I must begin by informing you that I am well at the present time. As your eyes fall across these words of mine, I hope and pray that you and those close to you are also well and in good health.

Though I’m certain that this comes as no great astonishment to you, I will tell you that the sky has begun to grey whilst the cool air of the great North has come to make camp amongst us. The warmth of the prior seasons has passed, burned away as if it were dry and golden straw; all that now remains are its burnt embers and dying whispers. Know that with this change comes not despair nor despondency for me and my company, but rather a renewed hope and assurance of the bright future that awaits us and will ultimately avail.

I should tell you of my recent travels, which brought me further east and closer to the rising of the sun than I have ever been. The better part of a fortnight has elapsed since I found myself in the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I must tell you that the bluffs and outcrops of that humble countryside were blanketed by the very hand of God himself in a thick and dense patchwork of trees arranged in golden hues and deep burgundies. Although the landscape was populated by dense thickets of poplars and maples and collections of cool blue waters, its splendor paled when judges and held in account to the work of God displayed in the expansive prairies and big woods of our Midwestern home.

I must be forthright and confess that, at present, there are a multitude of uncertainties in my future that will be tended to in the coming days and weeks. You must know that whatever events transpire or calamities confound, wherever I should find myself, I shall carry with me the memories of the times we have shared so dearly, so tightly, and so closely to my heart. Wherever the Lord sees fit to direct my path and place my feet, know that I will be with you always. Should you traverse our dear date-lot and feel a gentle breeze wisp across your hand or the warm embrace of the morning sun, know that you are not alone. I write these words not to upset or to startle you, but rather to express the feelings I hold and which are vested in my being. Were it left to this man to decide, I should return to you promptly with swift and sure footing.

Success to the union army and ere long may we all be permitted to return to our homes to live quiet and peaceable lives. As always, give my love and respects to all friends and reserve a share for yourself.

In Friendship, Love, and Truth,
I am and will remain truly yours,

T.S. Maross