

candle in the mouth of a bottle, and
pitchy darkness close down upon men
sleazy to death, on air coming by
stirring the currents with bushes
& stumps.

A note just came upon

me that our 4 companies of Engineers for
31 Independent men stationed at the Arsenal
of this City, ^{some for outfit for arms} in waiting for their supplies
from ~~the~~ ^{that} Boston are compelled to
sleep on bare bare floors with a simple
blanket and are taking some colds and
coughing ~~very~~ ^{very} fearfully. — my indignity
pours no ray of relief but to long seeking
I run up ^{months} ~~hills~~ to be filled with long to raise
and to this the ^{and to this the} ~~remains~~ ^{remains} of my day must be ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the}
than for the draft a little. They are for
more exposed than they would be on the ground
under a good tent. — ~~Let~~ I almost say of our
Ladies above so many of you can work together
and accomplish so much — do all my poor labors
are so single ~~behold~~ ^{behold} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ The future often looks
dark to me & and it seems sometimes that the
Souls of Heavens are almost withdrawn from
our poor rent & distracted country and yet —

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

But I must desert and excuse pardon for my
(perhaps unpardonably) long letter, for if you have
followed me thus far, and especially at comparatively
or rapid 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