Transcript of Diaries
Compiled by
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(Including Photograph of Charles Haydon)

July 18
December 21
1861

(Handwritten Transcript)
a very brisk fire of musketry on the left of our line & in front between our skirmishers & the enemy, soon after our skirmishers came over the hill at a full run. Their batteries were in number situated among sharp hills & rocks & were wholly concealed about a mile off as near as I could judge.

As soon as they appeared on top of the hill the musket balls began to whittle around us. We lay flat down on the ground & let them pass over us. After a short time we deployed to the right & afterward counter marched to the right. While passing along we saw one of Col.集成 shot through the arm & body lying on the ground stripped and under surgeon care.

As we came around on to the hill the batteries opened on us & we backed down all right rods over the hill & lay down. They shot well & the balls coming on a curve just missed the top of the hill & would have hit us if we had been standing. All 20 or 30 six pounders struck in the opposite rank just behind us. Here orderly集成 & several others were taken suddenly ill & were soon struck & fell out of the ranks.

There was sharp fighting on our left where the N.Y. 12th & Mass 1st engaged the enemy in a house of woods. They fought well but were driven out. The enemy were so situated that they could not reach them effectively, the rebels followed to the edge of the woods but came no further.

Finding that nothing could be done with our force (4 Regt, 3 batteries & 300 cavalry), we moved back a short distance & the batteries moved up again. The Michigan 2nd was moved up to second them in case they were attacked. Co. I & K were posted at 2 rods behind the guns in fair range of the enemy who now opened a brisk fire from their batteries.

It was a very unsparing move to place us just
there but we stood the ground for all 15 minutes when we were ordered to fall back all 4 rods further which we did & laid down on the ground a little lower than the batteries. The balls mostly bypassed all 4 feet over our heads. One struck a man in Co. K at 20 ft from me shattering his arm & turning him over and side. After some time we moved back still further. Then Miller fell down & was brought in with difficulty & carried into camp by 2 men at night.

The batteries had now used up most of their ammunition & we retired from the field in good order. fell back all 2 miles on Centreville & encamped for the night.

I was very hungry & dry & pretty tired. I got water & had some buckwheat cracked, plundered some beets which I ate raw & helped to carry off a swarm before we went to bed. which I made a supper.

There was a shower of rain in the night & those who had all thrown away their blankets & jackets faced hard. I threw mine down with intent to abandon them several times but always took them up when we moved off & finally brought nine & Miller into camp.

The men generally behaved well. I am not so certain as the officers. The Sergeants beginning with the 2nd were the only ones who did anything in the retreat. I did not like the actions of some of the officers. The men appeared careless & would slip out of the ranks to pick blackberries when the cannon balls were flaying up the ground around them.

He expected an attack at night, slept most of the time & were very very watchful. I slept 3 alarms but no attack. I got thoroughly wet but slept well.

The day was hot & I suffered a good deal for want of water & some 40 or 50 men must have fallen in the Regt from the effect of fatigue & heat. I stood it beyond my expectation. I was firmly determined
not to give up as long as I could keep on my feet. I have no doubt that this determination would have kept me on my feet as long as there was a breath of life in me. I was not scared, I believe, but I did feel uneasy & mortified when I saw our troops driven back. The 2d except the skirmishers did not fire a gun. I cocked my gun & then the enemy showed themselves in the edge of the woods but I did not dare to fire without orders although the temptation was great.

Genl. R. offered to clean out the battery with the bayonet but they would not let him loose. A cannon ball cut his horse's creepers strap off. His pretty young wife embraced him in a most distracting manner when he returned. He declared himself satisfied with our losses during the day.

The men retired & many of them said from the field. I knew I felt mad & anxious to try it again & afraid that someone else would get the start of us.

19th. He rose up at 4 A.M., breakfasted on crackers, honey & coffee & before 6 were on the road back to the battlefield of yesterday. He moved back to ½ mile from the battleground. 2 batteries took the position of yesterday & are supported by the advance of the brigade. Here we are waiting for the movement of other troops which are to attack the enemy's flanks.

The dead & wounded have been gathered in & cared for. Our loss is supposed to be at least 60 killed & wounded & missing. From our Regt one was killed & 2 wounded. None of Co. D were hurt. Some of the dead were terribly cut to pieces by the cannon balls. The rebels bayoneted the wounded men without mercy.

Orders have been given which will effectively put an end to the plundering and burning this
should have been done before the men have literally swept the country of everything eatable.

23rd. Co. I was marched out last night at 8 o'clock to rear of camp to act as a picket guard. A 1/2 were out & the rest were a rallying point & protection for them. They slept well inside the tree in ranks with arms in hand, all our things on. There was an alarm somewhere as often as once an hour. The men behaved remarkably well. They would spring from a sound sleep to their place in line all ready for battle in two minutes at the outside. There was a good deal of firing during the night, but so far as I know no one was hurt. The enemy were very lively, but our pickets could frequently hear their challenges. They evidently feared an attack from the ant of firing they did.

He had nothing to eat yesterday but hardbread. This Morn we got some bacon. The Commissary has been put under arrest for not supplying us 2 days. We have not had more than one day's rations since we left Camp Scott.

It rained considerably last night but it did not disturb my sleep.

We know but little of the real state of affairs but everything indicates a great battle near at hand. The 2nd have the right of the line today & will see the first of the battle. I pray that I may have the strength & courage to carry me safely through or to die decently in a manner becoming an American soldier. If I go goodbye to all. The combat will probably some before night. Troops are coming in on both sides. 46 Regts came up on our side yesterday bringing 70 pieces of cannon. We are still waiting for the completion of other movements. There is a continuous roar of musket shots 4 miles long by the roadside back of me.
I have been down on the battlefield as near it as I could. I saw a recession flag, battery troops, & wagon moving & their picket guard distant out more than 1/2 a mile. I also saw the enemy out on the field picking up the coats & blankets which our men threw down. They would stick their bayonets through them & shake them at us with great satisfaction to themselves. It will arrange their little matter very soon & therefore care little about it than we otherwise should. I am very glad they can get nothing with my name on it. Benson left a jacket with "52" in the pocket.

I find we are strongly commented for our good behavior on the occasion. Major Williams declares that he has no words to express our unconcern. I saw some actions which did not indicate remarkable coolness. Some of the men were well cared on picket last night, & some of the others have had not a few hearty laughs over their sayings and doings.

There will be no fighting before tomorrow. A drove of fat cows came in for us today. I begin to feel impatient at waiting here so long. I feel well although we have lived poor & drank very poor water since we left camp. I have seen no quarreling & fighting over puddles of water which were not fit to wash one's hands in. We can get no water for washing. There are plenty of good things but the quantity of water is not sufficient to supply the army.

21st. Mid noon: He are lying by the roadside just back of one of our batteries which is firing slowly on the enemy. The 7th N. Y. is in reserve today. The firing commenced on the right at sunrise that M. has been continued from right, left & center at a moderate rate ever since.

There is as yet no return fire from the enemy.
He spent some time at breakfast & after falling in formed a square & awaited an attack from cavalry which was expected on the left, then moved up to the present position. Gen. Scott is said to be in command today in person. The firing is increasing gradually & the heavy guns are beginning to open. I have seen some laughable scenes but as I do not know into whose hands this book may fall I will not describe them.

The night was very quiet but the day is rather noisy for Sunday. Since writing the above the firing is becoming very brisk on the right both of cannon & musket fire.

At about 1 1/2 the cannonading on the right in not quite as heavy but the volley of musketry are equal & very heavy. The firing on the left has ceased. There are occasional shots of cannon & volleys of musketry just in front of us. We can see nothing & hear no news of battle. The greatest anxiety prevails. The battle must be very desperate. At 10 minute late the cannon shot are more rapid than at any time during the day. They follow each other almost as fast as one could count.

Between 8 & 9 the firing was very rapid. I went out on the hills in front. Could see very plainly the dust & smoke of the battle rising in great clouds. Reinforcements were pouring in to aid the enemy. The road was filled for more than three miles with men moving at double quick. Our batteries fired upon them but at a distance of 3 miles produced little effect. I did not like the appearance of affairs by any means. Between 4 & 5 news came that rebels were flying in every direction. This news was joyful, still no one dared cheer.

At the time this report started it was true. On the strength of it I began to prepare for supper dinner having had nothing to eat for 3 weeks except hard bread & muddy water. Before I got supper however...
the bugle sounded & we fell in quickly & were moving lazily across the road in line of battle under the good natured & easy order of Maj. Williams.

There was now a heavy fire on our left. Just then Col. R. came up behind us & shouted Battalion in a manner different from every one else. Left face double quick, march! This took us back on the road toward Centerville & we expected to file to the right to support the left wing. He had 2 miles of double quick in the densest dust I ever saw. I thought several times I should choke down & fall. He then filed to the right & commenced forming line of battle with the brigade across some large open fields.

News then came that our men had beaten them on the left & Col. R. told us to cheer as loud as we pleased. He gave 3 good ones & commenced moving back into the road where the former news was contradicted & we commenced the double quick for our former position in the fields.

After a great deal of double quick a line of battle was formed, our men lying behind a long slow wall waiting for what we have since learned was the approach of a victorious army. It could have inflicted great loss on them here but were after a few minutes ordered to fall back on another position by Sible. Miles a man who had been prattling to command this part of the division during the day in place of Tyler. He was now arrested for being drunk & suspected of treachery.

The whole command was now upon Sible R. who brought things into order in a hurry. He formed the line as occasion required effectually covering the retreat. The enemy were several times near us but declined to give battle.

Just dark we moved up a short distance toward the enemy, stopped, stacked arms & laid down in a cornfield to rest. I found myself without blanket,
coat or haversack, my shirt very wet with sweat, the night beginning to be cold, & myself on picket guard. I posted the guards: cut an armful of fire bushes & laid them in the ground & another armful of covered one, which I laid over me & slept from 11 to 12 oclock. I was not till we had been sometime here that we fully understood that we were beaten & almost surrounded.

2d

2d A little after 12 all the other troops having made good their retreat, we being the only Regt. not in motion & being about a mile in the rear of all the other, commenced retreating in the most perfect stillness and order. This is the first time that I ever believed our danger to be great.

I confess that I believed my chance of living through the day less than ever, accordingly made all the preparations I could for a good defense, & made sure of the means of speedily finishing myself in case I should be disabled so that I could not fight. The rebels killed all the wounded & often in the most cruel manner, even shooting at & disfiguring the bodies of the dead, & this too at a time when their own receive from us the same care & attention as ours. It was a terrible sight to see the wagons coming in last night loaded down with the dead, cut, torn & mangled in every possible manner, the wounded running or hobbling along with arms & legs dangling or hanging by shreds or crushing on the ground, dragging their limbs slowly after them, crushed, broken, or torn off entirely.

After marching about 3 miles & finding that we were not pursued, the 2d passed on & the 3d took the rear. For 3 or 4 miles the road was strewn with store, supplies, ammunition,
wagons, provisions—all of which fell into the hands of the enemy. For some unknown reason we were not pursued with any considerable force; there was no necessity of so rapid a retreat except an order which was given for us to repair to Washington at once.

During the first part of the march the army moved in good order but toward the latter part of the march the Regt. mingled together promiscuously & some of the men threw away their arms.

At a separation of the road I became separated from the main body of the Regt. I marched to Ft. Concord into which I very foolishly went. Here they retreated all the men who came in till they were all collected & called for by their respective commanders. As that was marching all day in the raw with no protection but shirt & pants, I did not like the prospect of lying out on the ground all night in that condition & after trying in all lawful ways to get out, I fell in with the N. C. which rode the same as inform & marched out. The officer of the guard searched the ranks through & took out several men but did notdetest me. Capt. Batehneider was there with his skirmishers in arrest, also some 40 of our men.

I went to Washington got something to eat & marched back 5 miles to our old camp where I arrived at 3 P.M. I expected to find the Regt. I was mistaken however as I was almost the first one in except some sick men who came in wagoned. The women got me a fine supper, a good cup of tea & last I got some dry clothes & after a march of 85 miles was glad to rest.

23d. I turned out at 7 A.M. feeling well all things considered. I bathed, cleaned up my clothes & gun &c. after which I made an excellent breakfast of which I ate too much. I said
around the camp till abt noon & then came down to the city. The late & drank beer several times.
Bought a paper & read the news. We glad to find our loss less serious than was at first supposed.
About sundown orderly Crego & I set out to hunt up the camp of the Mich. 11th at Arlington Heights,
which, after a good deal of trouble and 3 or 4 miles travel, we found. Our men were most of them
lying on the ground, many of them without either blankets or coats.

I bought a coat in the city. I felt pretty well during the day except a general feeling of exhaustion
and protracted weakness. Six days of marching & sleeping on our arms & living on bread & water
has made us up pretty much & we need a few days to recuperate before we move again.

Now that our Commissary is under arrest for neglect of duty I hope we shall get something to eat.
I was so tired & uneasy that during the night I several times sprung up in bed & seized
my gun which lay near me & began to prepare for action before I could make up my mind,
where I was.

24th. I feel very stuff, sore and lame, and generally sick up. I still keep on eating & drinking & am getting pretty well filled up & have been sleeping a large part of the day.

I have been thinking over the battle & the consequences & the instructions to be observed on it.
It is now well known that if Col. R. had charged on the battery as he desired with his brigade, not
of us would have come out of the infernal gap alive unless we had been carried out as prisoners. The brigade numbered abt 3500.
If we had have charged it would have been down a valley abt a mile long, partly a cleared
field & partly tree & brush, having high hills on both sides the tops of which were perhaps a mile apart. The charge would have been for a battery of 6 guns directly in the center of the valley. With a fair chance we could have taken this & held it.

We now know that there was a battery on each side of the valley concealed by projecting hills both of which we must have passed & that there were 2 other batteries further on which would have fairly held us both before & after we reached the one we were to storm. The hills on both sides were covered with woods which were filled with from 5,000 to 10,000 infantry. It should undoubtedly have been allowed to advance nearly to the battery without much molestation, but should have been fired upon from all directions & surrounded by more than 3 times our numbers.

Our defeat on that day was owing to Gen. Tyler’s disobedience of orders & ignorance of the enemy’s position. The defeat of Sunday was a matter almost of course. The enemy were more than double our number & in one of the most difficult positions to attack which can be conceived.

The enemy can never be induced to fight fair in open battle. He could whip them to death if they would. They will keep around in masked batteries & shelter behind trees & shoot officers & bayonet sound men. He must expect severe loss.

The next attack needs to be made with more care, with better preparation for a retreat if it be necessary. He should not have retreated so soon, farther than Centreville. We need more good skirmishers & sharpshooters & all the men need better guns. The want of a more perfect military establishment is now seen. There are thousands of good & brave soldiers in the army but there is a great want of competent commanders. The soldiers are far better than the
There is a hard job on hand and we have got to act with circumspection or we shall suffer still greater losses.

I have made up my mind that my chance of coming out of the war alive are less than even. The want of food I do not count as serious as drinking mud. That more than anything else I fear still till on the constitution. Very few men in the Co have or can bear as much fatigue as I.

Be the result what it may I will not turn back on a good cause. I never have the prospect of battle but that I prepare myself as if I were sure of not returning. I enlisted during the war unless sooner discharged & I mean to stand to my bargain let the discharge come in what form it may. Many of the commissioned officers will resign including, I think, our captain.

Our men have been lying in the open field all day without tents or shade. They had cold boiled pork & hard biscuit for breakfast & for dinner a supper together boiled rice & hard bread & this is all. I had neither plate, spoon nor anything else so I took my new on a piece of board & ate it with a chop. Pork & bacon I cannot & will not eat in any case. I have still some money have had & I wanted to eat today.

On the march there is no chance of buying anything. Everything is consumed or destroyed or removed. The country is abandoned & desolate. With the best of regulations the march of an invading or retiring army is accompanied with great loss & damage to the country. Virginia will be desolate before the close of the war.

I want to travel the road to Manassas once more & only once. I wish to pass through Manassas Gap or stop there. I never intend to give up till I have been whipped more than once on the same
ground. It can’t be taken & I hope I shall be there, I feel sullen & mad about the retreat & the more so because it was unnecessary. We might have held Centreville.

All or nearly all that I have written concerning an affair which was stated on report or rumor has proved false. Hereafter I shall write little except what I know to be true. I have seen war in its most unpleasant forms & now have only to hope & wait for something better.

25th. I was detailed with 25 men to assist in cutting trees over back of the river. They were slashed down shelter shelter to prevent or delay the progress of troops. They are an effective defense for a short time & are of service for delay besides affording an excellent place for skirmishers. It was not my turn to go but Whiting was used up (soappy) & Stevenson is gone.

The battle of Sunday was a curious one. Our men are continually swearing because they did not hold the field & the enemy are swearing because they did not take us prisoners. I believe these were never two armies so deceived in each other.

The Mar 12th I understand has left the brigade. Our Col. is too savage for them. I am sorry to see them leave. He shall not get a bitter in their place. I like their St. Col. very much. He was Police Justice of Boston before he became a soldier & is a man of rare abilities & well distinguished himself in the war. I am not personally acquainted with him but was struck with his appearance when I first saw him.

26th. A very warm day. Pay day. Men eating & drinking at a terrible rate. A good many of them drunk. I think I shall get to the city tomorrow. I cannot cease to regret & speculate on the affair of Sunday. Our army is larger & full of good material but it is loosely put together. Not one man in 50
I never saw a battle before this war. Not one
day 10. knew the simplest elements of military
duty. They are liable to be confused. These rough
and tumble fighting & personal bravery are needed
they are great but for steady movements in line
& on retreat they are not reliable.

I did not run in either of the battles except when
I was ordered to & had no thought of it. Still when
I go into another battle, I shall do many things
differently & some I shall not do at all. I begin
to feel more like a soldier & there will not be so
many new things to look after. The army will
get beaten into discipline after a while if they are
not drilled into it in any other way. If these war
experienced officers the men would improve much faster.

ate beef steak & drank lager beer. I went to see
Congress in session. Heard a good speech in the
Senate by Johnson of Tennessee on secession in reply
to Breckenridge. I listened to him for 2 hours &
then went over to the House of Representatives & heard
part of an Ohio man's speech.

The men are drinking & gambling too much
today. Col. R. sent the sutler of the 3rd Volt Guard
off the ground for selling beer in front of our camp.
Three ditchmen charged on him with their bayonets
but he resisted two & the other took to his legs. Col. R.
had about a dog. of them arrested & closed up the
establishment a few as far as he's concerned.

28th Sunday. 90 men were detailed for ship-
ping this M, but they did very little & returned
by noon. There was a sharp shower of rain
cold sif. The day has been very quiet. There
was a skirmish between our pickets & the
enemy out four miles out last night.
29th. A pretty quiet day. Boye spent his money fairly then; there is any need of it. Our location here is a fine one in many respects. We are nearly opposite Washington of which a good view can be obtained from the hills near by; just in the rear of us, is Gen. Lee's estate. This house and the surroundings make the most beautiful spot I ever saw. Here in the recess of army & Gen. Mansfield occupies this house. If I had here had his estate I would have stayed at home. The house is not magnificent according to modern style but it massive, strong & ancient. There is very little of the artificial in the grounds. The beauty consists in the trees, the undulating surface, & 3 or 4 of the finest natural springs I ever saw. The weight of our defeat seems to be settling down pretty certainly on Gen. McDowell.

To many of our men who are fine fellows now I can see the exact picture of worthless drunkards five years hence. They are surely on the road that nothing will stop them.

30th. A warm day. All quiet in camp during the day but somewhat noisy at night. It seems almost impossible for a man to go to town without getting drunk. Many of the best men disgrace themselves in this way. Capt. Lawson of 2d I have been drunk for a week & behaved worse than any of the soldiers. He will lose his commission.

If it were not for the sacrifice that it requires nothing would suit me better than this soldiering. I bought some butter this morning and have lived well on bread and butter. I have sat down with a small bottle of beer which I have full of beer & make a passable meal out of very little. As for liquor I keep clear of it as much as possible. This is a good deal of gambling among the
mew since they were paid. There is one fine thing about it—that is that the money will soon be gone. Liquor dealers & prostitutes will soon clear their pockets.

31st. There was an inspection of the Regt at 12 noon. Some close & very necessary inquiries were made about the commissary department—the sale of provisioins etc.

Abt 4 P.M. we got orders to move. Packed our knapsacks & marched down the river. 1/2 mile & abt as much farther up into the country. We have gained by the change in most respects. We are now encamped in a clover field just beside the Arlington road. They are throwing up a breastwork to cover the road & have cut down a few orchard & all a mane shade tree to give the guns fair range. We have a very fair view of the city from here. The capital all the public buildings, the Smithsonian Institute & Washington Monument are in full view.

August 1st

1st. The excessive heat of yesterday was followed by heavy rain at night which continued with little intermission till noon. I laid for some time last night thinking that our tent must leak dreadfully. Finally I waked up so as to know what I was about & found that the side of the tent had blown loose & that I was lying half my length out doors in a heavy shower. The tent did in fact leak considerably, but that troubled my slumbers very little.

Our rations are poorer than usual of late. Bread pork & coffee with scarce at long intervals are the bulk of our living. Puddings come around with ginger bread & pie, but they are miserable coconut.
things not fit to be eaten. It is hard to conceive of anything thinner, tougher or more tasteless than a Virginia pie. I want some good beef & potatoes but it is almost impossible to get them.

There is some fear of an attack at this place. I should be very sorry to have it come just now. It was a time that we are in a very poor condition. Thus are men, guns & forts enough but very little order or arrangement for a rigorous and systematic defense. I am afraid it would be too much like Bull Run (or Calvary Retreat as we now call it), a conglomeration of blunders from beginning to end. The best officer of the regulars say that it is the greatest wonder in the

in the world that we were not all taken prisoners.Provoking A to be Manassas we went down the middle of the 3 roads represented by the black lines to H (Bull Run) with 7,500 men & remained there more than 12 a day. There were it is supposed more than 10,000 men on the outsd roads who might have come in behind us in less than 2 hours.

The men continue their drunkenness & gambling almost without reproof. If we had a Capt. worth a core of fire he would change some things & not allow men to stay in town 3 days on a pass for 6 hours. One fellow came back last night saying that he had stormed a masked battery of one gun & spiked the gun & retired with but little loss to either party.

31. The weather is still very hot. We have sharp battle always every night. A large sick list owing in some cases to sleeping on the ground without blankets & in others to contributions by the ladies of town.
He made a very good breakfast this Morn- potatoe, bread & a slice of field pork in place of butter. I can eat pork sometimes but bacon is too detestable for any Christian to put into his stomach.

Congress have passed a law prohibiting the sale of liquor to soldiers. A better thing could not have been done.

He has a new Lt Col. Sylvester Learned, a Detroit lawyer. He takes hold of business as though he meant to do something. I am glad he has come. He has been greatly in need of some field officer. Col. R. cannot devote a great deal of time to me & there has been no one but Major Williams kind, good-natured & accommodating to look after things.

I obtained the Atlantic yesterday & have been buy- on it ever since. The article "Concerning Yeal" is a most interesting one. In a thousand places I can see its truth in my own feeling & experience.

Several of our men will have to be discharged because of sickness & incompetency. Some of them were the largest & strongest looking men in the Co. when we started.

There was a series of promotions to fill vacancies in Co. C last night. Thos to Benson & I were partly a pleasing & partly an aggravating sight. If Corp. had done away decently, Benson & I would both have gone up a step. He might have been Sergeant Major as well as not but for some unaccountable reason refused. He won't do even so much as to stand out of the way. He has done next to nothing since we left Detroit. Never sick all the time. He could have discharged his place for a much easier one higher in the line of promotion & of the same pay. Benson & I could have him out of his present place in 3 days if we ever wanted. He shall be very
strongly tempted to do it if he does not stand out of the way when he has a good chance.

4th. Lind. Has been a hot quiet day. There was a regimental inspection of arms, accoutrements, etc., this forenoon & dress parade in the P.M. I have been acting as orderly for 3 days & Crege is sick & Benson is suffering from injuries received in storms and a sunburn.

I got to thinking about home this M. I read a good letter from Father & one from Arthur yesterday which may have brought such scenes more forcibly to my mind. The long rows of maple, the pretty round-topped cedar, the pine, the large drooping elm, the sturdy oak, the old orchard behind the house, the green yards around it, the probable occupations of its inmates, all the familiar scenes around which a thousand times I have seen with the sincere joy from afar off when returning home, passed before me with all the vividness of reality. I paused for a moment & wondered whether I might ever see those cherished scenes & friends again.

5th & 6th were so much like other days as to need no separate description.

7th. There was an alarm in some of the camps last night but not in ours. I could hear the long roll & the cry "to arms, to arms" in some of the other Regts. The cry to arms sounds far differently when it bursts upon the ear of the startled sleepers at midnight than when it is repeated by school boys on exhibition days. There were some pretty heavy volleys & musketry from 4 & miles out. Our 3rd Co. took 3 men & stationed them as pickets in addition to the regular outposts.

This is a rich country in wild fruits & nuts, I never saw trees loaded as they are here with butter-
matsu, black walnut, beech nut, chestnut, persimmon, hagelnut, to say nothing of blackberries, grapes, etc.

I am still acting as Orderly & thereby escaped guard duty today. It is all very well except getting up before all the rest & routing them out in the morning. Benson and I begin at last to have some prospect of promotion.

Col. R. has had guards stationed around a large peach orchard just above here at the owners request to protect them from soldiers. He was walking past thru today with his lady & went in & picked all a dozen for which the owner who saw him charged 50 cents. The money was immediately paid but Col. R. turned to the guards & ordered them to then guard. Peaches have since that been plenty in camp at a good deal less than 50 cts per doz. or the peddler's price (20 cts per doz.).

9th. Weather is very hot. We are living well, working moderately, & getting fat. The rations are good & I live somewhat beyond our regular fare.

Johnston whose wedding I attended in Detroit was made 8th Capt. yesterday. He stands the third chance for the 2nd Lieut. place I think. The time when he can take that step is not far off if they will only give me a little hard work. The Capt. is tottering on his leg. the 2nd Lt. detached from the Co. the Orderly has done nothing for six weeks & two Captals are little better than dead men. This looks very much as though Benson & I would become Lieuts someday & Johnston would get a Lieut. post. There is many a slip twixt cup & lip I have already found. With Miller & I think I could pass over Benson in the line of promotion. I do not wish to do this & will not if I can do it in any other way.

9th. 6 P.M. Heavy thunderstorm coming. White
squall. Reads good long letter from Father & Arthur today.

I have sometimes had a presentiment that I should not see the end of this war. There was something not right. All that is changed. Now feel only that joy & eagerness for the conflict which for me has always foretold success. I am glad of this for I would rather, for many reasons, not go at present.

If we can ever see the day when our officers are equal to the soldiers, we will have the best army the world ever saw. If the officers were better they could double efficiency of the new. A great many things have gone wrong with us. We are nearly all ignorant & showed our ignorance before the men every day. Such a thing should never happen. I could take a company of raw men & have a better state of discipline. Some of the N.Y. Regts are the poorest drilled men I have seen. I have very little confidence in some of them. The whole army is yet a great, green, overgrown, loose concern. The men who are to organize & consolidate it are not yet sifted out of the mass. I think one, or two of them are pretty plainly visible — McClellan, Fremont, Ryan — in the order they are written. Col. R. will do good service, but he's too old to become a very prominent leader. He would do better if he had never seen his young wife.

10th. Major Underwood & self went to town today. I dined 2 hours & after traveling around till 7 at night was well tired out. After the preliminaries of obtaining a pass & showing it to the sentries, we reached the city abt 9 P.M. & went at once to the Smithsonian Institute where we remained till noon. Of the beauty of the building & grounds & of many curious & interesting things we saw, it would be impossible here to speak,
Then we went to a hotel & obtained a good private dinner to which we did ample justice. He then went & gave Mr. Harbridge a call who declared himself so delighted to see us & I believe he was really glad. He immediately insisted on some ice brandy & sugar to which the day being hot we consented (the Major's wife refused). The barkeeper said he dare not sell to soldiers so Harbridge told me to go back into a pleasant garden in the rear & he at once ordered the waiter to bring him 3 glasses of brandy & sugar which was done without hesitation.

After this we disposed of the receipts we to accompany him to the National Conservatory, a garden where all the different kinds of tropical plants & trees are raised - such as orange, lemon, banana, rice, coffee, palms, cactus, etc. I saw palm & banana leaves that long, 3/4 broad - not a coarse rough leaf but a smooth rich green handsome leaf. Most of the fruit bearing trees had fruit on them. There is hardly a tropical country in Florida which has not its representation. The orange & lemon accord was growing there luxuriously.

After this he ordered 3 other glasses of ice brandy for himself. After which Major & I went to transact the various little items of business which brought us to the city. On returning he insisted on more ice brandy. I took the ice minus the brandy & we talked over the adventures of Bull Run for the house then returned to camp.

12 men in as relief. The 1st Col. told me that the enemy were within 5 miles. There is skirmishing every day. He shall perhaps have a battle here before many days. McClellan is bringing the troops into pretty good order & discipline. There is a great improvement since he took
command. The men begin to feel more confidence.

At 5 P.M. the rain came down in torrents and did not cease till sometime in the night. I was asleep, but well cooked cotondeo was found for the guards at 9 P.M. I returned and found a place to spread my blanket on a dry board under a shed where I slept and slept for some interruptions, for near 1 hour. Habits change wonderfully circumstances. Six months ago I should have hesitated to go to bed in damp sheets. I can now lie down out doors with clothes clinging wet and sleep all night without the least inconvenience.

12th. The men in due time relieved after a very quiet guard. The day had been so monotonous as possible. I had a proposition today to become a correspondent of the Detroit Free Press at the rate of $2 per column. I hardly know whether to accept but think I will. It will take up some time and may infringe on my study of tactics. It will at the same time be a very beneficial exercise, I pray it be better than nothing. At any rate it will keep me from idleness which is one of the worst vices of a soldier's life.

Lt. Handy is promoted Adjutant I suppose, Crego or Benson I presume will take the 2nd plt. Crego will take it if he can. He ought not to have it. He shall be almost without officers in that event. If he does not get it he will go home which is the best. It looks considerable as though I should bring up in the end at the Ardul's plt or at least at the duties. It is not a very desirable post but I am willing to take it. There is more work at it than all the other office in the Co.

13th. Heavy rain, tent full of water. The weather became very cold toward night and some of the men who had no blankets suffered considerably. The same new having to charge bayonet on the 11th.
last night to make them obey orders. They are a miserable Regt. I would like to charge on them just to see some good running. Major and I made a good bed yesterday & slept remarkably well.

14th. I was very much amused today to see the new clean cut a green peddler's stock of cigars, gingerbread, pie, etc. As he came up a soldier asked for a cigar. The peddler very foolishly let him get hold of a top to pick from. He had no sooner got it in his hands than some one hit the bottom of it and scattered the cigars in every direction. Very few of them reached the ground. The peddler then very foolishly left the wagon & ran to the Lt of the guard who was near by. He made grievous complaint but see he could identify no one nor arrests were made. He then returned to his wagon & found it empty. He then jumped into it, placed the whip on his horse & went out of sight at a full gallop.

The N.Y.P. 12th is in open rebellion. I hope they will send them home. They are the most miserable, worthless set of scoundrels & vagrants that I ever saw collected in one regiment. They are a disgrace set of cowards & not fit to be in any army. The morning was very cool. The living are good now.

15th. I wished yesterday that I might some day have a chance to charge bayonet on the N.Y. 12th. I came near realizing my wish sooner than I expected. I was then ordered to take 10 of them confined in our guard house out for police duty. I drew them up in line & brought out 5 men to guard them. The all loaded their pieces just before they informed them that if they offered to run, they would be shot. I kept them making private call all day. Gen. R. sent an order to the Regt the M
to turn out for Co. drill. They did not turn out. He then sent orders to them to join us in brigade drill at 6 P.M. They refused. Gen. R. called us out, marched over & formed us just in front of their tents. He then ordered me to load & fire one gun, then to fire bayonets. This being done, they were again ordered to fall in & did it with wonderful alacrity. They marched out into the road & we moved along just behind them. Thus we moved out into the parade ground. Five brass 12 pounders loaded with grape were placed out just in front of them & they were ordered to go to drilling, which they also did & drilled pretty well too, Gen. R. was very kind & mild to their officers. He went through brigade drill & marched off in good order. They were ordered to turn out for company drill at 8 A.M. tomorrow.

Sixty-nine of the 2nd Maine having refused to do duty & having falsely alleged that they were no longer in the U.S. service, were sent to the Tortugas Islands, Gulf of Mexico, till they were deemed worthy to be received again into service.

The trouble has been that several Regts have the idea that they were not legally sworn in & in consequence can go home at the end of 3 months. The 2nd has been talking a good deal about it. They have stopped their talking. Tortugas opened their eyes. I have seldom seen anything produce such an immediate effect as the doings of tonight. There would have been gay work if the 12th had refused to come out. I am very glad they did not. I am afraid we should have felt our soul in the affair.

15th It seems pretty certain that Corp. Wood A.C. has deserted. I believe him one of the best soldiers in the Co. & one ambitious of promotion. He was
Badly scarred at Bull Run & his health rather poor. I suppose he must have concluded that soldiering was not his profession. He is reported on the book as a deserter. All his letters are sent back with "deserted" written under his name.

16th. Bright & warm. It has been cold for two days. This Regt is improving daily. They form in when called upon with much more promptness. Their dress and guns are neat. They behave better on guard. The camp is cleaner. The men are more respectful to officers & more civil to each other. Nothing does more to improve the appearance & behavior of soldiers than politeness among officers. Next after cowardice few things are more detestable than cowardism & effrontery among officers.

Thirty of the N.Y. 13th were sent to Port Royal today. The 12th say that we took them by surprise yesterday & that they will not go out again. Our Lt Col & Adjt went over & took dinner with them today, and since that they say they will do anything that the Lt Col. asks of them. They believe that Richardson can never make them go out again. They know he will probably never order them out except through the Lt Col (Col. as he is supposed to be now). In the Regt & Brigade they said for Col. Sherman of the regulars to feed disturbance. Richardson says he prefers to do it himself. (end of Vol. 3)

Aug. 17th 1861. He made out to his pretty well considering the nasty rainy state of the weather. That was about enough. He had a short company drill & Brigade drill at 6 P.M. The N.Y. 13th came out without resistance.

18th. Snow. Twenty men & a Corporal from each Co. are ordered out for shopping today. I should
have gone on guard again today but induced Capt. Mason to act de Sgt. in my place. The orders about the observance of Sabbath are very strict, but somehow we do more work on that day than any other.

Gen. Richardson is last to the 29th Col. He shall probably always remain in his brigade & when we have hard duty to do I have no doubt he will be near us. We are left with a pretty steady lot of officers.

There was a temperance lecture this P.M. by Merwin the state temperance lecturer from Michigan.

The 14th Mass, a new regiment came into Ft. Albany today. They join our brigade. If they only have good officers they will make a fine Regt. some day. The 71st N.Y. 17th would make a fair lot of soldiers in a month with Richardson to command.

19th. It is a rainy day as every day since I can remember has been. It is hard keeping a tent decent in such weather. The mud creeps in further every day & will soon overrun the whole tent if the weather does not clear up. The living has been pretty poor. No peddlers are allowed to cross the river today.

I have been studying bayonet exercise & skirmishing (or scurrying as the Capt. Darby calls it.) There is some talk of an attack here but no one seems to believe it.

Time moves on rapidly in the army as well as at home. My first summer under arms will soon be passed. I have learned a great many things during these four months of soldiering, some useful & some which are not so useful, I think. I never learned such a variety of things in the same length of time. I have learned a good deal of military much of which ought to have been known by one in my position before I entered service. I have been the start of me in that respect. Nearly everyone there who received the education in other things that I have under-
stands tactics pretty thoroughly. I know the school of the soldier pretty well, a few things at Co. Drill, nothing about battalion drill or movements in line or the multitude of duties of camp and field aside from drill. Almost everything was new to me and I believe that I have pretty well mastered Co. and Batt. Drill and can get through skirmishing and guard duties passably.

All this is very well for the soldier but how about the lawyer struck from the list of practitioners funds in a day? I thought of all this before I enlisted and therefore not at all disappointed in the result. I see little prospect of being relieved from here before I shall have forgotten too much of my law and have advanced too far in life to re-engage with any hope of success. I intend to leave the army with some few dollars in money laid by, with the experience picked up in soldiering. I think I can but upon some business which will carry me through to take one somewhat abrupt to have all his well-laid plans and so suddenly be mine have been. Not one thing which I relied upon six months ago now seems practicable. Beyond this war all is uncertain. The end of the war is uncertain and that comes there is little use of troubling myself about anything else.

26th. Last night about sundown some of our men returned from the city saying that everybody was excited by fear of an attack on the city. Families were leaving by hundreds, &c. &c. They raised quite an excited in camp. Others brought in the report that 15,000 men were known to have advanced towards us from Fairford that morning. I believe there were really apprehensions. The guards were doubled, all the men requested to
examine their guns and equipment, to sleep with their clothes on & arms at their sides; I saw drummers stationed at the Adjudant's to beat the significant melody known to soldiers as the long roll; which meant that the devil is to pay right off. The officers' horses were hitched at their quarters, saddled and bridled.

It did look a good deal like business, still I could not believe it. The Adjudant swore that he had reason to believe that there were 209,000 men in three hours march of me. I thought that other things being prepared, the best I could do would be to take as much sound sleep as possible before Jeff came. I went to bed but had been there but a few minutes when the rain poured down in such torrents that I was glad to sound out & roll up my bed in the rubber blankets. The old tent leaked like a sieve, after an hour the water drained off so that I went to bed again. The Major & Benson were so wide awake & jumped up so often that it was some time before I got to sleep. They were determined on an attack. The rain came down briskly all night but Jeff has not come yet. I slept well after I got to sleep & feel far better than the men who laid awake all night. I am glad they did not come for it was a very bad night to turn out.

21st. We had a cold night but the weather has now become hot & oppressive; The night was quiet save some disturbance raised by our own men who were intent on extra rations - that is on making the war sustain itself.

The enemy are near in force & an attack is expected hourly though it is presumed that it will be a mere feint to cover some other movement.

The 2nd P'yry give rise to a good deal of diplomacy in our Co. & to lying & intrigueing beyond
the sound of murmur and decency, Benson had
said a thousand times that the Capt is a crook;
but he now asserts that there is not a braver man
in the army. He tickles the Capt, who works hard
for his promotion. Handy is Adjutant & works hard
for Creep & both of them quarrel with the Capt &
Benson.

The same anxiety is felt among the Corps as
to the vacant Sergeancy. Magee & Mason are the chief
elligibles. The same trouble & anxiety exists with
two or three privates concerning the next Corps. I
doubt Benson (now 2nd Sergt) will be Lt; the 3rd,
4th & 5th Sergts will each advance one step, Maw
(2nd Corp) will be 5th Sergt. The other Corps will each
move up one step to fill the vacancy. C.H. Butler
will be 8th Corp. If this calculation is correct,
Creep I think will leave the Co. Self will take his
place. There will then be but one step more to a
commission. No one knows, however, what a day
may bring forth.

The moved one quarter yesterday about 60
rods to bring us more out of range of the
cannon in case of an attack. I am on guard
today. The 3rd came up today & encamped
a few rods from us. The N. & 12th are quiet & are
beginning to act & look better. Gen. R. gave
the officers a severe reprimand yesterday
attributing the disorganized state of the regiment
to their laziness & incapacity.

1000 men from this brigade shopping today;
They are laying all the trees flat to the ground
which are within range of our cannon.

The soldiers will eat up all the corn in the
country before it is ripe. Very little wheat &
none will be sown this fall. The rail fences
are fast disappearing for wood; the board fences,
cothures, &c are all torn down for the sake of
of the boards. The whole country will soon approximate a state of nature. The enemy make more havoc than we.

The guards emptied 10 barrels of beef & whiskey which were brought up by peddlers on to the ground. The men have entirely emptied two or three peddlers' wagons of their contents in a tenth part the time it took to load them.

22d. A quiet night on guard. The sick still today. I made good use of quiet duty to secure corn & potatoes for dinner. Brenton bought a couple of good melons; lid Prentice a pound of cheese. He has good beef & bread & out of these we made a first rate dinner. They have very fine melons & peaches in this part of the country but apples are worthless & very few in number.

There has been a new feature introduced into camp duties to wit a Provost Guard of 80 men & the necessary officers drawn from the different regiments of the brigade. Their duty is to arrest soldiers who are more than 1/4 mile from their camps without a pass, to prevent stealing from peddlers, to seize all liquor & beer which comes within their range, to keep prostitutes off the grounds &c. They have no posts but roam about in squads wherever there is a probability of their services being needed. They took about 25 bottles of liquor & beer today which had in some way been smuggled across the river & also three women.

The 7th. of 12th leaves the brigade tomorrow. The 7th. of 37th has come up to take their places I do not believe we shall make much by the change. They are all Irish & hard looking set. Their guns look pretty well & that is the only redeeming soldier-like thing I have seen as yet.

The guardhouse has been filled continually.
with the 12th. I am afraid it will need enlarging now. The prisoners are kept at work from 5 A.M. till 7 P.M.

Our camp is now arranged, with one or two slight exceptions, in strict conformity to military regulations. They have never been before where the ground would permit of a strictly regular camp.

24th. This day Gen. Maj. Gen. McClellan, Gen. Lincoln & Sec. Seward. I had the best view of the Gen. & McClellan that I have ever had. I saw McClellan full in the face at 6 feet distance. I like his look pretty well but he is not a man of very imposing appearance. His eyes however pleased the men remarkably. It is undoubtedly the man on whom the United States are hereafter to lean as a military chief man. Gen. Scott is eminently past taking the field. His advice is good, but the field requires a young man.

Gen. Richardson is a much more imposing man in appearance than McClellan, I have seen a man who so nearly resembles Scott's picture of Robert E. Lee in our Env. He was very particular to recommend the 2nd to special favor. "You President this is the 2nd, my Regt. That is the 3rd there. These men can be relied on. He could have held Blackburne Ford that Gen. if it had been allowed." This & many other things I heard him saying to recommend his pet. He finally got in with the Peer, and Secy. rode off, but however till we had two or three hours of daylight.

He went out at 11 and was gone more than 4 hours, almost without rest. The slice of bread & molasses, which was all I had for breakfast,
were all gone when I got back.

McClellan is taking a personal view of every Regt in the army. He is preparing for a great move which will soon be made. I have confidence in him & all our men think. Richardson is almost God.

I saw several every day to think what a Capt we have had & a Col. & Maj. who are hardly fit for a Corporal. If we could only have a Col. who knew his business. The field officers make blunders at every step. The Regt could do better without any officers. They are all good men & good lawyers, but how is it that they learn so slow & make the same mistakes so often it is more than I can tell. I can swear that I could drill a battalion better before I had been in the service a month. There is not a Sergt in the Regt who cannot do better.

That troubles me most is that there is no Capt. who seem conscientious & who can hereafter take their places. Breitkraider & Dillman are both good officers but both are German & would not on that account & some others be very acceptable. They are the only suitable men among the Capts. I think Dillman would make a good Major.

We have now a good regimental band & it is a very desirable thing. One can certainly hear all the good martial music here which he desires. I presume the morning call of a hundred Regts can be heard.

25th. Night before last four pickets of the 3d 30th (I believe) were shot. A party of men went out with our Lt. Col. today to reconnoitre the enemy. Hellogg the orderly of Co. E. was shot & severely wounded. One man killed & 2 wounded. The enemy are near in considerable force. The long roll may come before morning. It has taken things very quietly today & I mean to do the same till I see some
came to do otherwise. They cannot be allowed to remain there long. They must be discharged.

Our Irish friends of the 37th prove to be a first rate regiment. We shared our breakfast with them the first morning they came & have gained their good will entirely. They were out in the rain without tents & we could do no less than all we could for them. Generosity is prominent among a soldier's virtues.

26th. A quiet & very warm day. The night passed off without alarm. Kellogg it is thought will recover. He was married abt 2 weeks ago to a very pretty girl who came with us from Detroit.

27th. I went out with a party of men today to chop. The men have had a great deal of fatigue duty & Benson, self & three Corps volunteers to afford them some relief.

I wanted to get away from camp & see the country out toward Alexandria. We went abt 3 miles on the Alexandria road. It had a good view of Alexandria, the river & surrounding country. We passed over the ground where Lew. Washington, I am told fought a battle during the Revolution, to wit the Battle of Four Mile Run. We did a pretty fair day's chopping.

I visited the camps of the Parabolali Guard & German Rifles. I am convinced that we have not yet learned the science of camp life. They enjoy more than double the comforts & conveniences on the same means that we do. I have never before seen camps so neat, so tastefully arranged, so convenient & so beautifully ornamented with trees & other decorations. Our good entables were to be had there for 25 cts. there at any place since I left Detroit. Several of our men drank such large rations of whiskey at night that they were pretty drunk.
He saw some commotion in camp as we were returning; just as we got in Census came running to me and said, "If--I see to pay. We are all cut to pieces!" I asked him what he meant. He replied that there had been a battle out on the road, that all our men had gone, been defeated and nearly all cut off. I at once concluded that he was excited. It turned out that the enemy had commenced driving our pickets and a skirmish had ensued. The long roll had been beaten, 800 men from the brigade sent out to reinforce the pickets.

I have to go on picket tonight. I dislike the business. It is going to rain hard and I am tired.

29th The rain last night was of short duration. While we were waiting at the house house a man was arrested as a spy. Soon after Ben McClellan & Richardson and escort came in from a tour of inspection. Ben McClellan asked me if we were ready for a battle. He all replied, yes--he said he would risk the night with us.

I do not like to see them exposing themselves so much. I know that if I knew of Beauregard coming out in that way toward our camp I would try to shoot him. They go out in sight of the enemy every day. They went out again today just after dinner.

I went out with the front of the pickets at 2½ miles to where a detachment of about 300 of our men were stationed. They were at four corners and extended along the roads in front and on the right and left. He stationed our guards between them & our camp at short intervals, some in the road & others in the field. There were some 800 men stationed in detachments outside of our pickets extending out about 6 miles. The night was quiet. A few shots were fired but there was no general alarm.

One of the men from Co. I brought in near a
buckel of green corn. There has been considerable firing both of cannon & musketry today in various directions & all sorts of reports as to the result. I have heard little which I believe. Almost every day however there is unmistakable evidence of fighting in the shape of dead or wounded men brought along in the ambulance.

During the day our pickets & the enemy keep within sight of each other but at night generally fall back a little. Captain Fillman is reported to have led in 200 skirmishers this afternoon. If that be true there will be sharp fighting.

The mosquitoes were so thick last night that I slept very little. We are not bothered with them in camp.

The cannon was badly mixed last night by some one. It was in no line, the 4 different ships before morning. I think the rest of the picket was partly in fault. He owned that he did not know certainly what it was.

29th. Just at dusk last night as I was writing near the door of the tent I heard a gun which was immediately followed by one of three deep, hollow, unearthly cries which are never uttered except by men when seriously wounded. I stepped to the door & saw a private of Co. I lying on the ground. He had been accidentally shot by a comrade. The ball & three buckshot passed quite through his body. He was breathing with great difficulty. His chest heaved convulsively at every breath. He never spoke after he was shot & lived but about 15 minutes.

This morning there was an order for 25 men from each Co. for pickets. Sergt. Stevens & Self had charge of ours. It rained hard at daylight & that continued to do so up to this time (2 P.M.). I am
List of men under my charge at Bailey's Crossing, Aug. 29th.

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The fort on the map marked g is called Fort Michigan in honor of the Michigan troops who have done most of the work. The one marked t is a new thing devised by General Richardson and considered the most valuable on the line.
writing in the church at Bailey's Corners or Coxinga 7 miles from our camp on the road to Manassas. The enemy are on our right about a mile distant. They are on a hill in full view. They have breastworks & two pieces of cannon which can be seen from here. We have about 300 men & there are 20 cavalry & some artillery nearby.

There are 3 or 4 houses here besides the church which has been occupied for sometime by our pickets. The walls are covered with ludicrous pictures of Jeff Davis & other secessionists, as well as the names of our men & regts - Rakanamee Granve - Irish Rifle - The Nugget Regiment - 3d Maine - 7th Wisconsin - Col. Carrigan - 1st Irish Regt. - 1st of 37th Col. McClim - Lew James C. Nye - Patrick Murphy & a host of other names decorate the walls in large letters.

I am wet to the skin & feel very dirty as indeed I am. It seems now rather doubtful whether the enemy will fire on us today. A few well aimed shells would send us out of the houses in a hurry.

If the pastor of this congregation could return today he would find a full congregation! But I doubt whether they would pay much heed to his preaching. The sacred desk is now occupied by four men who are engaged in a brisk game of euchre.

At 4 P.M. the rain ceased. The enemy are intrenched themselves on a high hill to the west of us. I suppose that we are here to bring them while everything is preparing to fall upon them from Alexandria & the chain bridge. They have fired at our pickets several times today but have hit no one. A rifled cannon ball was sent yesterday through the barn where we are quartered.

36th: The night was quiet till about 4 A.M. when six guns were fired in quick succession back on the road towards camp. It all sprang to our feet but noth-
breakfast firing commenced in the same direction. There were some 20 shots. He quickly formed & sent out some skirmishers. There was further firing soon after between the enemy & a small party of our men. One man of Co. B was slightly wounded & one sectionist was killed. Both parties retreated pretty briskly.

We are now drawn up in loose order in the garden just behind the church. I am sitting as I write on the grave of some individual who has made a safe retreat from the storms of war. The enemy can be seen with a glass carrying in one of their dead or wounded men. Everything is now quiet. About 20 shots have been fired. I slept well last night on some straw under a tree. I was a little apprehensive that they might send some shells into the town during the night. They have the range & distance & might have done so if they had desired.

At noon we were ordered — i.e., Co. I and X under command of Lt. Pack — into the woods on the right of the enemy as skirmishers. We deployed at a distance from each other, along a fence east of the woods forming a line at 12 rods. Along the line from the extreme left to the extreme right we were with the Orderly of X on the extreme right. The trees & underbrush were there so thick we could not see more than 6 rods. All laid or sat down on the ground & waited in perfect silence for the approach of the enemy, in case they should attempt to send out scouts or flanking parties.

The day was windy & the rustling of the leaves & the motion of the breeze kept us in a constant state of watchfulness which in the course of time became exceedingly painful. No one showed himself on the right. The next man on my left gradually dropped his gun but it did not go. I did not know for some time whether it was our own or someone attempting to shoot at us. This kept me wide awake for a few minutes.
Soon a gun was fired on our left which was immediately followed by that cry of death which I have before described. C. S. Buck, a boy of eighteen from our Co. had killed his first man. He was still lying on the open field where he fell when we came away. One other man is supposed to have been shot. He fell among long grass and weeds and was not seen afterwards. None of our men were hurt though probably 100 shots at long range were fired at them.

The enemy commenced a practice of shooting at pickets & every man they could see on the first day we were here & we took it up yesterday for the first. Three of them were shot in the road just between our pickets & their battery. One of them, an officer, was shot from his horse by the Major of the 37th (of our brigade).

31st. The night was quiet till just daylight when a low whistle passed along the ranks brought us quickly to our feet & into ranks. It however proved a false alarm. The enemy have again commenced firing at such of our men as show themselves within range. All the officers dress exactly like the men to avoid being singled out. Yesterday I pulled off my jacket which is dark blue with light chevrons, but when I saw where we were going, I put it on again thinking that my grey shirt might attract the fire of our own men sooner than the chevrons would that of the enemy.

There is brisk shooting with muskets today most of it being done by the Enemy. Our men return this fire occasionally. A man of Co. I was shot through the body this morning at 100 rods by a secession picket. He will probably die.

The living here is poor except what is gleaned from the country. Been cow & bread have been the principal diet till today a hog & several pigeons
taken.

1 P.M. A section picket was sent a few minutes since by a N.Y. soldier who came out to try his gun. I would like to try mine, but they won't let me. I have not yet fired a gun at a rebel. After all it is rather barbarous. Gov. McClellan is doing all he can to stop it but without very much success. It is strictly forbidden to us. I stay the order myself, but I have taken no great pains to stop the men. It is very provoking to have them fire without replying.

September 1st 1861. Sabbath morning at 9 o'clock. I am sitting behind a bunch of oak buckeye, near a sand fence, about 3 miles from Bailey's Crossing, on Picket guard watching for the Villainous Secessionists. I have the charge, overseeing or commanding whichever you please to call it. Of 18 men stationed along a line in groups of 3 having about 20 yards between groups. One of these three men is to keep watch while the rest lie on the ground, asleep or whatever they please except leave their posts or make a move. They have to see that they attend to their business, to go up & down the line every 2 hours & see what they have discovered & what they are about. We are kept at this business for 24 hours. The Rebel sheet at us or not as they feel inclined & we return their fire if they shoot too close or advance.

About 10 A.M. another detachment came up from Camp & relieved me. The set out for home as we told it but before we got there met Gen. P. who detailed us all to sleep for the balance of the day. He has located a new fort on a spit which had escaped the attention of the engineers although it is said by McClellan to be the most important one in the line of defense. McClellan at once ordered him to have a fort constructed.

All the ground round about was covered with trees,
and it required some hundreds of acres to be chopped. He would go to the devil to please Richardson & as he asked me to chop with unusual willingness of manner explained the whole thing, we went willingly. One field of near ten acres which had once been ploughed & cultivated was grown over with scrub pines from 10 to 20 feet high & that too within sight of Washington, Georgetown & Alexandria.

2d A still quiet day. He came receiving our state pay.

3d I was on guard last night. Today I have kept clear of fatigue duty. The men who wasseent at Bailey's Crossing did last night. The twine today all safe except one man who had his finger shot off. They did a good deal of firing. One of the serre doodle to our men, to know what regiment they belonged to. He replied 3d By 3d I should think you did. Can't you stop firing for a minute, said Sergeant. Our men then asked who they were & was answered S. C. 4th.

4th I find myself again at Bailey's Crossing. Cool & N. weather this morning. All is quiet up to now. No firing.

I was last night introduced to Lt. Col. Kearney & informed that I was soon to be 2d Rint. of Co. I. This was in many respects a gratifying announcement. I had been incorrectly informed that it would be otherwise & was not well pleased at the announcement. It will give much greater opportunity for study & research. I can carry such books as I need & a sufficient quantity of clothes & shall not be obliged to carry them in my back. Besides I will occupy one tent instead of sharing it with others. I can keep better company, enjoy much greater privileges than nothing to carry but a saber & pistol & sometimes my cartridge. I shall also get 12.3d per month from
which I pay my own expenses instead of $7 with expenses paid.

A step from 3d Lieut. to 2d Lieut. is a pretty good one. I am today Lieut. of the camp guard we rather Lieut. Lieut. Capt. all at once. A man of Co. K was dangerously wounded just sundered last night. He could only lift his foot and went to a house nearby to get a drink. When he was coming to his feet he was shot in the back by someone concealed in the house.

5th. The night was quiet. Raining toward morning. I was up nearly all night and when not it was too cold to sleep much as I had no blanket. I wore apprehensive of an attack.

Everything was so quiet during the day that we thought something must be wrong. I posted the camp guard as pikes after dark. Some of them showed the white feather badly. I would get them together in such a while looking for the rest some of the first were sure to slip off while themselves. I wore more than two hours and did an immense sight of swearing in getting them out. One of Co. C's men, goldie Leonard, stayed off and hid himself so that I could not find him.

It commenced raining about 8 this M. at 5 a.m. till dark. We were relieved about 10 A.M. and set out for home where we arrived in due time well wet and covered with mud.

All the men who are in the habit of it among of them all got liquor enough to get drunk. They were of course noisy and quarrelling. The Big Sulca y another quarrelled in our tent. One suddenly drew a sword of the other a silex and were parted with difficulty. It are in so much danger from our own men as from the enemy. Not less than 6 or 8 have been accidentally shot since we
left Boston.

6th. Fatigue duty. Chopping for the whole Regt. Richardson seems determined that his brigade shall do all that is to be done and that the 2nd shall do the most of that.

7th. The officer of whom I spoke as having been shot by the Mayor of the 37th, proved to have been Col. Hurlbut of the rebel army. The enemy are known to be making an extensive move from Kansas City today but its direction is not yet known. Their tents were taken down by Wm. see seen from balloons.

8th. A soldier of one of the 7th Regts. is to be shot tomorrow for sleeping on his post at a sentry. We are to go to Bailey's Crossing again tomorrow. I do not relish the job very much. It was interesting enough the first time, but it is getting pretty dull business.

He even all called out for fatigue duty this M. but by a general order of Gen. McClellan prohibiting Sunday labor except in cases of strict necessity were excused.

Benson has gone to the hospital. He has already broken by receive one of the best constitutions ever given to man.

I have been acting Orderly for three days. I bought the Atlantic this M. and have been reading that & distributing clothes & shoes to the Co. all day. I have a bad cold in my head but care nothing for it if it does not trouble my lungs. I would like very much to go to the city but it is impossible.

9th. Contrary to expectations the Co. was sent on fatigue at 7 instead of picket. The durned weeks rations today & I stayed in to attend to that.
At 4 P.M. we stowed our things & marched to the crossroads for picketing. Arrived there before sundown & made all necessary arrangements. As usual, Capt. May had me Gov. camp guard as soon as we were within sight of him.

10th. The night was very quiet. Some shots & shells were fired yesterday but none during the night. Their shells were so badly constructed that not one of which they fired exploded.

Hereafter there is no fatigue duty for the 2d, but they have to do all the picket duty at this place. This is a little tedious but after all a fine thing.

A third of the Regt. marches out every day. It gives them a march of 5 miles out on one day & 5 back the next, a view of the enemy & a chance to exchange shots. All things considered it is an excellent school.

T. & myself stood guard on a post in front of the officers' quarters. I was on from 11 till 2. It was a fine starry night. I looked at the stars & formed groups & imagined out of them till my eyes ached. Now & then a group came up which looked as familiar as the face of an old friend. It reminded me very forcibly of the time (some 8 years since) when a girl named Mary & myself used to sit & astronomy together.

Do you still keep late nights to view constellations?

It is now a long time since I saw Mary. She has gone. I know not where or I am here. Many a change in thought, feeling, prospects of life has come to both. The sky is just as blue & the stars as bright as then but neither would look upon them with the same interest.

On of our pickets yesterday stumped a deal to lay down guns & meet half way to trade newspapers, offering a N.Y. Times for a Charleston Mercury. The soldier was willing to do it but
his officers would not let him.

Two of our Capt's crossed the line this P.M. & held a conference with a Major & Capt. of the Rebels during which it was agreed that the pickets should not thereafter fire on each other. They had a very friendly interview & talked over matters for near an hour. They were from the Va. 24.

The man of Co. H who was wounded some days ago died yesterday.

And of our men told the Rebels that he wanted to go over & look for a blanket which he lost on the 21st of July. They are jesting each other pretty freely today. In the afternoon I went to a lesen house & got a very poor dinner for a quartar. There was not a manufactured article in the house which was not made north of Lexington.

11th. He started last night at 7:30 P.M. for home where we arrived after a brisk walk of 4. I turned into my blankets at once. Several shots were fired at 11 at the Cross Roads just dark but they all fell harmlessly in the ground round about. There must have been some mistake about the arrangement made between the officers yesterday in regard to firing. I presume the men who mistook had not authority in their command did not extend to the whole line of pickets.

At 4 P.M. we were ordered out to Bailey's again. It rained hard & we were well soaked before we got there. I was posted on what is called the centre on the right of the road leading to thearrison. The shots were fired upon at the post where I was 6 times. All the shots passed over. As I was going into headquarted after the counterfire a ball cut off a cornstalk about 3 feet from me.
12th. At 7 A.M. I am sitting in a little hole in front of the 1st. I never passed a more uncomfortable night. At 11 P.M. there came a very heavy shower of rain which lasted with little intermission till near daylight. We were entirely without shelter. Several little rubber blankets which did good service but could at best shield little more than our guns. We were all well drenched & felt the cold pretty severely before morning.

We have holes dug in the ground & dirt thrown up in front & a ear of two laid on top of some corn stalks stuck up around. These are very good in dry weather but soon filled with water. In these holes we can stand & be entirely out of danger if we are careful. We do not however take any great pains to conceal ourselves.

They commenced firing about 1 this M. & kept it up briskly all the rest of the time till daylight next morning for the sake of getting the stamp changed out of their guns than from any expectation of hitting anybody. A few of their shots stuck near our post but no one was injured. After daylight they did better shooting but still hit no one.

My haversack rolled into a ditch filled with muddy water & spoiled the provisions. The rest of the men however had enough to supply me.

It was a positive relief to hear the firing commence last night. It was so dark, rainy & lonesome that it was cheery to hear men although you knew that they were firing at you. The sun came out warm & bright & at last dried our clothes & cheered our spirits.

Our first corporal, Mr. Lee, is in a difficult situation. He is anxious to play a prominent part in this war & is eager for promotion (wants to be a 2d Lieut.) but has a great dread of bullets. It is a tall raw New Brunswick Lumberman, somewhat green but with frankness enough to own that he is a little afraid.
I went out where he was this M. a little after daylight. We stood talking together when a ball struck in the field some 30 or 40 yards off to one side with a sharp whizzing sound. He no sooner heard it than he threw himself down into the mud with such rapidity and violence that I thought he would have knocked all the breath out of his body.

The firing was kept up on their side all day but not returned by us. If I had have had a good gun I could have killed some of them. There was plenty of chances at times.

He suffered almost as much from the sun during the day as from the rain and cold during the night. He however laid on the bare sand and talked and joked away the time as best we could till scedown when we were relieved.

My friend Sergt. Wilkinson of Co. K. whose seat on the left, had a narrow escape. A minnie ball tore off the side of his cap, cut a clean furrow through his hair and grazed the skin so near to make it bleed pretty rapidly. Half the width of the ball nearer he would have got his discharge.

I had previously some cold and expected to find myself sick but and I believe, none the worse for the wear.

13th. I am not on duty today and am taking things easy. I forgot to mention that after Wilkinson rode shot yesterday Co. K. returned the fire and killed one man.

He that is Benson, Major, Butler and I had an extra dinner today on sweet potatoes, oysters, boiled mackerel, bread and butter etc.

Our men shot 2 rebels at Bailey's today so they say. Perhaps it is so.
14th. A fine warm day. We are going to Bailey's tonight. An extra dinner is to be served today as yesterday. I yesterday received a letter from Arthur, one from Prindle, one from Miller. Two men were accidentally shot yesterday.

15th. Sunday at Bailey's. A very pleasant day, warm and bright. There is a good deal of firing on both sides but it amounts to very little. I have been all along the line of pickets making the third time I have been out to the line today. When we went to the left near the barn they gave us a salute of 6 shots the farthest off about 20 feet, the nearest about 4. The two lines at this place are not more than 45 rods apart. They keep well concealed & seldom get a fair sight at each other. I saw the smoke of every gun that was fired at us but did not see a man. There are two barns & 4 or 5 haystacks where they are & it is impossible to get at them. There has been much talk at burning them & it may be done.

Our men are getting pretty well acquainted with the Virginia troops. They are talking back and forth all the time & do not fire very much at each other. The fact is the N. men don't care a great deal which side.

The S.C. men are rambunctious. There are many scuffles between them & our men but they all are very sociable. They will fire at us and yell out, "Take that you d---d Michiganers." We will reply, "Go to h--l you d---d fools. You can't hit anybody," and all the other abuse remarks they can think of.

A single 32 lbs rifled cannon shell fired by our men at the skirmish near Leesville.
day as to sight, dismounted a rebel cannon, knocking it entirely off the carriage, killed 4 men & 2 horses & wounded 9 men.

The day is remarkably hot & the heat is most unpleasant. There, I amused myself by shooting. I saw a Major Bowler, whose name I could not hear, paid me a visit toward night. He was a large number of officers present & some very fine looking men. We were relieved about dark & made a rapid march home.

15th. Two of the N. J. boys were shot last night. We started at 4 P.M. for the Cape roads where we arrived in due time. I disliked very much to go this time, I did not feel well & it was not my turn but the left were gone. Bowler thought he ought not to leave. Creps never gone. Stevenson was gone. Writing was suddenly ill. He could not be found. So the time came, so that there was no one else left.

As it turned out I did not fare badly. There being no one else I had charge of the Co. & we consequently slept at the house & had very little to do, so I distributed whiskey, which I made out to do in such a manner that no one got drunk. This is quite unusual & cost me much swearing over the part of the men & a little on mine.

17th. I had another squabble over the whiskey this Morn but succeeded in obeying orders from headquarters & cutting them all short with one drink. Things have gone at least as well as our Co. so long that it is not the easiest thing in the world to govern them. The Capt. is no better than a wooden man as far as discipline is concerned.

Major Williams allowed me a bit high yesterday in behalf of the whole Co. because the quarters were not kept cleaner. My temper got up a little
I said about as much in reply as was prudent. Major finally concluded that he had said more to me than was necessary. I went off sorrowing that he would attend to the Capt. as soon as he came back.

There has been considerable firing this P.M. I have some reason to believe that I shot one of them. I went out to a post where there was considerable firing. I took the best aim I could at one, with a musket ball, off at 80 rods. He was standing at the edge of the corn & went down just at the time the ball should have reached him. This of itself was nothing as we always do that, but as soon as he fell 5 or 6 others ran up to the place & bent down & what would seem to be the men I shot at. I am however by no means certain. The second time I know I did not hit anything.

All the commissioned officers except one have been two-thirds drunk all day. Our pickets & the enemies have been talking together on the left all day. They have exchanged buttons, tobacco, cards, whiskey, etc. One chap gave one of our men the name of his mistress in Charleston & urged him to call on her if he ever went there.

There was a heavy shower near night. I think the prospects of my promotion might be better.

I am confirmed in the belief that I killed the first man I shot at by the fact that a man was seen to be carried away from the place about half an hour after. I know he did not dodge the ball for he was not quick enough. I think I must have been made for the business as I have improved very fast since I enlisted. I am a little surprised myself to see how cool I took it.

I went out to a post where they were troubling our pickets a good deal. I sat there a few minutes talking with the boys & seeing that the
Rebels showed themselves pretty fair. I asked one of them to let me look at his Muskie. I took it, looked at it for a minute, asked him a few questions about its shooting, raised the sight to the 400 yards mark, placed the end of a board on the top of the little embankment in front, left it slant back on the ground as I used to at home when shooting at a mark. I laid down on the board & did not wait more than half a minute before he showed himself. I took such aim as I thought ought to fetch him & I have good reason to believe it did.

18th. Slept well & feel well this morning. I saw an article on picket firing this M in the Chicago Sun, which made my views. Much is said of late about the futility of the practice but there is nothing makes soldiery so fat. The first time they get sight of the enemy on picket the men are all statistic & half of them still shoot off their guns before they are within a mile. Let them do it a week & they will shoot at one another with as little concern as they would at squirrels. They will sit & talk & joke & when the bullets come within 3 to 10 feet & some of them much nearer or when their shots tell them to try it again! They are not of course to go out & shoot as fast as they can load unless the enemy should advance but merely to exchange 6 or 8 shots per man each day when the chances are favorable. The low and gendarm they will not be great on either side. There is nothing like it to keep pickets awake nights.

A trooper belonging to our Brigade had the handle of a sheath knife shattered at the side by a ball while attempting to go to one of our picket posts yesterday P.M. Two of our men from Co. E were wounded today, one it is thought mortally, the ball going in alone shoulder & out the other.
the other slightly. A picket of the N.Y. 3rd was shot last night, the ball going in at one cheek and out the other. One of the N.Y. 14th was shot last night by a sentinel of his own Co. whom he involuntarily attempted to pass. Half his lower jaw, all his left cheek & his left eye were blown entirely away. He is still alive.

Another stand-up fight came off in the N.Y. 37th today. I ran over with all my might but the crowd was so great that I could only get an occasional glimpse of the two bloody bodies & then were all shivered to the skin except pants. The crowd was so great there being no song that they had but a poor chance. The crowd turned the officer of the day all inside uppermost, & Frank Leslie's reporter got his eye bunged.

19th. An arrangement was made yesterday between Gen. Richardson & the Rebel commander to stop all picket firing which will probably be effectual. They owned 13 men killed to say nothing of the wounded.

The Co. has gone on picket but as I had been out everytime I thought I would stay at home this time & let the rest of the Sergt. try a hand.

The 1st Corps has been bayed terribly that it is in a religious way at the men who suffered from maimed batteries in the city, since then one of them induced him to trade drawn & so they way gave the 1st Corps the clap. I never laughed so hard in my life. I am rather sorry for them. I have seen too many men ruined in health already to rejoice at such things.

The N.Y. 3rd came over last night. They thought they could whip the Devil when they first came, but after laying out on the ground last night for the first time & having little to eat except what we
gave them, seeing a couple of wounded men which
one boy brought in just after they came, & hearing
all the dubious stories with which some one delighted
to fill their ears, the fighting 5th as they call themselves
had a good many long faces. One of them asked me
in a whisper that my own pickets were driven in
last night. They have gone up to Hunter's Chapel
at a mile out to camp. They were very anxious to
know if they would be in sight of the enemy,
whether they probably would be attacked there right
away, "was it pretty dangerous to put them out so
far." They are more than three miles inside the
pickets.

It used to call ourselves the "Bloody Second," but that
was all over long ago. He don't think now a days
that we can whip everybody we used to, & all we
are willing to try anything which the occasion requires,
& will do far better fighting than the "Bloody Second"
soon thought of.

The Leech have learned me at least. One of
their pickets just stuck his head out from behind
a till the other M. carried out to one of our hallers
there. Where did you come from? New Jersey," was the
reply. "All right," said Seare, setting his gun up
agst the tree. "I didn't know—but it was one of
them Michigan cousins."

20th. In camp. Nothing unusual. He had some
syrup for supper. The weather is hot. I received
letters from Arthur, Miller & Father.

21st. I am acting Lieut of the Guard & have a pretty
busy day. Our guard is very much reduced. There
are only 5 or 6 in relief. The sergeants act as such & do the
length. One Sergt does the work of 2 Lieut's & a
Lieut act as officer of the day. I hope there will
soon be some officers in the Regt. There is a fair
prospect of it. He have a Col. at last, 1st Lieut. Poe of the Engineers. I suppose he is a much better officer than we could reasonably expect, in fact one of the best in the service.

22d. I passed through my first day and night as officer of the guard in a manner quite different to myself. I passed the night at the official guard tent.

It rained very hard most of the night. I was called up 3 times in the night. Each time a deputation were sent over from the 37th to our guard house & it was necessary to have them gaged & tied at once, or there was no sleep. We got 12 of them all drunk during the night.

The weather was cold, but I do not exactly know exactly how we shall fare during the winter if we do not move farther south.

Promptly at 4 P.M. we set out for the rendezvous arrived an usual. The Capt. was sick & I being the only Sergeant who could make it convenient to go had command of the company. Capt. Best-schneider who had command at the Crossing was in high temper. The agreement with regard to picked firing was at an end. The enemy commenced firing & Capt. B. took a flag of truce & went up to inquire the meaning. The officers command at the fort said he knew nothing, at any agreement. He came the to fire & was going to fire. Anybody was a d—d fool not to fire. He wanted nothing more to do with Capt. B. & he would have him arrested in less than no time unless he were off.

"Very well," said Capt. B. you want to fire I give you enough of it. Good day sir, I hope I meet you again before the war is over. Now boy, you wait till they fire once then you give them
23d. I passed a very comfortable night. Slept well. Firing commenced at daylight briskly. There had been very little firing on the center of the line. I went out to our pickets just after daylight.

There was a pummelo tree loaded with rich fruit, salt and row in front of the line. The fruit had often been coveted by our men. I concluded to go and get some. I was quickly knocking them off with a pole when a rascal fired at me. The ball striking at 20 feet short and a little to one side, I grabbed up my handful full of pummeons and made no unnecessary delay in returning inside the line to my proper place. After that there was a pretty steady fire all day, our Co. shooting about 20 rounds per man.

Not less than 2000 shots were fired by our men during the day. None of them were fatal though several would have been killed but for the holes & little breastworks into which they dodged. It is claimed with much probability that 4 of the enemy were killed. An ambulance came down to the line 9 times & it could have been for no other purpose than carrying off dead or wounded. We had nothing but old Thunderbol muskets. They shot a good distance but the ball traveled slow & was inaccurate. The balls fell pitter, patter about us all day, hitting trees, houses, fences, etc., but there was no loss except one cow which was shot in the road near our quarter.
In the afternoon the enemy turned 2 houses just beyond our line of firing, it is presumed, that we would occupy them. Capt B sent me down to the lift to see what was doing. The road was about 300 yards of & nearly parallel to our pickets. The enemy shot over almost invariable. I think not less than 20 bolts struck in & near the road while I was returning. I could frequently see the bolts as they passed & could hear them long before they reached me.

An old man where our officer usually got the meal rice in great concern. The bolts were flying around the house, several of them struck it. The old man & family of small children were much alarmed. There were two large barns & five stacks of hay & grain from which they annoyed our men very much & they determined to burn them. They succeeded in burning one barn just after dusk by means of red hot iron slugs shot from muskets & from the shot fired communicated to the other barn & the stacks. Beside breaking up the haunt, there was a loss to the enemy of a large amount of hay & grain. The barns were very large & well filled. It puzzled me & much to know how it was done.

Our men begin to show an eagerness for conflict which will soon become allied to ferocity. The feeling is terrible but sure to win. It needs to be educated to coolness & politic caution.

There was very much foolish firing today. Far more men could have been killed in a different way. I could get nothing but a musket to use & did not care to fire. If I could only have had a good rifle, sporting rifle I should have enjoyed it. There would have been a great deal of one of those barns as soon as they found we were shooting muskets & a man would walk out into the open doorway & stand till he saw the smoke of our guns & then run back before the ball.
would reach them. This was exceedingly delightful. With a small box rifle & quick rounds I could have stopped that business very quick.

There was brigade inspection at camp by Gen. McClellan & Genl. de Joinville & others & it was very late when the relief came.

24th. At one A.M. we were ready to turn in to blanket at home, having returned at 12½ from picket with empty hardsocks & belles. Capt. Morse took command at the corner last night & was trying to stop firing. It proved an easy job for the rebels sent down a flag of truce from the 5th. asking that it might be discontinued. The beating of the drums troubled them. They think we crest the hill.

He had brigade drill for 4 hours. It was hot, duty & tiresome.

He have a new Colonel—a glorious good & kind one. He was late aid to Gen. McClellan & 1st. of the Engineers. Orlando W. Poe is the man. He shall not be able to keep him long but he puts life into the regiment while he is here.

Gen. R. had to speak sternly about how many commissioned officers drilled the battalion last 4th of July. He declares that they can beat most of the field officers drilling.

25th. was pay day & a drunken night. I have stood it very well till last night when it came into our own tent. At dark Benson, Cords, Prentice, Mck & Mcle, Major Underwood & North & Butler came into the tent & began to play cards for 2 bottles of ale. Elderly Grego soon joined. Two bottles being found wholly insufficient to supply their wants, 2 more were added & soon after 4 others. After some further playing 12 more bottles were found necessary. By this time they were all pretty drunk & thought to
Bottles of champagne were needed. They all drank which, together with some liquor obtained outside, made them all drunk enough to be very noisy.

At this point Mack and Mason quarreled and got into a fight in which Benson, Prentice, and Butler took part. They all tumbled over onto the ground to rise and thought no more for the night. Pretty soon however they fell apart and Mason and Prentice came out with black eyes. Butler and Mack with noses skinned and bloody. Benson with some hard knocks in the face.

Mason then insisted on whipping the officers of the guard for ordering them to make less noise. He was finally persuaded from this by he and Mack put to bed in their respective tents. Mack soon spread all over the unfortunate Hadlock who ran to the desk to find redress. Benson and North at once seized him, hit him all over, up and down in a ditch. The Drum Major tried to embrace the Airdale and both tumbled over nearly breaking their heads.

There were innumerable songs, speeches, speeches which I have no time to relate. I was glad to get off by giving them a dollar and drinking one bottle of all. The others spent all their and lost 95 in the melee. Everything in the old tent was turned bottoms up and most. I laughed myself nearly to death but got very little sleep.

26th. This day came Great Camp for Benson & I. Stevenson promoted from 4th to 2nd Ser. Whiting 5th to 4th. McCall 1st to 4th Ser. Mason 2nd to 5th Ser. Ball 3rd to 1st Ser. Prentice 4th to 2nd Ser. Wallace 5th to 3rd Ser.
Coleman promoted from 6th Corpl to 4th Corpl
Mack " 7th Corpl to 5th Corpl
Johnson " 8th Corpl to 6th Corpl
McCullum " rank to 7th Corpl
Bryan " to 5th Corpl

I could agree to all this except Bryan's promotion to which I was opposed. I do not believe he can ever control a squad. Many of the men were drunk & there was much noise about camp.

27th. was a rainy day. Benson & I looked up our effects & made arrangements as far as possible for our departure from the breast tent. He tried to get a pass to the city to make necessary purchases but it was impossible.

He all started for picket ground at 4 P.M. The Lieut., having few other things to carry, paid more attention to their haversacks which were well filled with bread & butter, cheese &c. It rained very hard most of the way. Everything indicated the approach of fall. The rain & mist, driven by sudden uncertain gusts of wind showed unmistakable that snow-squalls would some day follow. I got pretty muddy but not very wet. He had a good fire & a warm cup of coffee at the headquarters. There was little rain during the night, but the wind was light & cold & several men who were on post.

28th. Hot coffee was sent to the pickets at daylight. No one was seen about the Ft. till 9 A.M. & about 8 P.M. it became apparent that the enemy had withdrawn their pickets during the night. Some 60 or 8 troopers we all who have been seen at the front since 3 P.M.

A woman who came down past the Ft. this M. with 4 children, a wrench, some furniture & a one horse wagon reports that there are still 2 regts. concealed in the fortifications on McCaroll's Hill & 6 kept
not far beyond. We hardly knew how to take
this move but intened but care to avoid any trap which
may have been laid. Scouts were out all day looking
cautiously around, peeping into every accessible place.

At 4 P.M. Gen. R. & Col. Pe came out. After looking
around for a while Gen. R. ordered Capt. Sherlock & Co.
to take 12 men of C. I. to occupy, if possible, a howitz
to road in front of the enemy's battery. We advanced
occupied the houses scattered along a fence parallel
to the battery, then we lay concealed in the woods for
an hour & a half. We knew nothing of the enemy's
force or position & as we were over 1/2 mile in advance
of all our pickets, we were rather anxious to know
what was doing. We took such precaution as we
could to prevent being surrounded & waited the pro-
gress of events. We could see about 20 men around the
works who fired an occasional shot at us soon of
which took effect.

After an hour & a half, about 20 men of the 5th Ohio,
crept up to us. Soon after we saw more came
through the woods & got into a schoolhouse on the
opposite side of the road & a little nearer to the Ft
than we were. Another party under Lt. Benson of 490
men came up the road even with us. We were all
looking very earnestly when someone I know not
who it was said, "Frederick, forward." At this we all made
a rush & entered the works on the north found them
empty. A few of the men who had been there ran
about of our scouts & were taken. The rest disappeared.

Gen. R. & Col. Pe looked on not believing the works
were deserted. The last word was, "false Corp.
Benson & I had neither of us a chance to get swords
& were armed with nothing but pistols. I was
fortunate enough to escape the observation but
Benson caught it. In that another Lt. how? shouted
short around & looking at him a moment said,
Well, by J. d., you look like one. You'll kill somebody yet. Where in H---le is your sword, sir? Where have you been? What have you been about, on duty, without a sword?"

Here Col. P. interfered in behalf of the paralyzed Hewitt, explained: "Hewitt, sir, can you get a sword, sir?" Captain Whipple handed him his. "Do you see that barricade on the road?" "Yes." "Can you load those men there?" "Yes." Then without waiting a second, "One, why in H---le ain't you off, sir, what are you standing here for?"

Then he saw the men running to the works, he pretended to be very much engaged but could easily be seen laughing in his sleeve. This, 3-7 it Col. then gave one of them up to the 3. Three-go 2 more. Then by J. d., gave the whole of them. Col. all you have to do is to hold three men if you can till it's time to let them go.

He quickly hoisted the Union Flag and gave it three lusty cheers. Some other parties soon after took possession, and we had already seized one on the left. Then, Hewitt set us on the right. We had possession of all the enemy works in that locality without loss. We stood from Munsell Hill, a fine view of Washington, the Potomac, toward the next, the high hills to the right of Manassas, were visible.

All the officers except Benson & I went back to the corner to sleep. We laid down with all our duty of our men on top of the hill. We had our oil cloth blankets under us & only one blanket to cover us. There was a strong cold N. W. wind which when we awoke a little after midnight had chilled us pretty thoroughly. We got up & ran around till we were warm again & then slept well till daylight.

I kept up before 9 P.M., to hold the works when daylight came, 6 other 2 batteries were seen near by. The Garabaldi Guards were
Among them & I must say that they can beat the world at straking. All the N.Y. troops are great at that but I believe the Guards can beat them all.

The country was slow plundered & houses which have been perfectly safe in our hands for a month were stripped by them in an hour & have been burned.

(20,21) 20th At noon land we were allowed to return to camp which we were very glad to do.

21st Benson & I succeeded after near a half day's journey in getting passage to the city where we bought writing materials.

We have been boarding for the last two days at a house near by. Neither of us knew how to act. It is now 5 months since we have done such a thing before. Benson got to talking very kindly with an affectionate wife of the 27th & so far forget himself as to cause his wife to in his jangled voice instead of making use of the civilized & Christian method with knives & fork. It really seemed very much like home to sit down at a table where there were ladies & everything was in good order. We have been so used to slashing everything with our knives & scratching up the piece with our fingers that it is hard to retrain one's self at first.

We have each of us spent about $25 for necessaries today. Orders are issued for us to march tomorrow with two days' cooked rations in our haversacks.

October 1st, 1861. We have been picking up our things to remove from the depot tent to the ladies' house. We expect to march this M. I call out at 7 A.M. & stacked arms in front of quarters. Our things are all packed & we can march at 10 minutes notice. There is a rumor of battle up
the river but nothing certain is known.

Night had come & we are still in camp in readiness to march on short notice. Benson & I went on Dress Parade tonight for the first time. It was new business to me & I knew that we should be closely watched. It was in no small degree embarrassing.

If my heart had ever pattered when there was fighting to be done as it did when we marched out to the front, I should have called myself a coward beyond all hope of redemption. I have been several times when I thought my chance of being shot in the next half hour was too good to be pleasant, but my pulse was even compared with what it was when there was a chance of making a blunder on Dress Parade.

Benson came out in full uniform but I thought best to try it the first time in half dress. The Col. likes to see considerable style but Gen. R.'s advice when we started for the city was, "Now don't go to getting any fancy things." The both of us embarked in getting through without any mishap. At the first command, "Order Arms," I instinctively threw up my left hand to my sword as if it had been a gun but got it down so quick that no one could have seen it if he had been watching.

We are now nearly arranged in our new quarters & shall soon be accustomed to all the new duties. It costs something to be promoted. I spent yesterday as follows & have al ready not more than half an outfut.

A new suit of clothes ------------------ $21.00
Sword & belt ------------------------ 20.00
Navy revolver ------------------------ 20.00
Gold embroidered shoulder straps . 3.50
Gold braid for cap ------------------ 2.50
Trunk ------------------------------- 5.00
Military dictionary ------------------ 5.00
- Share in mess chest - 6.00
- Glove - 2.00

Beyond these are needed:
- Officer's overcoat - say $25.00
- Tack - say $5.00 to 20.00
- A pair of boots - 6.00

+ Other articles too numerous to mention, the pay, however, when it comes will be double what is needed for expenses.

2d. I have been living pretty well today. Gibson of Kalamazoo is here & Handy usually eats with us & Gibson always does. Handy was a little mad about the promotion but his has come around all right of his own accord. Cregg is still rabid.

He was nothing about the movement of troops. At night we have two or three Regts beside me, in the M all are gone. No one knows where or where they went. At 9 PM an order comes to march. The men fall out without noise. There is a guide furnished who leads the way. Ask them where they are going, 'don't know.' That man on the horse added 'but know' They march on for a time. The guide says to the Col. pointing to some open field, 'you camp there.'

A few weeks ago four batteries of artillery were encamped beside of us. We heard their tattoo at 9 PM. In the M they were all gone. No man of this Regt knows to this day where they have gone. We go to bed at night with no one near us. In the M we may be surrounded by Regts.

We have had our arms stacked in line ready to move for three days but we are still in camp. We or when we are to go we do not pretend to ask.
3d. A very warm day. Skirmish drill all the forenoon. Our new Adj. is crowding things. He says that in 6 months the Mich. 2d is to be the best drilled Regt in the United States. Our drills & parades already attract large numbers of visitors & are highly praised. He straightens men & officers to their places in a hurry.

day 197 - 4th. Review was sent on fatigue duty this M. & I went with the skirmishers. There has been a great itching among the men to get into a cavalry Co. attacked to our brigade. They were cured of it this M. Capt. Hardy was sent with the skirmishers - 30 in number - & invited them about 35 in number to charge them. They came down at full gallop till abt 4 rode off. The men who had formed in a square fired on them with blank cartridges. More than 20 men were hit by the mode & they were scattered in every direction. They rallied again & came down to abt 10 rode when the troops began to break. The men fired upon them again. This time they scattered worse than before. Now of the men were thrown. It was impossible to bring them up again. If the game had been loaded not a third of the troopers would have escaped. Three men have been drilling 2 months & are called a fair company.

The skirmish drill is one of the finest we have. Whether you view them stretched out in a long line 5 paces between the men or rallied in their排组织 little groups of force, with a bayonet at each corner or in their stronger groups of sections or platoons they are active, self-reliant, sharp, mischievous fighting. It is a curious sight to see them when giving. They are as I said before deployed one in a place having a space of 5 paces between each 2 men. They are then mounted off from
right to left - 1, 2, 3, 4 etc. at the command, commence firing the odd numbered men run forward 10 paces very quickly, throw themselves down on their bellies, fire, roll over on their backs & commence loading. While these are loading the even numbered men run up 10 paces beyond them, throw themselves down, fire & commence loading.

By this time the odd numbered men are ready again & in turn advance 10 paces beyond these & then throw themselves down as before, & so they keep going. You will see either nothing but the smoke when they fire or their heads peeping up above the weeds you pass except when they advance. This when near the enemy is always done by an oblique or zigzag movement. Good marksmen in this way make bad work with little loss to themselves. They are of course to seek the shelter of all the trees, large stumps & inequalities of the ground which are at hand.

It is said that we are to move tomorrow.

5th. I have been on fatigue duty today with Capt. Bultenhuizen & 100 men at Ft. Richardson. The trenches had to be deepened. It is slow work. Soldiers hate to work. The ground was hard as a stone wall. Every shovel full has to be picked up. The earth had to be raised 20 feet. It had all to be handled over from 3 to 5 times.

It is to be a pretty fine work. It will mount abt 20, 32 pace. It has a underground magazine. It commands every work on the side of the river which is within 2 miles as well as the river itself.

6th. Sunday. The men got at roll call at 6 A.M. By a recent order all the Co. officers are required to be present. Then went out to guard mounting at 8. At 10 came inspection.
Here we were detained near 2 hours. Next inspection of quarter, then came church for such as desired to attend, then parade at 5 P.M., an hour spent in listening to orders. This occupied most of the day.

Our new Col is getting stricter every day. The weather is very hot. Gov. R. came out yesterday with a new uniform hat on. He did not know what to do with himself. It had a large silver eagle on the side, which he toyed with the first pass. He then came into the room where Capt. Howell was. He took hold of his chaplain with both hands and lifted it off. "Captain Howell," said he with great deliberation, "what do you think of that hat? It had an eagle on it, but I thought the hat would do without any eagle, so I took him off." He then jammed the hat on the hat and went off reading & shaking the head.

It is astonishing what influence he has over this Capt. There is hardly anything possible to be done which they would not do at attempt at his command. It will do for a Brigadier Gen., to take the eagle off his hat, but if a Field under our Col. comes on dress parade without all the uniform which belongs to him, foots blacked, white gloves on, & not a speck of dirt about him, he would be sent back to his tent.

This style is pretty hard on me. I must admit, I never spent so much time on dress before. Col. Pres. sent 20 men to the guard house this Morn; quick they did not know. Which and they stood on because they did not move quite so quick as they ought. Then not on duty we have a good opportunity for reading, study, etc. We are clear of all the hangovers except the inevitable Dick Prentice, who can no more be got rid of than one's shadow.
The weather is intensely hot & is beginning to be very dry. He had skirmished all day. The sweat poured off me in streams. Capt May has now been gone two days. He is going to scout for the Regiment but more especially to work for his appointment as Lt. Col. of the 18th Regt. May God have mercy on the country if May is to be Lt. Col.

The most alarming feature of the whole war is to see the men who are placed in such responsible positions. Our Capt. is not in truth qualified for a Sergeant's place in one of our Corps. He might if he would study, make a very good Capt. for a new Co. Look at Kellogg of our own State. It is no better than manslaughter to send men in the field with such a man. No man at the very least ought to have command of a Regt who has not seen a year of active service & studied diligently all the time. There is not more than one in a Regt, as a rule, who would be passably qualified in so short a time.

The Col makes the Regt. If Ellsworth had lived the Frie Fouace would have been the best Regt in the army. As it was, they were little more than an armed mob. They fought well in one battle but never rallied afterward nor would they if they had been victorious. Gen. B. or Col. W. could make a good Regt out of almost anything. Major Williams would spoil the best Regt in the service in 3 months.

8th. Last night came a terrible storm of rain & wind, out everything, drove some of the men out of their tents. It is very cold this Morn. Col. Poe gave the 1st Kt of H a sound dressing this Morn. because he did not have his men in better shape at roll call. I saw him coming in
time to put mine in good shape. They think it awful to be made to stand around as they do of late. It is in reality easier & better for them in all respects aside from its benefit in a military point of view. If our Capt. had have stayed till this time the would have been lifted quite off his feet if he had not moved more circumspectly.

I nearly laughed myself to death last night to hear Corp. Salpin of Co. C. He is a fellow with large eyes, large mouth, full of gab, impudence & insolence, always trying to shirk his guard duty & generally, by means of family relations or pretended good breeding & abundant brace succeeding. There is some real stuff about him & on the whole there is many worse fellows in camp than Corp. Salpin. He chanced to speak of Col. Poe while Salpin was by, & said he, 'Did you ever notice that Col. Poe is the most wretched looking man I ever saw when you get close to him. My God, there is not one spark of human feeling or sympathy about him. If you could have seen how he looked at me the other morning you never would have liked him again.' All of which & much more was told with a long face & great solemnity of manner.

He handed Salpin so well that both of us proceeded in what the trouble was. The truth of the matter was that Salpin left his guard duty at 10 P.M., went to his tent & slept till after 2 next M. He swore upon honor that he was so sick he could not stand on his feet. The Col. excused him but informed him in very decided terms that he knew all about him & that if he was ever about in that way again he would reduce him to the ranks.

Benson is on guard today for the first time in his life. Capt. Stillman is Officer of the day. Both are wonderfully alert for fear the Col. will bring them. Stillman comes out at every hour inquire
of Benson what he has done, seen & heard since last visit, whether the Col has been around etc.

The Col. has gone to town & Benson is very much afraid that he will come into camp from the back side or some other unusual way & find something amiss. He has a man posted all down the road to watch for him & give timely notice.

Our Co. as well as the whole Regt. are in remarkable good health. If you except about 6 professional invalids who will soon be discharged there is hardly a sick man in our Co. The balance have become thoroughly acclimated to camp life.

I woke up this morning with the pain feel impression that I had slept till after roll call. I scrambled on my shoes without stockings & pulled on my overcoat without stopping to button my pants & rushed out, expecting to see the Col. "clothed in thunder" because no officers were present at roll call. I was happy to find that the orderly was just calling the men in instead of dismissing them.

Skirmish drill in the forenoon. The weather cleared all day.

It costs terribly to keep house. I shall be disposed to quit it very soon. It has been so much boarders, Handy come around to dine with us at twice a day. It is such good military authority & so full of fun & jokes that we cannot demur to his presence. Benson has been on a visit boarding with us for a week. He could get fair board for $3.50 per week at a neighboring house. It has cost me thus far not less than $6.00 per week.

I have to go on fatigue duty tomorrow. There seems no end of building forts. There are already done 30 or 40 around Washington & 4 new ones have just been commenced. We have done a
Large share of the work on 4 of them besides doing near 1000 acres of chopping. Today we broke ground for a fifth one.

10th. The weather continues cold and rainy. We have no fire in our tents & have to resort to an increase of clothing to keep warm.

We had a very interesting skirmish drill today. Three Cos. went out together, drilled with the cavalry part of the time. They & the skirmishers drill together every day.

There was one of the 37th put in the guard house last night. He sent for his Capt. who came & said he, Capt. O'Connor, had come out of the guard house: "We'll not do it," said Capt. O'Connor. "So I'll -- you don't have my son of a -- --," replied the prisoner, Capt. O'Connor, left. The prisoner turned to the Corp of the guard who were standing near & said, "Corp you must excuse me, I wouldn't have talked to him in that way only he's my brother.

I have been reading the Atlantic. I shot at the mark this morning with my revolver. At 10 paces I put one ball in the size of a dollar, another within 2 inches, the other 4 varied from 4 to 7 inches. This is the first shooting I ever did with a pistol & expect to do better after a little.

I have one of Cali's best Navy Revolvers. It will shoot accurately 50 rods & at that distance throw a ball through a two inch plank. It weighs abt 4 lbs. Capt. May of whom I bought it said it was too heavy & would have thrown it away coming from Bull Run if I had not found a man to carry it for him. I know very little about swords but I think I can hold my own on shooting.

11th. He had a skirmish drill A.M. & afterwards divided 2 Cos into Platoons r-- had a battalion
drill on our own hook.

Orders came at 7 P.M. to move at 8 A.M. tomorrow. I have always liked the camp & have become so used to seeing the show, saw reflected from the white walls of the Capitol, the public buildings, the straight handsome shaft of Washington Monument, the many tawny gloomy spires of the Smithsonian, the tall black chimneys of the Navy yard & the Potomac — which at a distance is a pretty stream — that I shall miss them.

Not less familiar is the sight of some dozen sheep & of the neat farm buildings, of the local little farmers & their work, always in a hurry when out doors — to be headed, half naked, half human in looks — they'd point clearly to Virginian chief source of wealth.

Monday would invest today on making a bedstead, to suit, on driving some crotchets in the ground & laying some poles + boards therein. I reluctantly helped to do this first when I found that he was in a general cleaning-up spell. I talked flatly & went off to read in the Atlantic, Concerning People where more might have been made," by The Country Squire. That winter has already shown all others a faculty of getting hold of the secret thoughts & feelings of men. "All the unutterable sadness of the thought of what might have been!" yes of the unutterable gladness also.

Tomorrow we move again our wandering home. I would not be surprised if we saw fighting soon. How large a Cavalry & a drove of fat cattle a mile long passed us today on the advance. I always feel sad at the approach of a battle but at the same time there is an impulse. I know not what which drives me on with ever increasing eagerness as the hour approaches.

Sadness is easily concealed by light jests & reckless remarks & I have quite too much pride...
to tell anyone of its existence. It was thus when I enlisted. I hated to go yet nothing could have prevented my going at the first call. It would seem as if there were some impulsion which I am always striving against yet always staying at its first call.

12th: There was a terrible storm of wind and rain last night which nearly upset our tent. Reveille at 5 A.M. & we had breakfast before daylight. The 24 were cold & clear. All the officers except the arms of our Co. (75 men) were packed in 3 wagones & promptly at 5 A.M. we started by the river road via Alexandria for our present camp.

The neck of the road & gave thanks for each Co. as it passed of its band was ready to give us a farewell salute. The roads were pretty muddy but the air was so cool & fine the march was very pleasant.

The country is very fine. There are many interesting points both in view of the scenery & the historic associations. Our band or that of the 11th played us lively tunes all the way. The men had nothing but their guns to carry in the midst of so many new things & the jokes, storytelling & the journey were made almost before we were aware of it.

He passed through Alexandria to the time "In Dixie land I'm bound to travel." It is a quaint old looking place & some parts of it possess considerable beauty. The ladies went out in goodly numbers &aving their shofes as they always are. I know not whether it is because they are patriotic (I guess it must be) or because they are so fond of soldiers or are simply attracted by the novelty of the thing & speak fair to all alike and present. Some of them I am sure were handsome, at least I know they looked so to me. Anything that would
petitioned (4-hoops) looks pretty well to a soldier who has been in this respect for a long time posting.

The March 5th & 7th, 40, 37th came down from Winter Hill & have joined us here. I am sorry the Mass 41st could not have remained with us. The agreed remarkably well. The Mass 1st did not like us. They would never tell why but I suppose they were mad at Gen. R. abt something. I don't believe there was ever a poor Regt went out of Mass.

13th. Clear bright, Cold Sunday. I am on guard. Time to another Lt., on notice & we do not have a very serious time. The 37th held mass this M. Every man in the Regt not on duty was out. All knelt down in a huddle back headed for more than an hour.

14th. There was a sharp frost last night & men on guard slept very little. I was up till 2 A.M. & had a fine time for star-gazing. We came off guard at 8 1/2 & went on Battalion drill at 9. It was one of Major Williams' characteristic drills. We marched 1/2 a mile & a half on to the top of a high hill where we were through all manner of movements, many of which no one ever heard of before.

It was well worth the journey however to have so fine a view of the country. He could see Alexandria, Washington, some 10 miles of the river, Mummery Hill and the camps of 45 Regt., some of which were more than 10 miles off. Washington is abt 9 miles, Alexandria abt 3. We are near the river between Alex & Mt. Vernon.

Brewer is on picket for 2 days & I am acting Capt. I would like eight well to go to bed but must stay up till 9 to report the Co. I had my first experience in command of a company on
15th A very pleasant quiet day. Benson returned from picket about 7 a.m. He was highly delighted with the place. It is near Mt. Vernon. I am going on picket somewhere tomorrow. All the regiment except the pickets have to march at daylight for an unknown place 8 miles from here. Did Prentice say to Benson just now, "Come Benson, direct an envelope for me to my sister." 'Well, where is it?' 'I don't know,' says Prentice, 'I haven't got any.' It struck me that it was an ingenious way of asking for it. He has not a suitable supply of rations for tomorrow (that is for self). We are just as d--d careless," as Sergt Stevenson said abt his brother-in-law when he s--t his breeches.

16th Capt Handy, Benson & I went late last night to the sutler of the 37th & procured a large stock of provisions for today. At half past three this M. reveille was sounded. He of course all sprung out & got at getting ready. The roll had just been called & the cooking of breakfast commenced when the order to march was countermanded. This reminded me to picket duty again. We were to have gone out into the country 8 miles to carry off some hay. We marched at 7 for picket duty, 8 miles in a southwest direction.
Mr. Vernon can be seen in the distance.

Our Capti. (Dillard's) headquarters are at the house of Colo. Mason of the rebel army. The Colo. young wife, slaves, & property in general are in the hands of the Yankees. The lady does not seem in any very great tribulation; I have no doubt she receives many kind attentions & is well cared for. The Colo has a very pretty place. Like most houses in this country, the Colo. is at 1/2 mile from the road. It is a very old estate, some gravestones on the yard itself, date 1777. There is none of that new, fresh, brisk business look which we see at home. There is an old look at everything which is almost allied to decay. I presume it is so to some extent in old settled countries. There beautiful springs of water, natural grove, distant scenery can hardly be found. The house would be called shabby in the North. It is so on the outside but is well furnished within.

There is the usual amount of little early wood lade, all of a size as usual. This must have been a wonderfully prolific season some 10 years since. The crops are to be good or at least the corn. The timber of oaks, beech, 

Here is no enemy near here. He are posted to cut off communication, to give timely notice of any advance. It is pretty still business. One old lady with her colored servant were the only persons seen during the day.

There is an interest at these hills & fields which were once trod by the Father of his Country which is felt in no other place. His footsteps have sanctified the ground on which he trod. There is not a half hour in the day that I do not here his presence associated with the surrounding.
scenery. I hope to visit Mt Vernon, but it is very
doubtful whether I can. It would do us all good
to spend an hour at the grave of Washington in
tribute to the fate of our country.

17th. The night was very quiet. There was heavy firing down the river at times for two days. Then came several very heavy guns at midnight. I slept under a large chestnut log which hung on the stump. I filled up on the back side with pine boughs
in front also except a hole large enough to crawl in. I never had a finer sleep.

A man from Co. K told me that he would see me if I ever went on guard when I told him to. I had him on the road to the guard house
before the words were fairly out of his mouth. I
don't stand any such talk as that. He set out for
down at 9P.M. I beat the men shouting at 15 rods
they using muskets and minnie rifles & my revolver.

When we arrived at camp, I found the tent admirably arranged by Benson & a good allowance of oysters ready for dinner. Oysters are plenty here @50 ct.
per bucket in the shell @40 ct per pt.

18th. There was a heavy shower last night. I go
on fatigue today.

19th. About 2 P.M. yesterday while on fatigue an
ordnance for Co. I & K returned to camp for an
expedition, half an hour later for three other Co's, soon
after for all of us. This was hailed with joy —
anything to get rid of work. Soldiers would rather
march all day than shovel an hour.

He was soon ready in light order with ration
for one day. He marched off briskly at 4 P.M.
down the river on the Richmond road. The day
was clear & bright but exceedingly hot & muggy.
We marched with few halts till 5 1/2 P.M. The snow was nearly full and a pleasanter time could not have been asked but for the road which was very muddy in places. The Mich. 3d was in our rear & between us & them was a 6 pdr. rifled cannon & a 12 pdr. howitzer.

He had gone 10 miles when we halted. He could then see fire off to our right which we supposed to be those of the enemy's pickets. They came in from the scouts that there was a considerable body of the rebel cavalry in our rear & also that there was a large camp in front. The fence on both sides of the road were immediately torn down, the artillery moved out into the open field & everything made ready for action. After an hour having seen and done all we came for we faced 44 & started for home.

Whether there was any camp in front near by I do not know but it is certain that there scouts were in our rear in considerable numbers. We reached camp at 1 A.M. very muddy & pretty tired by our march of 20 miles. Benton went to the city yesterday & did not return in time to go with us.

I had a good deal of trouble coming back to keep the men in their places. Some were determined to go ahead & others determined in unable to keep up. There were but 2 sergeants along & they were so tired that they did nothing. I succeeded in keeping them from going ahead of the Co. but could not prevent some of them from falling behind. Eight fell out & slept by the roadside & some have not yet returned. I have reported them to the Col. I feel none the worse for my journey this morning.

It rains quite hard. There is heavy cannonading down the river while I am writing. It
is quite possible that we may be needed in that direction soon.

20th. Sund. The men came out to inspection looking finely this M. Col Poe & Genl. Richardson both said that there was only one Co. in the Bpt. which looked as well as their & none which looked better. I inspected the guns of the whole rear rank without soiling white gloves. Genl. called Capt. Handy aside after we got through and says "Adjutant, what are the names of those new Rebs of Co. I?" The rest I did not hear. Benson & I were not a little gratified at the result & the men were equally well pleased. They begin to have a soldierly pride about their appearance & the condition of their arms. If the Capt. will only stay away we shall soon have them well trained.

Benson & I took dinner & supper with Lt. Eldud of Co. K. He had stuff ready for dinner & field one for supper after which we told so many stories that I laughed myself nearly to death. On the whole we did not pass an unpleasant day. I was well pleased also that we could have a social day without anyone getting drunk or even drinking anything.

I feel the want every day of a military education. That a fortunate thing it is for me that Col. Poe came into this regiment. I am learning rapidly under him. I shall get knowledge enough if he remains for sometime all that I can obtain a commission in the regular army if I desire. I would not like to leave the Mich. But so long as that remains in the field.

A man can fight better if he has nothing else to live for. Let fighting become a sort of necessity of his existence. One who has hopes beyond the war, labor to perform & dear friends to greet will
sometimes he struck with the thought—"how much
I should hate to die today! how great a loss it
would be to me & to others!" This will be forgotten
in an instant when the rush comes but when one
has only to stand still and wait the thought is
sometimes almost sickening. Therefore it is that the
genuine soldier should have no thought or hope
beyond success on the battlefield.

There is one view in which the thought of home,
friends & the attractions of life are a stimulus, It
is then one can conceive that all there are depend-
ent on the success of the battle. There is much of
that feeling in the present war. But after all I
think that in most cases pride sustains men at
the beginning of the contest which is soon followed
by excitement & rage which so completely occupy
the mind that there is no chance for anything else.

21st. A cold, windy day, preparing for a long rain
I think. We are well prepared for it. The camp has
been well cleaned & ditched today. We have a good
stock of provisions on hand & if we are not sidelined
out on duty can pass a storm very satisfactorily.
I have to act on court martial tomorrow.

22nd. This has been a cold rainy day. I had to
take out a party of 25 men to chop wood for
cooking. I was out only about an hour. I went
out after dinner to fire my pistol & slid down a
long hill on my side with my feet trousers on.
As if that were not bad enough the paste I
got out after dark I ran into a hole full of
dirty water up to my knees. I must have
some boots. These shoes are very fine things
in fair weathers but when the rain is more than
3 inches deep they are of no account.

Benson & I have been examining acres. The
find that it has cost us $27 to live 2 ½ days besides paying $9.50 per month to a servant. He concludes that this will not do. He have accordingly made an agreement with the servant to furnish the table for $6 per week. This improves matters a little but Benson feels very economical tonight & assures us that the servant must be paid less or nothing. He is now the Co. & is now getting pay & clothes as a soldier besides his board — $5 per month from us. I agree that he must work for less or quit.

Benson, declares tomorrow that he will spend no more than $2.50 per month. If he gets along with less than $7.50, he will do better than I expect. I do not believe I can do with less than $50 per month which will leave a balance of $55.50. He shall know better after awhile about all these things.

Major Underwood was in but a short time since; very drunk & very sentimental. He lamented that a man of his ability should be the slave of drink. He is certain to go back into the ranks within 6 months if he does not stop drinking.

Col. Poe is a very polite obliging man; it anyone who mind his business and keep him place but there who do not think him worse than the general adversary of mankind. He never has lectured me but once and then only in a mild form. It is providential however for the most part or worst at first. I happened to find out early that there was a storm coming here since left my eyes open when he is around. Now the time Ben, Richardson took me by the arm at Contingent Blair I have been wonderfully circumspect in his presence.

The court martial intended for today was deferred till tomorrow.

23rd: An court martial ad judge advocate
Fired two cases, sent one chap 20 days hard labor & a fine of $18 for swearing at a Corp. Another for 10 d. hard labor for not standing at attention on drill parade. I have been trying to make up the record tonight but the wind blows the light out every 10 minutes. It is deuced cold.

24th Court martial again but as it saved me from going on picket I am satisfied. He got the man from Co. K whom I arrested the other day 20 days confinement at hard labor. If Co. Pot had been on the Court he would not have escaped like 50 pay & three months.

The men have bier after to drill every day with all their things on ice in heavy marching order. This looks like moving. I think we shall leave here soon.

There is a grand review tomorrow of 20 Regts. The 4th & 2nd takes the point of honor; the right of the line. Gen. R. take good care to look well after us.

This is a damnable Report in Circulation tonight that Gen. McClellan is taken prisoner. If that is true — well — I have no words to express my shame, sorrow & indignation. He has often been too careless. I cannot believe any such thing. I supposed my cup of disaster must be full by this time. God knows it has been bitter enough without this. Even the thought of the thing paralyzes me. I'll say I do no more till that horrible falsehood is contradicted.

25th The morning was fair. I laughed at myself, forever being troubled at the report of the night. McClellan however is at the time running all over God's creation with only one
or two men with him and such a thing is not impossible.

The grand review came off today. We went down to Washington Valley, in sight of Mount Vernon, where there is a succession of open fields about 2½ miles broad. Here we formed the line, thirteen regts, 2 batteries & 3 squadrons of cavalry, Lew. Richardson acting as Major genl. marched in review & then marched home again.

It was as usual a very fine sight for looking on & a great bore to the actor. We were pretty well covered with mud, dust & dust when we came back. We had no water to drink for near 6 hours. If there had been any chance I should have been tempted to play the game Sid Prentice did one hot day while we were marching through Georgetown. He wanted something to drink, and he had no means to procure it. Finally he threw himself down on the side of the road pretending to be sun struck and laid there till they poured out a pint of whiskey down him when he slowly recovered & went on.

Lew. Richardson is to be Major General some day if the bullets let him alone. Relating this fact makes me think of one Sid related one night when we were on guard. It happened some time ago when Sid was thought by most people to be a fine, promising young man. Two or three very aristocratic young ladies came from New York to Kalamazoo. Sid was out with them & some others riding on horseback. One of them proposed that they should run a race, which was speedily done. After some conversation, one of the N.Y. ladies turned to Sid and said, "Mr. Prentice did you ever do any leaping?" "Yes, I done a great deal of that," says Sid. "How many bars did you ever leap?" "Oh — bars — I never counted them," says.
It relates that she never recognized him afterwards.

20th. I am in command of the Co. today & shall be tomorrow. Benson is on picket. The court have a pretty good thing. Capt. Whipple, Hendy & Self in the court martial. He are excused from all other duty till the court is dissolved, or we adjourn for at least three at a time. The sent up the report to Col. for approval the 21st. It suited him so well that he said he should not dissolve the court at present. He meant to meet every morning & adjourn till the next. Good by guard, fatigue & picket till Col. dissolved the court.

I have today made out charges agst two Lieut. a Capt. & a private of our Co. which will be preferred on Thursday. Half this Regt. will go to state prison in 6 months after they are let loose.

C. P. has always kept a body guard from this Regt till about a week ago, he came to Col. P. saying, Col., I guess you'll have to take the body guard back. I'm afraid they'll tear my house down if I keep them any longer. They have such a passion for brandy to make floors in their tents, for bricks to make oven for straw to sleep on, for something to cook in their ovens when built, in fact a passion for everything which is movable.

I must say in their behalf that I have never known much wanton destruction of property by them. That they are unable to carry off they generally leave in as good condition as they find it. They will however carry off a good sized horse, barn, stack of hay, any thing of the kind in an hour if it is near camp & no one happens to see them.
27th. Inspection as usual. Gov. Blair present. Col. said that the Co. was in fine condition, had improved much within a few weeks. We left G. & Gen. R. have gone to Mt. Vernon. The day is very fine.

At 1 P.M. 200 men from the 2nd & 200 from the 5th had permission to go to Alexandria to church, to a church built by Gen. Washington it is said. They point out the pulpit in which he used to sit. It is a large square pew different from the others & situated near the center of the building. The church is brick & looks old on the outside. The inside I think must have been repaired for many parts of it are certainly of modern date. It had a very good sermon by an Ignatius old enough to have been an acquaintance of the builder of the church.

There is a small graveyard around the church, all the stones which I saw bearing date previous to 1800. One was dated 1772. They are nearly all of a coarse gray color except where dressed by stone.

For some reason I did not feel quite as solemn & contemplative as it seem to me the occasion required. I believe I should have felt different if I had left my sword at home. Some how I could not get the idea out of my head that I was on duty. The church is not generally open. Each Unit quartered near by is showered given an opportunity of attending service three times.

I believe that I saw more than 2000 negroes at one time when we were returning. They made it so dark we could hardly see the road.

Some of the streets were well paved & there was an abundance of grass growing between the stones. There are some wicked secessionists there. I did want to attack some men whom I saw. There was a strong look of hatred & contempt at some of them that I could hardly pass them peaceably.
There were present three Brigadier Gen. & several quite distinguished officers of the navy. I had the satisfaction of seeing Mr. Richardson occupy the right of Gen. Washington's old pew. As far as fighting is concerned he may be as good a man as its former occupant but in point of morale — not by any means do I wish it to be understood that Gen. R. is not a good moral man as the times are nowadays.

28th. Cheering news from No. 4. vectors. The North is alive yet. He shall advance on them soon from here I think. We are fully able to do it if other parts of the army are in as good condition as this. The men are fairly settled down to soldiering and take things as a matter of course without grumbling as they used to. They are learning the art of soldiering so that they feel much better & make themselves more comfortable with the same weapon. They are full of mischief, still they obey orders as a rule remarkably well & are civil & respectful to their officers. The poor corporals however fare hard. There is but one in our Co. (Johnston) who has any control over his squad when they are in the tent. I am going to have some of them reduced to the rank if they do not attend to business better.

Sid Prinice swears that he dare not stir his tent after abt 8 in the evening. It is however seldom there at that time. He says that after they all get in at night they pass at least one man in review as they term it. This performance consists as near as I can learn in stripping a man & passing him two or three times around the tent all ends uppermost & in very gentle manner. The tents are pretty large, designed for 20 men & it is no small affair to be passed.
in review." They always seek first to get a man from another Regt or Co. or tent at least, but take one of their own if they cannot do better. They usually lie in wait near the edge of the tent and grab some unlucky officer by the leg & pull him in. Sid has a terror of this "passing in review."

29th. Today court martial was in session. We had up 2 sergeants, a Corporal & a private from Co. I for being absent without leave. The private got off by means of one of Brunson's peculiar speeches. I have scared the others badly & shall punish them a little.

Col. Conner says that Capt. May let the Co. run wild so long that they were pretty much disorganized. This is true. After we left District there was no review or organization. We took the Sergeant & showed him how to get the men to roll call in them & they would have to go into every tent at that. They would then stand in all manner of shapes & places in not less than 5 rows of ranks. It would be a hard case to get them still enough to call the roll. There was never an "Order, Officer present or not more than ½ the privates. If they are not out and in ranks now & without being called upon, either within 30 minutes after the drum, stop, beating they are put on extra guard or sent on some extra labor. They have to stand at attention in ranks well dressed & preserve the most perfect silence.

30th. Brigade drill today. Major Williams spoiled everything. Col. Pick won gone. The Major read so many books all at the same time that he really knew hardly anything for certain. Gen. R. was after him today. "Now Major, it ill be too bad. I am you sir, if you ever do such a thing again see how you court martial." He said the Lord when Major bawled one of his movements, Moore could not stop him. Sid him that he meant all he said. He looked blank.
than a thunder cloud & savage enough to eat the
major up at about one mouthful.

Gen. P. cannot give up the idea that he could
have carried Manassas on the 15th of July. I heard
him say yesterday that with the loss of 300 men
he could have cleared the place and been in Richmond
two months ago. I am sometimes strongly inclined
to believe it. They were terribly frightened on that
day and I have little doubt that a spirited attack
from our brigade, together with the supposition
that it was supported by a large force near at hand
would have driven them headlong & ended the war
by this time. The golden opportunity was lost
hence Bull Run, Springfield, Keating & God knows
how many valuable lives and certainly not less
than 500,000 are lost.

31st Inspection & muster. We were out nearly
all day and without dinner. We have a fire-place in our tent which keeps us very comfort-
able. He dug a hole in the ground and ran out an
underground chimney. Gen. P. has been instruct-
ing us. He lived for 16 years in tents all the time.

I was talking tonight with one of Walker's
 filibusters. He was with him all 5 months till got
a chance to desert. He got on board a steamer and
was trying to work his way home as a cook hand.
The passengers took pity on him & paid his passage.
as he would never have seen the Grid 24. He had 400
in Nicaraguan scrip but could not get a penny
for it. He came off in good health which he attributed
to eating no meat & drinking no liquor. Col. Font-
gow & Billy Wilson were there at the same time.

Genow & Billy Mack have been trying to make
the pay rolls. After making them over twice they
are all half right.

Col. Doe has promised to shoot the first man he
see stealing from the inhabitants, I have little doubt that he will do it. The men believe it. He is the best looking man in the service at a short distance off. He does not look as well near by. He looks racey and rather green when you are near him. He has a very piercing almost wicked looking eye. He is 26 years of age. He dresses in full rich uniform, he was out today with a 40 hat & 75 spandarees. He & Bow.R both have very pretty young slaves who come out to dress parade in fair weather. It is very gratifying to look at them now at a distance.

I was weighed tonight & balanced 142 lbs. being 6 lbs more than I ever weighed before.

Nov. 1st, 1863. I went to Mr. Lemon: I am not going to try to tell how I felt or what I thought. I spent all the time there. I went through the house, saw the rooms, the fireplaces, the pictures, musical instruments, much of the furniture, and many of the ornaments in the same place where Washington left them. There was his compass which he used in surveying & the geod. of the Bastile given him by Lafayette who had he knew no other person who could so safely be trusted with an instrument which had to long aided the hand of oppression.

I went through the garden, looked at the plants & trees planted & cared for by the hand of Washington. There was a Century plant which had been growing for 60 yrs and had yet 60 yrs to pass ere its first and only blossom. There were oranges, lemons, pomegranates & ripe figs hanging on the trees & also a fine variety of tropical plants & flowers. There was a summer house from which you have a fair view of the river for 7 miles above & 7 miles below. The river is very beautiful at this place. It is a mile & a quarter wide, free from weeds & with high
handsomely wooded banks.

The new vault in which the remains of Washington & his wife rest is not 10 rods from the river. They are contained in a large stone coffin which is placed on a large arched front of which is only a high iron railing. The vault is girded over with vines. The trees around are still in the state of nature.

Near the vault are the graves of a few of the family and what is very remarkable but in strict keeping with the character of Washington the inscriptions on the tomb stones wore temperate & sensible.

I remained here an hour, picked up 3 or 4 leaves which had fallen from the trees overhanging the grave & went again my way.

No American can stand by the grave of Washington at any time but with a bated breath & a soul filled with emotion. Even as I gazed on the last abode of the greatest of men on the holiest spot on American soil, the sacred silence of the place was broken by the sound of the enemy's cannon.

This is no time for words. He have an enemy before me which respects nothing that is good, venerates nothing that is holy. He tars at nothing which is demoralised. Till that enemy is humbled or annihilated American youth should know no pursuit but arms, American age & American woman no aim but to support and cheer them. Are they hopeless of an honorable future, new home & friends near, hath beauty its charms, all these are the reward of victory. The loss of time is an inadequate punishment for any defeat short of death. He need more energy & tenacity. With a little more dogged determination never to give up even if beaten, we might have kept the field for an hour longer at Manassas & the day would have been ours & rebellion would have been
crushed. In that hour the reserve of half a
dozon fresh regts could have gone to the aid of
the gallant but exhausted right wing. It could
have fallen on their center with 4 fresh regts while Davis
could have reached their right which they in little doubt
might have been carried if the enemy had been vigor-
ously pushed elsewhere so that they could spare
no men to reinforce it. Even if this had not been
done we could have stopped at Centreville in a posi-
tion so strong that the enemy would not have dared to
attack us. It could have renewed the conflict sept
day with 25,000 fresh men. It is time that soldiers
realize that their best means of safety is in the vigor
of their attack the obstinacy of their defence. Of course
I do not mean by this a bull-headed obstinacy which
leads men to risk all everything they see regard-
less of consequences.

Nov, 2nd. It commenced raining last night at
dark 8 by twelve midnight it blew terribly, the tent
making so much noise that it was impossible to
sleep. Our tent is next to the heaviest ship deck.
It did not blow over or leak. The rain striking
against it sounded like shot falling on a floor. The
fog would stop down agt the main part every few
seconds with a noise as loud as a gun but not so
sharp. The rain and wind continued steadily till
dark today. The rain still continues but the wind
has abated.

The tents are nearly all old. Some of them have
blown down entirely & many others have split
into ribbons. Not more than half of them are
inhabitable. The men have scattered in all
directions where shelter can be found. The wind
is from the East & the water is driven into the bay
below so that it has raised it here more than 3
feet in the river. It is over the top of the bridges
across the creek to Alexandria. A boy & horse were drowned in attempting to cross one of them this afternoon.

I have fear for the great naval expedition. The less of that at this time would be a terrible blow. It was almost impossible to stand on the open bluffs near the river. The wind took one of the Chaplain's tents fairly out of the rope & carried it more than 30 rods. Although one did not break the water blew under it & through the sides in one place or another till it was pretty wet. It was impossible to have a fire. The wind would blow even the wood out of the fireplace.

I saw at noon yesterday that there was going to be a storm. The air was not quite so clear but seemed to thicken gradually. At 4 P.M. there were no clouds in sight but the whole sky was of a dark dirty color at half way between yellow & brown. At sundown it had thickened up so that it grew dark almost immediately & it began to rain soon after but did not blow much till some 4 hours later. The weather is warm, such storms are common here at this time of year.

They are made upon the Atlantic.

Harry Hopkins of our Co. died last night before last & I went off to Mt. Vernon without knowing it. He had not done a month of duty since he enlisted. It was the greatest injustice to him & to the country to allow such a man to enlist. I knew the moment I saw how that he would give out. It might perhaps have held out for 5 or 6 years at home but it is a matter of surprise to me that he has lived so long here. He had no constitution or strength. I think he had will & courage enough to have made a good soldier.

Nov. 31 A fair day. The men had their things
out early to dry in the sun & by five o'clock their tent was dry. The damages of yesterday were urgent letters of yesterday brought Senator Chandler over here early this morning. Rev. P. looked him around & exhibited to him the ragged tent & the old muskets which are our only arms, & poured out some very urgent & emphatic complaints. Rev. P. always very attentive to his pet & this more than usually so at present.

At Brigade Drill the other day owing to a misunderstanding the Regt. did not come in to line up exactly where it ought. Rev. P. was impatient & ordered me to go fast & march back where we started from. We did so when we got there he wheeled & turned me into such a shape that we hardly knew which way to go or what to do next. 'Now see, if you can get on to the line as you ought to,' said he & rode off. Left us, got on to the line after a while but not till all the other units were on theirs & laughing at us disgrace for the day.

He blamed Major Williams who was highly indignant & Lt. Col. Knerr alike. He made bitter complaints of all sorts but the Rev. P. did not seem troubled in the least. Till finally Col. L., who being a lawyer is pretty full of expediency told the Rev. P. how much he had thought of him & how they would willingly follow him to death 1c. 2c. with all how gladly they felt that he should disgrace them in that way before the other Regts. There was a great deal of truth as well as some fiction in all this. 'Well! well! I don't know but we were a little too fast Col. I'm sorry, I did that.' The General said. I said some next getting a little watery over the matter. He at once declared that the 2nd must have new guns & new tents as soon as they could be had. Next night he sent down two gallons of whiskey to each Co. to keep them from taking
cold & went himself to look up barns for those to sleep in whose tents were blown down.

4th. Was a very quiet day with little of interest.

2d & 3d. After breakfast I went out with Lieut. Eldred & another officer so how I do not know - shot at the mark with pistols. I beat them badly - put 5 shots inside their best. Gave the center once at 20 paces. Taking all the shots together however my shooting was nothing extra, I never tell today fired a shot with it which would have missed a man at 20 paces. One shot today might have missed at that distance.

The Court Martial has finished its business & will be dissolved tomorrow. Sergt. White received $75 of the pay for going to Mt. Vernon, Sergt. Mason $5, for the same offence, Corp. Mack $2 for staying away longer than his pass allowed. Col. Poe was determined at first that they should all be reduced to the rank of but finally at our urgent request consented to spare them this time.

The news came tonight that Fort Sumpter was retaken & that Genl. Beauregard had defeated the rebels at Sumpter Bridge. There was one prolonged cheer went up from three miles below Alexandria to the cherry bridge. Hail Columbia, Star Spangled Banner & Yankee Doodle could have been heard from 50 Degrees at least. I hope it may be true as to Charleston. I have however been soldiers long enough already to be careful about believing first reports. I hope if they have taken it that they will not leave one stone upon another. There is no place that needs purification so much as the mother of nullification, secession & treason.
6th. Brigade drill went off well. Col. Poe said he was entirely satisfied and that there was not a Regt in the army that could beat us. We were entirely satisfied. 7th. Court martial which came near being dissolved was reanimated and continued sessions this AM. Sent one man $6.50 and 30 days hard labor for telling a Sergt to kick his --- &c and other disrespectful language. I was detailed for office of the guard tomorrow but a new case came for the court martial & I go clear of guard for another day. A sentinel of the 63rd Penn. Regt shot two of his own Co's last night at one shot. They had few insiders where trying to sweep sin unobserved.

The Col. got after me a little today. They divided the Regt in 2 Cos because it was so small. They brought me down among some --- I intided Co. E. I happened to turn my eye off them for a moment & one of them was paying in all directions. Col. Poe noticed by me suspicion along the base. His quick eye instantly perceived the pudding head starting around. He tapped me on shoulder & asked "if I was to meet myself I could not keep that man's head to the front?" I touched my cap with great deference & replied "Yes Sir." That man did not catch it much after that.

8th. Court martial again today. I went to Alexandria after dinner. I walked around the city a little. I saw the building in which Washington was made a Mason. I saw also the steam frigate Pensacola (24guns) all new & bright just from the yard. She is gay. The city is dirty & shamefully dirty.
qth just now I heard some man down at the tent repeating some of Capt Morse's extranous expressions at full loud. One can judge how ludicrous they must have been to be remarked so long by soldiers. I saw him now with both arms stretched out the pistol on one & his sword in the other screaming I will be obeyed, now or never. "I'll blow you through if you do not mind" & the men all gaping at him mistunled with amazement. Sid Prentiss enone that the Capt's actions scared him worse than all the 'leech' he saw. He thought as he says "he must be out for me." Some one said the Capt would not make such a face. The only trouble was the Capt did not know what order to give & when he gave one he would word it so incorrectly that they did not know what he meant. There never was any men more willing to stay order if they could have heard any to obey. If they had been no other as there I believe the Capt would have scared out out of their souls.

It is a cold rainy night but the wood does not blow & the tent is warm & comfortable. Benson is on guard & has to stay out done all night. I am sorry for the boy. Law doe some soldiers some good for by means of what little I know I have escaped all these rainy nights for some three weeks. I have everything as comfortable as one could wish. I have a new book on field fortifications, the Atlantic & one of Scotti novels for reading matter & have just partaken of a good supper of oyster & crackers that being about as cheap living as the country affords. Soldiering under these circumstances is nice, very nice. Besides, Then a man is out all day in the rain & lies down on the ground at night without a dry thread on him & only one blanket to cover him,
it is different in some respects. Still one feels glad enough when the sun comes out warm next day to make it all up.

I do not often lose my temper, but yesterday morning I went out to look for an orderly for the Court Martial, and a meddlesome impudent chap from Co. K came after me and kept crowding up against me and talking all the time some nonsense. I had had enough of his foolery on other occasions, I told him twice that I wished he would keep away but he paid no attention. Finding that he paid no heed to what I said, I turned suddenly round and gave him a slap on the side of the head which brought him down on to his hands and knees. He has not troubled me since.

10th. Blank

11th. I amused myself a little at Benson's expense tonight. 1st Lieut of Co. E. had just been removed from the service of the United States because he could not pass examination. This terrified Benson a little. In the evening I asked him a series of questions on tactics, many of which never had any answers and therefore could not very well be answered. He did not know this was greatly concerned at his inability to answer. He would scratch his head, strike the table with his fist and swear often that he would study out these moves if it killed him. Occasionally I would tell him an answer which was usually as pertinent as the question.

Benson is a man of considerable resolution & self-reliance yet a moderate influence pulling in the same direction but never hard enough to attract his attention will draw him almost anywhere.
at first thought that I would let him go on his own way & break at the examination, as he would be pretty sure to do, but on further consideration I believe it will be better to have him pass pretty well & get the Capt's place which will soon be vacant. I should then probably be 1st Lieut; if he were to break, perhaps I should be no more than 1st Lieut with a more captain. It is not impossible that I might pass over him to the Capt's place now, but I do not care to try, at least not at present.

12th. I kept up the catechism of Benson last night till after ten, later than I usually sit up, and now well paid for it.

At 12 1/2 A.M. when I was just in the sweat of slumber I dreamed the bugle at the Gen's headquarter began to sound the assembly & immediately every bugle & drum in the division were in full. I was out of bed in quick time. Major Williams put then came around & ordered us all to be ready to march at 3 A.M. to attack the enemy at Bethel Church. By which he evidently must have meant that we would attack them if we could find them which proved no easy matter.

Promptly at 3 A.M. we were formed in line & ready for march six right order with one day's rations, The 9th 2d or Gen. Richardson's "Pot Lambe" as some of the boys call us were as usual in front. It was a fine cool starlight men, roads somewhat muddy but not very bad travelling. All things considered it was a very fine time to march & by daylight we had reached as far as Pickets, 6d were but alt six miles. About ten miles out we forded the Accotank Creek 5 times where it rose alt knee deep & must & I cold.

at 8 1/2 A.M. we reached the church 12 mile out. The enemy had just been there but were all out of
sight then. There were 8 Regts of infantry with 18 cannon. The line was immediately formed & scouts & skirmishers sent out in all directions. He could see the enemy dodging around on some hills off about a mile & a half but did not dare to go for them till there was time to look into the woods & hollows round about. The skirmishers went out with a will in all directions but could get sight of nothing save an occasional man all of whom except one had so far that they could neither catch nor shoot them. One young Delaware got lost among the hills, saw the wrong way, and in consequence came back to camp with all. There were some scattering shots fired at our men but no one was hurt. The cavalry saw a band of a party who fired on them from the woods & killed three & wounded one. Two or three others, it is supposed, were taken prisoners.

We stayed at the church till after 3 P.M., when we set out for home where we arrived a little after 8 P.M. We marched 25 miles in all. Some of the Regt marched as high as 32 miles each man carrying about 4 lbs. ammunition, a day's rations, a blanket & canteen.

Pollock church is a brick building built in 1773. Genl. Washington contributed to build it & was a frequent attendant. It has a very ancient look & one would suppose that it might be sacred enough to be secure. I have long known that the Mich. Dr. had no fear or reverence as a general thing for God or the places where he is worshipped but I hoped that the memory of Genl. Washington might protect almost anything with which it was associated. I believe our soldiers would have torn the church down in 2 days. They were all over it in less than 10 minutes, tearing off the ornaments, splitting the woodwork of the place, knocking the bricks to pieces & everything else they could get at. They wanted
pieces to carry away.
I do not believe there is a civilized nation on
the earth which has so little appreciation of the
beautiful & sacred as we have. In the madness
of the French revolution mobs not one in a hundred
of whom could read or write, not a man of them
was known to injure a work of art or violate a
place sacred by association.
A more absolute set of vandals, man or men, can
not be found on the face of the earth. As true as
I am living, I believe they would steal Washington's
coffin if they could get to it. What else can you
expect of men who'll steal even from an enemy-
family picture, daguerreotypes, family Bible, rings
and such like articles,
He heard the cannonading of what is said to
have been a great battle at Falls Church. It was
steady & rapid for near ten hours.

13th. I feel none the worse for my journey yester-
day. The firing at Falls Church is very heavy
this morning. The reports of musketry can
be distinctly heard at the distance of 2 miles. Our
men are all in a fever to move for the scene of
action. I presume they dare not take us away
from here. 7 P.M. The great battle proves to be only
men shooting at a mark.

14th. Court martial today. Two men were
convicted of disobedience of orders & sentenced.
Major Underwood was drunk last night.  He was
in our tent after 'taps' telling me a great story about
Gregg wearing his pants out the night before & losing
his suspenders; saying if we suspected that he
would sleep with such a man any longer, etc.
He went out as he said to find a place to sleep.
Not being very clear on points of compact, he saw
about of the sentinel in front of the quartermaster's tent it was immediately called "corporal, take the guard, post No. 4." In about 2 minutes we heard the Captain coming with his guard. Majors saw them running, but in passing the tent his foot caught in the rope & he went down amongst them becoming so tangled up that he could not get out. Finding who it was he took him to his tent and advised him to stay there.

15th. (Blanks)

16th. I went to Alexandria, bought a pair of long legged boots, looked around awhile & then came back. The wind is very high. It is almost impossible to keep a tent warm or indeed to keep it standing.

Court martial is dissolved. We have tried three cases, convicting ten. I am on guard tomorrow. There is some prospect of going South on the fleet. I put my name down tonight to go. It is excessively cold. I would like to look for warmer weather.

17th. I missed guard today but go on tomorrow.

Gen. R. is using every man he can to get with the fleet. Col. Poe has leave of absence for 3 weeks to try to arrange something else. Gen. R. says he don't know what to do with the 2nd while he is gone. Unless he takes command of it himself, that d---d Major Williams will spoil it before Col. Poe gets back. The 2nd knows too much for him.

It is indeed wonderful how quick the 9th hands began to take liberties with the Major. Yet how have command for a month I don't believe he could march them along a straight road. When he is trying to drill these they will begin in ten minutes to sprawl around, left over to one side, talk & laugh & dance the d---l generally & it is almost impossible
for the Co. officers to keep them in their place. In the midst of all this let them hear Col. Poe's voice - they will jump as if they were shot.

19th. I have at 8 P.M. just got quiet. I went on guard yesterday at 8 A.M., & I have been on the jump ever since. The guards have to be trained on the regulations that keep one man busy all the time. They have not been as strict herefore, it seems impossible almost to beat anything into some of the blackheads. Some of the guards & Cooprs are not better than wooden men. I had one first rate new Dutch Coop'r but he talked so funny that the man had to laugh all the time. "Upport Arm" was the word for support arms:

It was too cold at night to think of sleeping, & I traveled around most of the time. I had one prisoner who pretended to be sick & I allowed him a little liberty. In fact allowed my good nature to make a fool of me. I was told by the officer of the old guard that he was sick the covered a papal which he had forged himself from the surgeon as it purported saying that he was too sick to be closely confined.

As I said, I gave him a little liberty & the consequence was that he gave me the slip & I have spent nearly all day trying without success to recover him. If I will chain the next prisoner I have to a tree I think & see if I can keep the d---d rascal in that way.

There are few things worse than that I shall he arrested if I do not catch him & it is very probable that I shall be in any case. Major Williams the dear good soul tried to tell me how to get out of it when he ought to have sent me to my quarters under arrest. If Col. Poe heard about it I should have carried my sword to him & told him I came
to be put under arrest. My request would have been granted much quicker than made. I was to blame, there is no doubt of it.

The idea of meeting Col. Poe bothered me exceedingly for awhile but I can do it now with a smooth face & touch my cap after it with no much difference as if he had called me up to compliment my good behavior. It may however be a little different inside.

Major Underwood were released from arrest tonight. I do not like to try it very well. Lieut. West & old lady love is just married & he swears that he will either go into a battle or get drunk within 3 days.

20th Just as the sun peeped over the Maryland Hills this M. we started out to go to Bailey's Cross Roads to the grand review. We all went & have returned. We traveled 15 miles and were on one foot 13 hours. I suppose they were about 30,000 troops on the ground & the sight to those who had a fair chance to see it must have been a very fine one. There is an improved plain at 2 miles long by one broad. All the fences & buildings have been burned off by the soldiers. The field is nearly level & was covered all over with cavalry, artillery & infantry. Major Williams says that there were 50,000 men. I could not see them to very good advantage.

There were a large number of spectators present - President Lincoln & a host of other great men. I never saw them. The Colonel look as well as he did today. The men think they have the prettiest leader in the universe. He was on his nearly imported horse & were dressed in the full uniform of his rank.

The country around there looks rather different from what it did when we used to lie there in the dirt on picket. He have now a fine Fort on McLean's Hill. I am too sleepy & tried to write any more tonight.
The grand review must have been exceedingly interesting to the President, Gen. McClellan, of course, went ahead of the President next. They rode along the lines for about 3 miles, the Gen. on his new horse, setting up as straight as an arrow, with hat in hand, at a full gallop, bowing and waving his hat to each sight as he passed. The sights presented were such upon which might have been heard in Maryland.

The President's case was different. He had to go at a slow run so they could not get nearer than 4 or 5 rods to the Gen. His hand held of the saddle, the other convulsively clutched in the mane of his horse, never relaxed its hold except for a moment to crowd his hat further down over his eyes. His long legs were well clamped around the body of his horse, his hair and coat tails horizontal. He looked as though he would be determined to go through with it, if it killed him; but would be most almighty glad when it was over. I would gladly have given 10 to have been there, so that I could have seen the whole spectacle.

As I stood in the line looking around on the blue masses, which covered the field in every direction, a very strange thought occurred to me. It was this: What would be the consequence of having as many women collected in that field (providing it were possible) and no men among them. I confess that I was utterly unable to come to any conclusion through the many things which might happen. It would be a venturesome man indeed who would dare go into such a crowd alone.

The idea was so very singular that I had to communicate it to several of my comrades. The discussion of the subject occupied an hour.
were of the opinion that if such were the case they would venture themselves among the throng whether they were to come out alive or not.

... The ladies are always very kind to soldiers who in turn are willing to throw themselves into their arms at slight provocation without conditions. Had I known I would not fight any longer if it were not for them, but such an order of love as is supposed above, the eye of mortal man can never hope to behold. If Mohammed be a true prophet we may see such sights some day.

As it turned out there were at least 50,000 men at the review yesterday instead of 30,000.

22nd. This has been a pretty quiet day. Bateman still J.M. & a part of the Co. were paid. Benson & Lear both read books, worse than penniless. He shall replenish tomorrow.

Benson told me tonight how did Prentice first got on the downhill road. It was engaged to be married to a girl in Kalamazoo. Benson coaxed her away sort and that was not the half of it. One would hardly think that any great affair for Kalamazoo but God took it to heart. Benson left her & Prentice would have been glad to take her back but she would not come. Sid took the road downhill & was very near the bottom when he enlisted. Benson is moderately sorry for what he did & has succeeded in keeping Sid straight most of the time since his enlistment. The girl married well & sat two weeks since & her father sent Sid information of the fact in a sympathizing & encouraging letter full of moral precepts and good advice. Benson assures that Sid is going to reform permanently but I do not believe a word of it. He might possibly reform morally in part but physically it is out of the question. 
23d We were paid today. I went to Alexandria after dinner & tried to get some things but could find few that I wanted. Known from each Co., with a few and officers were allowed to the city today. The men of these came back pretty tight.

I had the pleasure of seeing the countenance of my old acquaintance Charles Boone, the prisoner who escaped from me some days since. I was much more pleased to see him than he was to see me. I heard yesterday that he was confined in the Central Guard House at Washington. I had him sent for at once. It is no easy matter to escape from here unless you go toward Steele & you want to be careful in that case or the pickets will blow you through.

Our last Noble came home pretty drunk & fell of gas. Private Charles Butler whom I sent with the Corp. after Boone was a little expert at drunks confidential & wise expressing great fear that some of the boys would get drunk & make fools of themselves.

I do not certainly believe that there will be an advance from here within ten days. Private Clark Conrad went to town on a pass & has not returned. The Battalion order making him a Corp. was written but will now be torn up. If he had behaved himself he would have stood second for a Capt. place which will soon be vacant.

25th Monday morn. Boone has gone to Washington. 11 men from each Co. have gone to Alexandria. They are buying boots, underclothes, &c. to keep them safe at the cold weather.

It was cold last night. The ground was frozen hard that we covered with the first snow of the season.

Captain Handy was in our tent last night and he & I talked over military matters for three hours. He was going to be Capt. of Co. I. He would make an excel-
lent Capt for me but would be very much in the way
of the two Lieute. I think we must keep him out. I do
not understand how they have been bamboozled by
their Capt. as I always was composed of the best matrit
of any Co. in the Rept.

Reason + 1 talked (jokingly) last night of a way
in which we could soon get rid of our present Capt,
but partly because of the wickedness of the thing +
partly because we did not know exactly what the
consequences would be, concluded not to try it. It
was this — the Co. comes on Sand. We are looking
at neat se boys rigged for Sunday School. On the
next land. If Capt return we could bring them
out without his knowing the difference looking so
that they would be sent off the ground + be into
arrest. Because I would of course, have to be either
sick or necessarily absent at that time. The men
would willingly lend themselves to the plan Col.
She has a very poor opinion of Capt. May now +
one such exhibition as that would make his stay
here very short.

Capt. H. I was considering last night the my
singular turn our affairs had taken since we first
met. He was then a clerk in a gift bookstore. I a
lawyer’s clerk at 500 per week. Rather peaceful
occupations for soldiers. If Capt. Handy had a little
mote of combative ness, vindicativeness, the genuine
spirit + essence of care about him, he would make a
most excellent officer. He is good now — first quality
everywhere except in the battlefield, and that is saying
a great deal. Such men are of great service now
being. I believe he thinks however, that this killing
men in very hard business after all. His father is
a clergyman + his early education may have some
influence on him in this respect though very little
in any other. Because father is a Presbyterian man,
I find that near half the Rept have gone to
Alexandria. They will no doubt most of them return with what Prinice defined to be "side arms", to carry a bottle in one pocket and syringes in the other.

I have some little fear that I do shall go into winter quarters here but I hardly believe so. McClellan dare risk his reputation in such a move.

26th. An picket guard 4 7 a.m north miles out on the Richmond road. I have command of the outposts. They gave me only 27 men to take the place. The posts are badly arranged. There are no posts either to our right or left & there is nothing to hinder the enemy from coming around to our rear and cutting us off.

I suppose this that we were only coming out about 2 miles & therefore did not bring my pistol. I miss it very much. It is exactly the right place to use it. I was always very partial to firearms. With that I should feel pretty sure of a man at 10 rods & entirely at 6, while with a sword I am not at all sure of him at 6 feet. I think however that my two days will pay off without needing it.

27th. The night was very keen. I went the rounds twice & slept very well during the rest of the night. There was nothing seen or heard along our line. Signal lights were seen further to the left.

Our shanty of pine & cedar boards set up in a circle with a little fire on the inside is quite comfortable. We have to keep very small fires & have them well screened from view otherwise we could be as warm as one could wish. The night was so cold that the men on post were very uncomfortable.

Abt 8 A.M. it commenced snowing but it soon changed to rain which continued nearly all day. The roof of our house leaked badly but the fire soon dried.
the ground & kept me comfortable.

A little black boy came from a house near by & brought me some very good pie & other eatables which he sold at a fair price. He said his brother was away 2 years ago & went south & he would be darned if he didn't believe he would be back some day. He wanted me to show him some newspapers. He could not read them but knew a boy that could.

28th Last night passed off quietly. The cavalry got right off some 'scorch' out about 6 miles yesterday but they did not come near. Four men (all French) were sent up from the 5th last night to stop with me until now, also two French troopers for outside. And of them serve in France & the Crimea. He is now in the service 9 years. He swore there is no better life than a soldier. I am sure I would dislike to have him after me with his saber, 3 ft. 4 in. Long sharp on both sides. I believe he would be a match for any 10 of our new cavalry either for fighting or endurance.

7 P.M. Home again. Returned at 3 P.M. It is raining & snowing & is much pleasanter in our good tent than in a brick picket house. A Capt. Pvt. 6 non-com officers & 65 privates of the 63rd Penn. came at 11 A.M. & relieved my 27 men.

Capt. Handy offered me $25.00 tonight if I would make him sure of getting in the Co. again. I think I said to the time comes, when we must do that or worse. No man can live in it as Capt. if we are inclined to get him out.

It is understood to be Thanksgiving in Mich. today & nearly all the officers in the 29 & 5th Regts are drunk on the strength of it.

I had a very sympathetic & affectionate epistle today from the middle of my friend Mr. Roser. She resides at present in Washington & seems to have great
anxiety at the fate of her "dear Charley" as she calleth him. I can very certainly assure her that it is his fate to be prosecuted for desertion if something very unexpected does not happen to prevent my doing it. It will take more than prayers of one prostitute to save him after the nice scrape he got me into by trying to force him! He has a very pretty, intelligent & wealthy young wife in Vermont, for whom I am sorry. She has probably learned by this time that a traveling showman however good looking or smart by nature makes but an indifferent husband.

As the rain comes pattering down on the tent I cannot but again thank the good fortune that brought me back to camp just at the right time. Tents are not quite home in all respects, but no one who has not tried it knows how glad the tired soldier feels to find himself once more inside his own canvas home. Saving the presence of friends, no home however gorgeous, ever gave greater joy. All trials & troubles are forgotten. He is mindful only of the cheerful warmth of his mud fireplace, the hearty greetings of his comrades eager for the history of his adventure & neither last nor least, the contents of his musk chest. Those who are in camp are always sure to look well to these things are the return of the absentees & as for the adventures, they are generally none the better in narration than in reality.

It was very dark last night but I made my usual rounds at 10 P.M. & 4 A.M. to assure myself that the pickets were doing their duty. They were very much exposed & I was very anxious that none of them should be lost or driven so while I had command. The ground was rolling & was bordered all the way either on one side or both with a thick growth of scrub pines among which one could approach within 20 feet of any of them without being seen or heard. The men did their duty well but anyone
could have shut every one on the line with perfect safety to himself.

While going along the path one day I found the little piece of poetry which I have pinned into the fore-part of the book. The only safety for pickets in such cases lies in frequently and markedly shifting his position, in this way a lurking enemy while looking for him in one place is pretty sure to be seen by him from another. It needs a keen-sighted, fearless, wide-awake man for a good picket-guard in a dangerous post. One position was good enough to prevent the approach of large bodies of troops but worthless as to small parties who knew our location.

In warm weather I like picket-guard but in cold weather it is hard keeping still enough. Cold interferes with the catlike stealth and secrecy of the movement. It however exhausts one rapidly. I hardly ever sleep sound enough not to hear the slightest noise or start up at everything unusual. I think likely we would become accustomed to it after awhile but the constant attention of the mind to one thing for two or three days night is rather painful and makes me nervous.


I went to Washington yesterday, purchased some necessary articles for winter wear, had my picture taken, etc. etc. I saw at Brady's two pictures, "Harriet" and "Angel," the latter a more beautiful woman than I ever saw. She is not one of the ethereal, angelic kind nor one all smile, love and rosy-cheeked, nor of the cold, intellectual, platonic, love style, but a most glorious combination of the whole. She has tenderness, intelligence, good sense in every look, form, features, perfect and full of life and vigor. She is not only beautiful now but uide fair to be 40 years hence. She has
modest, chart, virtuous look, but the tide of life in her veins is too full & rich for her ever to forget that she is a woman, and being such was made for love. She knows that passage of scripture which says, there is a time for all things and won't be sorry when the time come.

When we came down the river last night they were practicing on the Arsenal with some small rifle cannon. They fired along side of us till we were off about 3 miles for the purpose of seeing whether they could hit a vessel at that distance if disposed. The shells struck generally from 6 to 8 feet to one side of them just about even with the bow. They sent up a nice little cloud of spray. I do not think one of them would have missed had they been aimed at the boat.

I found the Capt. here when I got back. He had returned only for the purpose of settling up his affairs & resigning. There was never a boy in his first night away from home more homesick than he.

Soon after he came a cold storm of wind & rain set in. The ground was very muddy & the tent damp & cold beside his home at home. He & I slept together in my tent which slipped & slung around so that he could not keep quite a minute. The bed was hard, the clothes thin. He was so uneasy that I got very little sleep. Every 15 minutes he would pitch me in the ribs. 'Haydon, Haydon, by Jove this tent will blow over. Don't you feel how the wind comes through the canvas,' or, 'How damp it is here. I shall take more clothes.' In short, the place which I but 2 days ago boasted of as one of the most soiled in the world seemed to him the most comfortable spot on the face of the earth.

Capt. May is a good lawyer & where he is disposed a fine man in private affairs and always an
exemplary citizen but a most miserable soldier. I was going to punish a man the other day for wasting some ammunition, but he interrupted me, saying, 'damn it all, what's the use of killing Co. C when all is nearly ruined. He has a great deal of oil. Doc, says he don't see what's the world they ever wanted to get such a d---I putter into this regiment for'.

It is hardly credible how soon & how rapidly men begin to get sick & die off where discipline is slack. I have never seen it fail in a Co. or Regt. & I have already noticed at least a dozen cases. I never perceived how sadly deficient Capt. May is in military till since he came back, I suppose it is because there have been so few great changes with the rest of us since he left.

One who visits Washington now will find three numerous classes of people, well marked & easily identified. Besides these there is a promiscuous list of all sorts & kinds conglomeration who I suppose might be called the citizen. The first & most numerous class is composed of soldiers of every rank, hue, nation, uniform & branch. The other two great classes are politicians & prostitutes, both very numerous & abt equal in numbers, honesty & morality. A comrade said to me the other day that he used to date a great deal on some day marrying a virtuous wife but had concluded that if he could find one who had not got the ----- he would not look any farther.

It is more interesting than a play to sit at Holland's or the National & watch the passers. I notice & learn all that I can from such scenes. I have enough to do to look out for my own affairs & do not worry myself greatly about the fortune of the crowd unless there is something very unusual.
There are many things which I would like to write in this book, which I dare not because it is so liable to fall into other hands. I think sometimes that there are very few things to be surprised at in these times save virtue in women & honesty in men. Whatever is, is right; they say, in this view of matter I laugh a thousand times when I feel inclined to cry once. I know there are some good, honest & virtuous men known in the world. I wish there were more & that I was more zealous in imitating their examples. I am not disposed to judge any one faulty but hope that all may so live that they may approach their end like one who wraps the shroud of his couch around him & lies down to pleasant dreams.

"Thus struggling tide of life which scree
In myriadless aimless course to tend
An eddy of a mighty stream
Which move to its appointed end."

Dec. 1, 1861. I learned last night that one of our men died Oct. 15th at Georgetown Hospital. He learned the fact by way of the Father who wrote to find whether there was any pay due him. He dying off without our knowing it is what ought not be. He expected to see him returning every day from duty.

I learned pretty nearly my standing in the Co. last night by accident. It was nothing new to me. I knew what it was to be when I held my commission. I have no desire to have it changed. I was passing quite late one of the tents & heard by chance one of the boys exclaiming one of our new recruits on the mysteries of soldiering. He had just finished it seemed a description of the Co's wages. "Now," said he the next thing in to look out for that 27 cent, for he is a
d...is right worse than the Col. "Will give youwh...t
without mercy if you don't mind your business
when he is around."

Passing on I did not hear any more. His last
sentence at least was true. I will not be swayed
by any set of men whom I am entitled to rule.
They have got to mind their business & keep in
their place. I give them fair warning & have no
cause to complain in our own Co. but sometime
have a little trouble outside.

I would do the Lieut Col. Burke of the 37th ord to
one of his men if I would not be obeyed in any
other way. There was no order in this Capt no Col.
to appeal to who would do anything. He ordered
a man twice to fall into theanke. The second time
the man openly refused & the Col shot him through
the head in less than 5 seconds. I saw him when
he fell. He was never called to account & should not
have been.

I hope the Capt. will soon be gone. He & I have
been talking over old bow matters. I began to feel
as though I wanted to be back. I could see the
familiar features of all my associates in the
profession & especially the honest, good natured
Co-tenaunace of my best friend & partner Joseph
Muller, that it seemed for a moment that I must be
there again. Let it what it might, God only knows
how much I loved the law & how hard it ever

to give it up.

To me for a moment only. I stifled the thought
this had a chance to gain a permanent hold. I
swore to bear same till the war or I was done
& I'd not break my oath. More than one tempting
vision has presented itself to lure me away. I'd
just this down as I have the others. I knew the
law which I loved so much would have killed
me. Then I can stand anything that anyone will share with me. In an office I should not know. I know that the labor & the unwholesome air of the court room would eventually have overcome me & broken my health. If I should fall during the war I shall be sure of having turned my life to good account. Though I would gladly be more still if I knew this here to be my lot I would not complain. Perhaps it would be better to grasp that certainty of the choice we get given to try the uncertainties of life in hope of making a better & more honorable one. At any rate the choice is not so great but that I can take the first alternative. I struggle with decent composure.

I think however it is full time for me to quit speculating as to how I could stand being killed & in time to the most approved methods as described in the best authors of killing others. Thayer says that a 6-lb. shot at fair distance will cut an 'out' at 24 men. I call that pretty good work if the shot goes from outside. Frequently of shell will frequently scatter over a circle more than 200 yards in diameter & make very dangerous wounds says the same author. There are many, many ingenious & philosophical ways of killing men. No one need die for love unless he prefers that way.

Besides it's on picket. I have read the Atlantic nearly through today.

29. We had a brigade drill this F.M. during which we fired a 50,000 of blank cartridges. The weather is cold & it is snowing tonight. Col. Poe has returned. Capt. May is an officer of the day. The Capt. has said a great deal of Col. Poe putting on airs & that he didn't care for him or discipline. He & I were talking together this M
when he chanced to see the Col. coming. Capt. hoped suddenly over toward the guard post & calling many of the men there who were not on duty, started off in great haste in case he would have every one of them arrested. He never did such a thing before and such an idea would not have entered his head then had he not seen that Col. whom he did not care anything about, coming.

5th. I was on guard yesterday. I was pretty busy. I had one very pleasant interview with the Col. I had been to visit the outposts. He visited the guard while I was gone & thought he had caught me nicely. I met him when I was coming back. We had quite a conversation at guard post in which he found very little fault, but after all I was not sorry when it was over.

It was tedious last night. The ground froze deep & hard. I slept not more than 15 minutes all night. I sat down on a pole which was stuck up near the fire & everyone agreed I was dreaming that I was in the warmest & snowest bed imaginable and God only knows what other charms would soon have been added if I had not tumbled off the pole & burned my new trousers. It was a pretty long night & required a great deal of walking to keep from freezing. I got through however & feel none the worse today.

I had two very interesting periods of conversation with the Col. today. He was not after me this time but was as he always is on such occasions, full of politeness & good nature. He directed me to prefer charges against my friend Brev, which I have now under the following head: Desertion, Violation of the 42d article of War, Conduct prejudicial to good order & military discipline etc.

Col. Poe had a talk with Benson today who
was more courteous like and polite in his answer than I ever saw him before. He waited to explore when things don't suit. Col. called him out and said to him, 'I think it proper that I should inform you that I have sent in a recommendation for a 1st Lieut. of the Reg'd. to be Capt. of Co. I wish to know how you feel about it.' Buren, with a long face, informed him that he had often thought and always said that he would not serve if any Lieut in the Reg't was placed over him. He had always thought that there was no Lieut in the Regt now capable of looking after the welfare of Co. I then looked at Col. and said to him, 'Col., if you have foreseen, I can only submit to your experience and better judgment.' He added a short sentence in the same becoming military subordination. Then, I should have supposed he would have backed over all bounds and damned things sky high. When the conversation was nearly over, the Col. began to laugh and informed him that he was the man. He had watched him all the conduct of R. & myself since our promotion and was pleased with it. There were several officers who were our seniors and better entitled in many respects to promotion than we, but considering the manner in which we had managed the Co. he thought it would be unjust to place anyone over us. He had determined in short that Buren should be Capt. & 1st Lieut. I am not at all displeased at that but must wait for my commission before I congratulate myself too much. Many slips between cup & lip.

I guess I shall go clear on the Senate affair but one must keep his eyes wide open all the time in these military affairs or he will find himself minus his commission some fine morning. Proceed always that he lie a side awake. Next Point, graduate to watch him.
6th. It was a warm, pleasant day as one could wish to see, very much like a warm day in May. Capt. May showed himself in a new light and some respects, interesting view, at least it was instructive & laughable! It was penury in a personified. He figured up articles to the amount of $23 which he seemed to think Benson & I must buy or be the most mean & ungrateful beings on earth. There was hardly an article for which he did not ask more than it cost him. He made up his list & then told us that he would aid in our promotions evidently thinking he could swing the money out of us in this way. When it came to a final settlement we gave him $15 for a part of them. He got very mad because we would not buy them all.

He had given up our tent & bed to him & he had lived all a week at our expense with the exception of some Michigan butter which he brought along. He charged us with the balance of it (at 2 lbs) He said he was going to give us an old brass candlestick worth 20 cents, but when he found we would not buy all fine things he carried that away. He tried to get three old, pewter tea spoons out of the meal chest which he said he had not sold but Noble would not let him have them. A little more would have induced us to have kicked him off the ground.

P. H. Foster, one of our best men, died at the depot here, but a few minutes since of typhoid Fever. He leaves a family. It took a severe cold at Cantonment Blair & has never been very well since though he did good service a large share of the time.

There is not a great deal of sickness in camp but it is more than usually fatal.
Inflamed feet is the most dangerous. They few recover from it so as to be in such a state of health. There were three good promotions in our Co. tonight. Few of them Johnston and Southworth. I have long desired to they would have come before if I could have contrived matter. I think that Johnston will be 2nd Co. in case I am promoted. He is in all respects a gentleman & soldier. The son of a good English fighting stock near half his small relatives on his father's side having fallen in battle. His grandfather was Sir of Canada who our Revolution broke out.

Our Sergt. had the misfortune to fall out in some way, with his father some six years since. Both allowed their tempers to get so high so that they parted their mutual love. If the father is like the son it will be kept. Since then the boy has worked his own way & married a very pretty wife. Both are poor & need the increase of pay which he will soon receive. So much he told me and more. His father lives in Canada & is a man of wealth, rank & influence. I wish they could come to an amicable settlement. I have done my best to aid his promotion and now all I could to secure him in my present place if I should leave it.

7th. The presented Lt. Richardson today with a sword & each which cost $75. It was a present from the officers of the Med. Co. If I could have had my way.
I would have waited till another pay day & then have bought a better one.

The Gen. knew nothing about it till we came in on him. He acted as funny & embarrassed as a boy with a new hat. He expressed his thanks in his usual dry blunt style, called on Col. Terry who was present to help him out by a speech which he did quite handsomely. Gen. said he desired to bring on the wine but unfortunately had none on hand. So he concluded to call us in at another time.

He took him entirely off guard. If so many successions had have come in & summoned him to surrender he would have been less confused. Anything like speech making is a terror to him. He has never been known to talk for more than two minutes consecutively since he joined the Regt. He likes to do things without ceremony if we may judge from the way in which he got married.

When the Regt first went to Detroit he was engaged to be married to a lady at that place. There he determined to go for three year she objected. He said she was willing to marry him and go with him for a three months' campaign but the thought that 3 years in camp was too much. Indeed she could not consent to it. "They call Madam, there are others who will"—"Good day." The line called for his hat, crossed the street, offered himself in less then 10 minutes after to a girl whom he had never seen but twice before, had accepted & married within two weeks.

Estator Chandler & a number of Ohio Mich men were here to see how we were getting along today & we had a review & drill for their edification.

Moreover we bury (or plant as Prentice calls it) Foster who died last night at the hospital.
The more lovely weather than that of the last 3 days no rational man could ask for. It is like the clearest days of Indian summer, thick only not so smoky. There is hardly any mist tonight.

Foster was buried yesterday. A large number of men from other Co's. were present. With an appropriate discourse it would have been a very solemn funeral. Chaplain Major's sermon was at all appropriate and interesting as the dryest clapt of Corin Cons. would have been.

A military funeral when properly conducted is a very solemn and impressive scene. Its effect is far different from that of other funerals. Nothing sounds more solemn than the slow, prolonged roll of martial music. The perfect silence & regularity of the procession, the measured tread, the inserted arms & sober looks all increase the effect.

Soldiers always look very sad in such scenes.

Some more, however, are matter of discipline rather than because they care a great deal about it. In truth, after they have been 6 months in the service they have in most cases made very little change in their conversation or thoughts.

At drill parade tonight came orders to move at 5 A.M. tomorrow. I suppose, we are going about 3 miles down the river to Washington Valley. We shall undoubtedly winter there or at least go into winter quarters.

One of the most important things for a soldier to learn is that he has a very hard, gloomy, unfixed place of abode which can be improved or beautified beyond the mere wants of the day. As often as he gets well to living, the order comes to move. He packs the most necessary of his articles, abandons the rest to travel to another place. As a member of 1st Virginia, hath written, the covenant with the credulous farmers
for much poultry, potatoes, &c. to be paid for in ten days &c. on the ninth day his Regiment moves to another place.

He shall be 3 miles nearer the enemy both on the road & more in the way of active service. I dislike to be cooped up there all winter, but I suppose I can stand it at $65 per month. Our things are all packed & we have only to strike our tents & we are ready for the march.

Col. Rob. Benson & I each a photograph of himself tonight. It is a good picture & I prize it very highly as coming from him in person, & knowing I like the man. I think, as every one in the 2nd unless it be Major Williams, if the “boys” ever touch him they’d had better keep out of the way of the “Pet lamb.”

10th Sundown finds me in the woods 3 1/2 miles S of our former camp. We are trying to camp among the trees. There is not a house or cleared field in sight. The ground is in its original state with hardly the mark of a foot on the trees.

I need to say that the Baltimore Guards could beat anything in the Army of the Potomac atstonking, but Col. Pot says the 4th Brigade has the highest reputation in that line at headquarters & everywhere else where they are known.

The guns were badly stacked today when the cothories of the 1st began to run up to the top of a hill a little in front of us to look around. At a little distance they spilled a board fence about 1/2 mile long & nearly wide. They ran back in great haste to inform their comrades. In 20 minutes there were not a board left on the post. Col. Pot got wind of it & rode to the place as fast as possible. He yelled at them as soon as he came in sight. Slap, crack went the boards on to the ground & the
new scattered in all directions. He, not knowing the men personally, they all got in to the bushes 
and escaped before the guard arrived. As soon as he 
was out of sight you might see them creeping out 
and watching every the boards one by one 
and hiding 
them in the leach.

Our Capt. tent did not come till sundown 
before there was time to put them up as we were all 
ordered out on picket. He went out and made to 
watch a number of old roads 
and paths which lead in toward our lines.

11th. The night was warm. I slept well with a 
single blanket 
and a pile of pine boughs during such parts of the night as were not occupied for patrols. Capt. 
Smith Godfrey shot at a man who was coming along one 
of the roads but missed him. He made wonderful time 
into the bushes.

The night was very quiet. In camp they were 
called out at 3 A.M. by a report that the enemy was 
advancing. They were within about 50 rods of camp coming in some Steet inspected me to fire 
off my pistol. I came so near getting into hot 
water for this that there was no feeling in it, at 
any other time no one would have taken any 
notice of it, but just then they were very wide 
awake. If I had have known that I should not 
certainly not have fired. It is all over now so 
far as any action in the matter is concerned, 
I would be very glad if it had not happened.

It all worked very quickly. All soon leveling 
the ground, felling trees, putting up tents, dig-
ging wells, building log huts, &c. Just as we 
were at dinner our orders came to strike tents 
and be ready to move in 2 hours. Capt. Bee had 
examined the ground with the critical eye of an 
enengineer and found that half a dozen guns
might be so planted as to render our retreat to
the main body impossible. In short, the 4th Brigade
would see Richmond sooner they desired unless
they were able to take the battery. Gen. Heintzelman
said not like the place too far out.

At two o'clock the tents were down & we were on
the move again, the Band playing, "Ain't I glad to
get out of the Wilderness." I was glad to get out
inside from the danger of being cut off, the place
possessed few advantages, It was warm & there
were plenty of wood. We marched back half way
to the old camp & there halted on an open field where
we had no sooner stopped than the men began to
make arrangements for camping.

After abt an hour we moved 1/2 mile further to
the right, halted & stacked arms & abt 1/2 an hour later
moved once more a short distance & stacked arms for
the night. It was now near sundown.

Gen. R. thought our first stopping place too cold
so we brought up finally in a snug valley, few
of the Tents came & we nearly all prepared to bunk
on the ground. I was fortunate in this that
our things being the last to arrive at the first
ground were the first to come back, thus our
bedding was at hand. It spread it on some
boards & lay down for the night, not however
still we had told so many a joke & joked so
much that I nearly laughed myself to death.

13th I slept well last night though the
weather became very cold at sundown. Then we
waked up in the morning first on our blankets
were more than a half inch thick. The stears
vapor from our bodies had frozen on reaching
the cold air. The ground froze hard enough to
bear a horse. One feels fresh & lively whether he
rolls out of his blankets into the open air & awak
Before sunrise,

13th. The men are very busy at work fixing up quarters, building log huts &c. I doubt whether we shall remain here long. I cannot see why we should not advance at once & make an end of this business. It shall be no better prepared so far as I can see 3 months hence than now. The men would rather advance in snow knee deep than go into winter quarters. There has not been snow enough yet to cover the ground. In two days moving with all due caution we can arrive at the place where the whole thing can be decided.

Would it not be better to go through Menanas at the point of the bayonets with a load of 5,000 to 10,000 men than to delay any longer? I think it would be a mistake. Indeed it would. That is a necessary consequence of war. Armies are raised for that very purpose. True the final object is quite different but such is the immediate consequence. The cost of existing both in life & money must also be calculated. Every hour of delay is a positive gain to the enemy in most respects.

Gen. R. was around this P.M. to secure the men not to carry off any more boards. "It won't do to load any more boards around here. They are making a devil of a fuss about it at headquarters. They're going to direct a lot of officers of the 4th." I should be glad that he never stopped the boys from "cramping" till he was obliged to. It was always clear that such things must be stopped as much as possible which was understood to mean that the men should not steal anything unless they really needed it.

The men from the brigade have torn down a church at 2 miles from here today & burned it all.
away. They tear down barns & out houses in presence of the soldiers & in some cases, they have taken the doors & blinds off their houses.

14th Benson, who is a perfect maniac on the subject of log & board shanties, commenced one of the latter day before yesterday. He pulled down the tent yesterday & was so much afraid some one would steal his bedding that we had to sleep out doors on top of the pile last night. I swear pretty seriously not that I care anything about sleeping on the board pile but because I hate the score & trouble of building the shanty. I swore I would never pay a cent toward it but that made no difference with him. I threatened to dissolve partnership but he declared that if I would live in it with him he would pay all expense. I think it is best to let him have his own way & I will pay a part of the expense or not just as I see fit thereafter. He has a great desire to do all the domestic duty & I have a great desire to let him. I never think of sweeping the tent, making the bed, building a fire or anything of the kind when he is like.

15th Co. I looked gay at inspection this M. C. commended their appearance very highly. They had all new coats, clean white gloves, boots well blacked, & gaiters with few exceptions as bright as a new dollar. They were clean & neat enough in all respects for the parlor. There are some of them however of whom you can no more make soldiers than poets.

There was a battle this night at Springfield station at five miles from here yesterday P. M. I could hear the gun & see the smoke very plainly. The firing was for an hour very rapid. I know nothing as yet of the result. It seems as though we...
should never see any more fighting. The men are beginning to be soldiery. You no longer hear a continual grumbling at officers, living clothes, turn of duty & every imaginable thing. When anything is to be done, they turn out & do it as they ought. There is indeed less cause than formerly.

How I used to pity the regulars when I first came down here. Poor fellows I used to think you were laced up in a straight jacket & imprisoned without hope of relief for the next five years. After all I could not help noticing that they did not seem to feel very bad about it & that they looked a vast deal better than we. Theirs & thoughts have so far changed that nothing pleases men or officers more than the thought of being made into regular.

I, on the evening of the 15th Dec. 1861, left the post with Corp. Mack that one of the 6 persons then present (Kent Bosenoy, Self, Corp. Franklin, Mack, privates North & Noble) I would be killed in battle before this night 1862. A foolish bet perhaps, but it remained.

16th. A very fine day. It is reported that we are to go to Ft. Dickens. I would not be surprised if some such thing would be the result of all this idling. I do not care very much whether we go or not. It would be a change & that is usually reason enough for a soldier. It would be very pleasant for the winter, but not so pleasant for the summer which we would be sure to encounter. I am beginning to be soldiers enough to be pretty much passive as to where I am stationed and now ready to go wherever they see fit to send me, without questions or regrets.

We have another 2nd cent in our Co. tonight. The appointment was read by the men with a
grove. I do not understand something in
connection with the matter. I dislike it so
this that it bore the promotion of men in our
Co. who are far better qualified than the one
appointed. I do not understand why he or I
were not appointed 1st Lieut. Till I know the reason
of this, I shall not feel quite certain as to the future.
There are some things which can be done & some
which cannot. I don't like the arrangement. I will
wait for the sequel.

17th. Same officer of the guard today. The officer
of the guard must not leave his post except for
his meals & for the necessary rounds, so say
the regulations & Col. Poe emphasized it this M. This
confine me for 24 hours. The day is very warm &
fine. Bowen is officer of the day.

18th. It requires no small degree of patience to
sit through a tour of 24 consecutive hours of guard
duty. It has been done however. Both guards he
thought last night that I would win the system
(see 16th). He does one picket with alt 20 Allow just
on the edge of a piece of wood! A volley of alt 56
guns were suddenly fired at them. None were hit
but one had a vest button shot off & a good sized
hole made in his shirt. The boys returned fire
once & then fell back on the reserve in quick time.
The enemy did not follow them beyond the
first post. They took their 7 blankets, a few
blankets & 30 or 4 loaves of bread! This is the
same place where I was apprehensive of an attack
the last time I was out. Both declare that the
boys did their utmost to run for that time the
chance for my lot were good. The boys only
fell back a few rods & returned to their post
in about 15 minutes.
The Col. solved my doubts at promotion last night. He says that it is through mistake that my commission, no. 1st, first, did not come. I began to suspect that I had pulled the wrong string somewhere. It is rather unlucky in this that if my commission had come when it ought, I should have been senior to two 1st Lieuts. & therefore outranked them who are now senior to me. Col. says the papers will be along in a few days.

I well remember the first time I ever talked with Benson at the day when he would be Capt. of Co. If I would be 1st Lieut. It was the day after the battle of Blackburn's Ford. We were lying just on the back edge of the field expecting every minute that the shells would be dropping amongst us or that we should be called on to go down into the valley where we were peppered the day before.

The Capt. was very pale & sick, some others higher in rank than we did not seem at all eager for the conflict. Benson was on the right of the Co. I was on the left, seeing him a little apart from the rest I crossed over & told him some day we would command that Co. He was of the same opinion. He called out the two Sergts. next below us & instructed them in some few things that they might not be utterly unprepared should such an event happen on that day. If there had been a sharp engagement our position would not have been lost.

19th. Five minutes past midnight. Half an hour ago we were called up & ordered to be ready to move in an hour with rations for one day & in perfect silence. I was sensible when I went to bed at 8 last night. I did not sleep a wink before but have made sure
of three hours of the best for tonight. God bless the man who invented sleep," Sancho Panza.

If I could but hear from Kalamazoo to tell me how my brother fares with the measles I should be more at ease. It is a very dangerous disease for him. I fear its effect on the lungs.

Once hopes and expectations for this life hang on a slender thread. A small thing may make the future more than blank. I hope for the best.

It is surprising how prone to joke and light action become even in the midst of the most serious solemn things. I cannot refrain from writing with Benson & the others about our boy with Prentice in particular who has recently been appointed Capt. of the CNote Guard. Prentice have considerable Falstaff all him. I think he would fight well enough when the time comes, but he is not very anxious for the time.

Nine o'clock. We are still at Camp Michigan. It seems that we are only called up to act as reserves to some other troops which had gone down toward Pekich. There are not two happier men in the army than Benson & I. "At every festive board these days, glad," assured of one thing I would be contented; I shall ever expect to be. Give me the assurance that all is well at Kalamazoo & I ask no more. Benson & I have now a Co. which we like & which like us as well as we like them. Peace both as to ourselves & at, in good favor with both Gov. & Col. Major the world in general as far as we care to be. There was Division Review at 12 instead of a march. It went off well. 12 Regt. with the Cav. & Artillery attached are as many as can be seen to any advantage by a spectator.

I believe we shall move soon. It was reported that Heintzelman said to Richardson that the 2d was the worst Regt. in all respects that there was in his Division. If it had proved true that he said
so I believe the boys would have murdered him. They went to Gen. R. forthwith to find out. It proved to be exactly the contrary. He was born sometime like to chalk each other & I did not know but it might be true.

If Gen. R. could only ride an horseback, recently, he would be one of the finest looking officers I ever saw. He will always take hold of the mane with one hand to keep from falling off. He says he used to ride pretty well when he was in Mexico & he can ride well enough now to suit him, but the boys in the 2d laugh a good deal about it. Col. Poe cannot be beat in the army in this line but the boys go pottering about like some clumsy old farmers.

I believe the Col. is looking to get the Regt away from the Brigade & from Gen. R. It would nearly break the hearts of the Patoms. I should dislike it very much but if I had to choose I should follow the Col.

I like Gen. R. very much but after all Col. Poe in my opinion is the coming man. Gen. P. will undoubtedly be a Major Gen. before the war closes but Col. Poe is too full of lightning for him in the long run. He could do far better with this Regt if it were away from the war. The Gen. was a glorious good Col. but not equal in many things to Col. Poe. He must I think be 45 to 50 years of age, Col. Poe 28. There is nothing like young men for war. It is a hard matter to make the 2d do anything that Gen. R. did not require.

20th. "Say is the life of a soldier man" so sings Lieu. Prentice but our junior Lieu. went did not think so this morning. He was detailed with Benson & another officer for picket. He is
a good young man, a distant relative of the Secretary, but with not quite enough original sin for a soldier. He left home in the Quartermaster's Department since he came into the army. He knew a bit as much military as the man in the moon. Benson says he shall have a Corporal drill him.

But to return, he was detailed on picket. He had never heard a bulletin or whistle, never been on picket or anything of the sort. Never was on guard — slept on the ground or about of eating. Benson tells him he took great delight in informing him how he must conduct himself. He told him that he must not sleep a wink (2 days + night), must visit the privy 4 times each night, must be careful how he traveled around in the night as he would get shot, must keep his hands on his things so as to be able to take them off at a moment's notice in case the cavalry should come down, must be in good condition to run but at the same time must not run except in extreme cases.

The result was that he became so excited that he could hardly sleep at night. He went off to bought provisions enough for the next two days. Cheese, 4 loaves ginger bread, 2 lbs. sweet crackers, 2 loaves of bread, 3 lbs. sausage. A number of other articles, all by Benson's direction. Then they came to pack he found he could not get half of them into a haversack. Benson assisted him in this Crisis by filling his own haversack & thrusting the balance higgledy-piggledy into one's chest.

He was then told how very cold it would be nights. He strapped an anorak & 2 blankets on his back, not knowing without inquiring very seriously whether it was really necessary to make such a
I am afraid there is going to be a move in camp. Gen. R. was down here before breakfast this morn to inquire whether I had heard anything abt the 9th Regt moving. I was sorry he asked the question. I answered it with all readiness but with a good degree of caution. I told him what reports I had heard & that I did not know where they originated; that I knew nothing abt it myself. He inquired whether they wanted to go. I told him no; by all means no; unless they could return to his command in the spring. He then asked the more repentent question as to whether I had heard anyone making application to have the Regt moved or whether I had heard any such thing. I replied that the impression among the men was that Col. Poe was trying to get the Regt moved till the spring campaign opened. The Gov. at the gate his left shoulder & a terrible shrug & commended chewing his under lip. I knew there was a storm brewing. "Well, I'll go to town today myself & see about these things.

If he & the Col. quarrel one or the other must leave. They can't never live in sight of each other. The Gov. looked as savage as a mad bull this Morn. The truth is I want to go if we can return in the spring -- in fact I think I do anyway. If Col. Poe gets the Regt fairly into his hands we are pretty sure to be kept for the 3 years whether the war lasts or not.
There are 2 things which trouble the Col. exceedingly & which he fears can never be remedied in the field: 1st. - stealing which in reality has always been encouraged by Gov. R. though in such a manner as to render him entirely safe. 2d. - negligence in guard duty which has existed so long that it seems impossible to remedy it unless the new can be brought within close notice.

If we are discharged in 3 months I shall come out of the business with almost empty pockets. If we are kept 3 years I shall have some spare money. The expense for the first few months consume nearly all the pay & leave one with only a lot of military clothing, equipments & ornaments which are of little value for any other purpose. I like Col. Pea if I could be under him where he had absolute control for 3 years, should become a pretty thoroughly educated soldier.

In our present position if there is any fighting we shall see our full share & see it well done but there are a great many things for soldiers to learn besides that. They are perhaps on the battlefield 4 or 5 days in a year but on all other days they are duties important ones to be performed. I very much dislike that there should be anything unsatisfactory in the matter toward Gov. R. which would cause the feelings we have away from thector which is perfectly due him, he made us perhaps as good a Vol. Regt. as there was at that time in the army. Col. Pea has improved us & would make us the best Regt in the army. Regulars included. I suppose the Saratoga Guards are as good & perhaps better than the 2nd but I doubt whether there is now another Regt. of Volts. equal to it.

(Continued on typed p. 96)
END OF REEL