
in the next now. This horses head is for the children. It was to bad to see the goods discribed in that village chairs. To as papers, ituous tables. Tables. Dishes every thing you could speak of flour, pork, whiskey, and so forth. I have got too little matts and a bible and adish for you if I can find it to you wish I hope. If I can I have got one letter from you since I left home. That was night before last. I was very glad to hear from you, but sorry to hear that Estella was likely to have fits, but glad to hear that you was all well at present. Tell Eva that she must be more quiet so I shant like her much. I am glad to hear that they learn so fast. Tell them that I think of them very much and hope that they will be good girls. And till I come home tell the children that I am glad to have them pray for me and I will pray for them and you to it as very hard for the men. Hear now I am sorry to hear that your road was out so near and that you had to sell your dress for it to get
shoes for them but I can't get any yet and am sorry for that you must try and get hectar to get you some when I am sorry that I can't come home this winter now I must for now have just had some new secrets come in and I must tell them. But they will go up for this time I saw a little girl in Fredericksburg and it put me in mind of my children at home her father was with her but it looked hard to see her there and the rolls falling all around her the people had all left their now kiss the children for me. Tell them they must keep good girls and mind you now get bless you all and keep safe from Ramb from your all love from John W. Young to his wife and children Rosetta R. Young & Estella Young. One young I must tell again that I have just got your letter now glad I was Daniel Decker is as ill and is in bed I get this letter is large enough this time