

Boliver Heights Va

9 Nov. 30th 1864

Remembered Friend

I believe that I promised to write to you after I had been here a while and I thought to night I would try & keep that promise I have enjoyed middling good health since I have been here I have written home so often that I do not suppose I can write much that will be news to you all I can say is - or one thing that I can say is I had rather display my patriotism in the instruction of young America than in wield-
 ing the musket. when I started I supposed it would require a considerable sacrifice but I find that reading & talking about sacrifice and actually undergoing privations are two entirely different things. I will not try to describe things as they are here for all descriptions must utterly fail of giving any body but a soldier any idea of them. I will if just say that such a thing as a regular meal is absolutely unknown to us at least coffee is boiled morning & night and the rest we get as we can catch it, our bed is a few old boards picked up around here our tents cover a piece of ground 6 x 6 ft & are about 3 1/2 ft high

and other things on a scale of equal convenience
as far as the war is concerned we know but
little about it even in our own vicinity
things are very lively around here just now
they have cut off all the timber for some miles
around & are clearing out old rifle pits & digging
new ones things look as though they expect a
visit from some one before long. They say
Stone wall Jackson is near with quite a large
force but he will have to come well prepared
if he gets possession of this place. but we hope
that the fighting in this vicinity is played
out. but there is one thing which I have
found out since I have been here it ^{was} ~~was~~
always said that the soldiers were contented
and had rather stay than quit & that
after a fellow had soldiered it for a spell
he did not want to do any thing else but
I find by talking with hundreds of old soldiers
that that story is all a humbug & the truth is
the soldiers want peace yes they long for it
whether politicians & speculators want it or
not. they all say that fighting never will
settle this thing that it must be done some
other way and this winter is the time another
year of war will only add another billion
to the national debt which now overshadows

every interest of our country, & another 5
 or 600,000 names to those already gone to the
 wars and how much nearer are we ^{now} to
 conquering a peace than we were a year
 ago our armies cover nearly the same ground
 they did then and the men on both sides
 apparently as ready for the onset. I believe that
 if the fighting is kept up and relied on as
 for a settlement that both sides will keep
 on until they have sink into utter bankrupt-
 cy & ruin this without exaggeration is the bitter
 cup which the people of this once happy country
 are invited to, you of the north know nothing,
 hear nothing, see nothing, feel nothing of
 this, it is utterly impossible for any one not
 mingling with it to have any conception
 of it and of the north were told that the
 south would have to stop for want of supplies
 but a trip about 14 miles up the Shenandoah
 valley makes one think that he is again
 deceived all along the route which we took
 there were large stacks of grain and droves of
 cattle & hogs & plenty of horses & you know that
 this valley has had its share of the war
 our men on the reconnoissance of that Sunday
 drove in at least 20 head of cattle, and several
 horses one colt worth in all \$150 so I think

Please tell our folks that when they write again I won't like to have them enclose some 2 cent stamps

it will be some time before secession is stamped out but we hope that the movement now making towards Richmond will prove a successful one if it does it will probably be an easy matter to have the war settled if congress feels disposed to on pretty good terms, but if that movement should fail ~~we~~ we don't know what to think of the affair, some say the democrats will have the thing settled at any rate if their power is sufficient how the thing will be I can't tell but I think our chances for a favorable settlement will be much greater with a prosperous campaign to work on but one thing is positively certain the party that brings about the settlement if it be not a disgracefull one will be the ruling party as long as the soldiers live but I must draw this rambling epistle to a close as the sheet is nearly full it may be that you will think I have changed my sentiments but I found how completely the people were in the dark in regard to this war and nearly all that pertains to it but there is one thing certain I for one have no more faith in politicians of whatever party or sect

but I must close remaining as ever
your sincere friend

Everest (Anti) will be glad to hear from you soon! A. P. Brown