

Dec the 9 1863

Dear Wife I have just
returned from camp Lamb
I was detald to go there to fix up
winter quarters our BT was ordered
there but the order was countermand
I suppose we will stay here a while
longer camp Lamb is in Wilmington
about 2 miles from this place.
I am well I received your letter yesterday
I was glad to here from you and that
you were all well and my stock
and seedling and I hope those few lines
will find you all enjoying the same
great blessing of our great protector
in home we trust til the bitter end
of this war. he is willing to save all
all has put here trust in him -
it is his will that I am here I will
try to make my self contented hoping
for better things I dont allow my self
to complain about those things
if I keep well I get along sum how

I think this is as good a
place as I could find in the
Confedery it is a sickly place
there is sum small pox in this city
Sirenus Alexander get a letter from
Dr Auster stating that his wife
was bad sick I dont know whether
he will git home or not I herd down
here that Sandy McKinley was coming
down here long I dont think I want
any thing but a par of socks
I think you had better kill your
hogs before Crismus to save your
corn comence to carve on the top of
crib keep the muel and
horse apart to keep from
eating the muel & putting more
only take good care of your self
and do the best you can tel friend
all body for me I wrote Mother
a letter and got no answer
I will close by telling you daddy that
is the best I can do M C Caldwell & C

Benjamin Franklin
to his son William

I have been thinking of writing you
for some time but I have not had
time to do so. I hope you are
well and happy. I am well
and hope you are the same.
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