My Dear Wife:

I send you a letter yesterday and one today, therefore I commence you one tonight, at the 29th out a little while ago. This is commenced one for the purpose of telling something which I might possibly forget, if I do not write it now or two. A notice of a book entitled "Illustrations of Universal Progress, Five of Discourses" by Herbert Spencer, published by Appleton Co., which I have just read in the N.Y. Tribune, has pleased me so much, that I wish you to buy the book and read it. I am afraid you are not reading as much as I would like you to, and I think you will find this book both interesting and instructive. I should buy it myself for my own reading, but I have no way of carrying it on the march and to tell the truth, we have little time for reading in the army. The same author has written a work on Education, which has lately been published by the same firm. As you know, just now to be excused on the duty we are not to be back at the book stores, they can be back for. Don't mind the expense, but buy them to read them carefully.

Monday evening, I stopped writing at this point, because I had determined not to send this letter too long, not caring to have your reply too often by receiving
two letters in one day. I gave your my "view" in a P.S. (Post-Slip) to my last letter and, being a very reasonable person, I have no doubt that you sub- 
scribe to them heartily. We are having
more snow and rain today. The out-
town was so disagreeable that I have
scarcely ventured out of my canvas
shocks today, except to get my meals.
As a matter of course I feel lumps-
like and dull, and only a natural
impulse to bestow these pleasant at-
tribute on one who is most kindly am-
ed for assistance.
I do not think
you need worry much over my hand-
king for the Judge Advocate Bureau.
Had not the Senate lowered its rank it
thrust also its employment I might
have had my longing eyes steadfastly
in that direction. But when I saw the
Senate's amendment I turned them
away from it as a thing no longer de-
irable and which I could not accept.
I must confess, however, that within a
few days I have begun to regard it with
as new interest. Spending my time mainly
in my tent, I have been thinking over my
prospect quite seriously, and have come
to look upon the place, the otherwise
not very desirable, yet as one which
would afford the greatest advantage to me
in preparing to leave the army. This stop
which I see every day must some day
fall, unless your happiness and mine is
by being shipped off, I mean, of course by
leaving the army, only the strictly mil-
tary part of it, which involves frequent
separation from my family and an un-
happy, unsettled, and unsatisfactory life,
very distressful to both you and me. The
Bureau of Military Justice is chiefly a part
of the army, but a part which is po-

tically fixed about the Capitol of the na-
tion and which would not after Con-

eral's absence from home, the death of

the belonging to it, I would not to completely
rejoin his time that he could devote a
considerable part of each day to some con-
genial task by which money and reper-
tation might both be ensured. And this
on this account that I have nearly arrived
at the conclusion that I would accept
the place as a, or Major of Cavalry, hoping
that I can continue the industry and es-

dicition to do some literary work which
would pay enough, together with the salary,
to enable us to live comfortably and respect-
ably even if he be exempt from a place as Wash-

ington. I should not get something more than
a thousand dollars per year more than I do so; and on that I have no doubt ma-
ny of the quiet residents of that big town will
enough. I should feel satisfied that my
brave men had enough to live on; event
would not succeed in any other project, yet
otherwise I feel I should become a most