Dear Father & Mother:

Your letter of the 21st ult. was received yesterday. I will take this warm & pleasant day to answer it. The warm weather that we have had for the last week has driven our people out into the open air and the shade. You want to know how I am getting along. I am not working much, mostly ride and enjoy myself very well and have since I have been in this place. But this winter just passed has been the most pleasant of any. The weather has been just about right. Neither too warm nor too cold. We have had no snow nor frost sufficient to prevent freezing at any time during the winter. I have just got back from a trip into the clipsper part of the county for the purpose of purchasing whiskey. I started from home in the morning on a good horse and drew up at noon at my first stopping place a distance of fifteen miles from Camden. I stopped around there till most night and then started off to go eight miles further than night. But the roads being bad I was compelled to travel very slowly so that I became late before I reached my place of destination. Now this country is all wood. It is not being very thickly settled and the farms having
No land cleared for grass or pasturage. So that riding over the country you are in the woods all the time. Furthermore there are a great many roads running in all directions being nothing more than tracks made by cutting away the trees so that a wagon can get along as I had never been in this part of the county before I found it very difficult to get along even in the daytime but after dark I found it almost impossible. This was near the Zen. Rain and a great many creeks which emptied into the river. Great many of the roads were changed on account of the water being so high that it was impossible to get along. We have no bridge.

At least I got lost a number of times. It became so dark so that I could hardly tell whether I was on the road or not. Once or while I would come to a log house and would be met by 19 big dogs. I would call all of them and get as good information as I could and push on. I crossed several creeks and up that I was obliged to spurred my horse and at least I got to wandering about in the woods and could not find any road of any kind. I concluded I would have to stay in the woods all night but made out to work out at last arriving at my destination about 10 o'clock. I have taken a good deal of noon in telling of my trip and it will give you some idea of how we do things at Penn. You ought to know how the law abiding people here thinks and the results of the present of affairs. The conservati
portion of the people have strong hopes that the present difficulties will be amicably adjusted. We have some men among its ablest are for union anywhere but few draw it.

Times are very hard here. There is hardly any money in the country.

Please write soon to your...

[Signature: Ed. G.