

position of the 3<sup>rd</sup> will make  
it necessary to make some change  
in the locations of the troops  
of my brigade. This is very dis-  
agreeing to every body. The 12<sup>th</sup> have  
the prettiest camp in the army  
and they are justly proud of it.  
Any change that can be made  
will affect them more or less.  
The other regiments too have  
been labouring for months to  
get themselves comfortable and  
it is too bad that they should  
be ~~obliged~~ <sup>compelled</sup> to leave their  
camps and be obliged to  
make new <sup>ones</sup> "again" and for  
the third time since we came  
on the line of the rail road,  
— Good morning, Sweet Valen-  
tine! I wrote the last instal-  
ment of this letter about mid-  
night, leaving it incomplete be-  
cause I had nothing more to  
say & keeping it open until the

Morning (You can't say how I have been but you or  
Mrs Elizabeth  
I have to and  
be the first  
and much,  
the 9 of 1  
can find  
I have

Rockville Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 64  
I have recd no let-  
ter from you since Sunday, consequent-  
ly I am anxious to hear from you  
and home.

I have been making  
myself "comfortable" this week as Capt.  
Duller would say. My tent is now  
a pleasant thing to behold. I am  
no longer confined to the "cramped  
up Utica" of a single wall tent, but  
enjoy the glorious spaciousness of  
two. These are set on logs about five  
feet high, so that I have a com-  
modious room about twenty feet  
long and ten feet wide. It is well  
floored and tight and warm and  
preferable to the house in which  
most of my staff are quartered. I  
have a good bed on which I sleep  
quite soundly and sleep little con-



coniences, which I have not heretofore enjoyed. Besides, I have a faithful servant who takes excellent care of me and who is equal to almost anything from mending my breeches to building a house. I have no scoldings in my domestic kingdom - everything is done to my head before I can ask for it. Our mess is a very good one, we have all the vegetables that can be bought in our neighbourhood besides what the Commissary has for sale, chickens (rather or old however) nice fresh eggs and a very good cook who makes the best hash I ever ate. We are in close communication with Alexandria where we can get whatever is in the market there. So, you see, we are not altogether miserable, tho' we lead a monotonous life which in time will reduce one to the <sup>mental</sup> ~~mental~~ <sup>capacity</sup> ~~capacity~~ of an oyster. I

Suppose, if indeed we have not reached that point already. - 13<sup>th</sup> - Your letter of the - of Feb'y, 1801, marked the eighth, but not dated, came to hand this evening. It seems to require five days for a letter to travel from you to me; are mine quite as long on the way? - We are going along in the old monotonous joy. To-morrow (Sunday) there is to be a flag-raising in the camp of the 12<sup>th</sup>, at which four barrels of ale are to be quaffed. There will probably be a good time. - The Third Infantry are ordered to Fort Columbus, Capt. Ley had been ordered on mustering and disbursing services at Trenton N.J. before and he and his wife are there now. The de-