

candle in the mouth of a bottle, and
pitch; darkness close down upon man
dilectly to death, on air lamps to
stirvel then candles with bush
& stum.

A note just over 1000

me that our 4 companies of Engineers for
31 Independent men started at the Arsenal
of this City, ^{some for outposts for one} on duty for these supplies
from the ~~that~~ Boston are compelled to
sleep on bare bare floors with a simple
blanket and are taking some colds and
coughing ~~for~~ fearfully. - my injury
prevents me from any relief but to keep soaking
warm up ticks to be filled with hay to raise
them ^{and to this the removal of my dog must be the duty} from the drafts a little. They are far
more exposed than they would be on the ground
under a good tent. - ~~Later~~ I almost say your
ladies when so many of you can work together
and accomplish so much - do any fine labor
are so single hearted ~~and~~. The future often looks
dark to me & and it seems sometimes that the
Souls of Heavens are almost withdrawn from
our present & distracted country and yet -

there is every thing to be grateful for and
by no means the least is this strangely mild
winter

But I must desert and crave pardon for my
(perhaps unpardonably) long letter, for if you have
followed me thus far, and especially at comparative
or apace a rate as I have written you must be
weary. I did not intend to say so much
but let my interest be my apology. And with one
more final word in answer to your rational
question I have done, Ladies remember, that the
call for your organized efforts in behalf of our
army, was not from any Commission or Committee
but from Abraham Lincoln & Simon Cameron
and when they no longer need your labors they
will tell you