

P.S. Please be sure and
direct your letters to Company
A 25th Mass 9d

I see you did not put the
company on your other

E W Gouley

Camp Upton
Newport News Va Dec 31st 1869

Dear Brother

yours of the twenty eighth is safely
at hand and I hasten to answer it
and by the way I thank you for
your wish and would respond by
wishing you a very happy new year
may nothing happen to mar your
happiness but may your life move
smoothly on but in order to have
that we have something to do.

In the first place have you given
your heart to God and do you trust
to Him for guidance and eternal
life if so then you are prepared to
enter upon the new year with
joy and whatever happens it
will be a happy year to you but
if on the other hand you care for
none of these things then are you
wretched indeed.

It is just six years ago tomorrow since I experienced religion and though I have not always lived as I ought to ~~to~~ yet I can say that they have been the happiest years of my life and I can say my dear Brother that you will never regret it if you will only give your heart to God. then let sickness or death come you will be happy if it had not been for that I should have been the most miserable of all beings but that has sustained me through all my trials and afflictions and I can look forward with the eye of faith to the time when I shall be reunited with her that is gone before.

that you may be one of that happy number whose God is the Lord is my most earnest prayer

A rainy day in camp is the loneliest thing I know of especially if you have a leaky tent and to day we have both a rainy day and leaky tent it has rained all day like a shower and is raining still

I am sorry to hear Mother is so sick but I hope to hear soon that she is better I hope and trust she may yet be spared to you many years and to us all.

I hope you wont think hard of me for writing you such a letter if I did not love you and want you to be a christian I should not have written to you but I felt it my duty to warn you.

Please give my love to Father and Mother and the rest and receive a large ^{share} & yourself write often and I will do the same From your Brother
Geo. W. Gould.
William. H. Gould. 654