

Todd

Camp near Brandy Station Va  
January 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

Mr Thompson  
Sir

Genl Crater  
received a letter from you a few  
days ago, in it you said that you  
had given up all hopes of hearing  
from me again. We used to corres-  
pond pretty regular and why it  
was discontinued I do not know.  
More than a dozen times I've  
made up mind to write to you  
but some how or other never got at

Mr. Thompson I must say that  
I am sick of the service, and had  
you went through and seen what  
we have seen, you would be the same  
I think that I have been through  
the "mill". I've been wounded, a wound  
from which I will never entirely

recover, have been a prisoner, hunted  
like in Libby Prison, felt the pangs  
of hunger on Belle Island, have been  
sick with the fever in Hospital and  
so on through the whole catalogue, but  
I still enjoy pretty good health.

I could get nearly eight hundred dollars  
and have the promise of a commission  
would I enlist, but it is no inducement,  
forty eight out of four hundred in  
our Regt have enlisted. The majority  
of them are men who have neither  
homes, friends, or connections, and they  
have volunteered for the bounty and  
the promise of a thirty five day for-  
ough to enable them to have a good  
spree. Some of them have already spent  
all their money and a sicker set of  
men I never saw. I don't know how it  
is in other regiments but that is the  
class of men who have enlisted in  
ours. I understand that a good many  
of the 9<sup>th</sup> have enlisted and are now

home, I suppose they think that  
they have seen hard times, but they  
have never went through half what the  
Army of the Potomac has.

We are now in good quarters and have  
very easy times, but I'm no doubt but what  
we will have some campaigning to  
do before our time expires (the 1<sup>st</sup> of June)

We had splendid weather for the last  
two weeks. James Melick was up to  
see me yesterday, he looks better than I  
ever saw him before. Crater, Miller, Lylich  
and the rest of your acquaintances  
are in the best of health, but none of  
them have enlisted.

I was pleased to learn of  
your appointment to the Presidency  
of the South Branch R.R. would it  
be possible for me to get a situation  
on the road should I live until the  
expiration of my time? at that time  
I will have some five or six hundred  
dollars and I had partly made up