

Camp of the 97th N.Y.V.
near Fitzhugh Mansion, Va.
June 8th 1863.

Dear Mother:

It is some days since I last wrote you, but I should have written again sooner, had there been anything of importance to communicate.

We have been on the "qui vive" for nearly a week past, expecting to march at an hours notice. On Thursday morning last, before daylight, we were ordered to strike tents, pack up & be ready to march immediately.

We did so, waiting till nearly noon, when the wagons were unloaded & tents again put up. Our Reg. then went out on picket & were gone two days.

On Friday night again we received orders to be ready to march at daylight next morning. The force of Thursday

was re-enacted, with only the difference that we lounged around, momentarily expecting definite orders to march, & the wagons remaining loaded till night.

The orders have not yet been countermanded, that I am aware of, but our daily routine is resumed, & all goes on as usual.

On Thursday last pontoons & bridges were thrown across the Rappahannock, at the same point where Franklin crossed last Dec. (where we crossed and one or two Divisions of the 6th Army Corps (which lay next to us) went over, the remainder of the Corps stayed upon this side as a Reserve. There was heavy artillery firing during the day: the pontoons were laid with very little opposition under cover of our artillery fire, which was concentrated upon the rebel rifle pits in that vicinity. There has been considerable

ble firing since. What the re-
sult of this movement has been
we do not know. I have no
doubt that the movement was
intended only for a "demonstra-
tion", so as to take advantage
of any movement the rebels
might have inaugurated, and
also to deter them from another
raid into Md. & Penna.

All seems quiet now,
but it may be the quiet which pre-
cedes a storm. Battled-clouds rise sud-
denly, and their deadly thunderbolts are
as suddenly launched upon the opposing
combatants.

However we do not often
anticipate the honors & perils of battle, till
we find ourselves face to face with them. But
we cannot forget our former experiences.

The weather has been for a day or two, &
is still quite cool, so that flannels are com-
fortable. Gustavus remains in good health.

His papers containing application for admission into the Invalid Corps were lost at Brigade Headquarters, so that he had to make out a new set, which were forwarded a day or two since. This unforeseen mishap will of course delay him some time longer. My health has not been good, as I have been troubled with diarrhoea considerable, till I am a good deal reduced in flesh, but I am in as good spirits as ever, & hope soon to get the better of so disagreeable an ailment. I am sure that the water we use is very unwholesome.

That medicine, contained in the Ex. Package, is an excellent remedy & will doubtless set me right immediately, when I get it. I have not yet received any of the packages (4 in no.) which have been recently sent. But one of our Butler's aides went to Washington a day or two since & is now expected back. I think he will bring two of them, (which Mrs. Mendenhall informed me

(had come to 447 Pa. Av.) But if he should not, Col. Wheelock or Lieut. Watters may, as they are both now due at the Reg.

The other two packages were brought to Acquia Creek (being directed to the 2^d Div. 1st A.C.) and I shall expect to find them at Div. Hdqrs, in charge of the Provost Marshal.

I am more & more pleased that I have made application for a position in a Colored Reg. for the various reasons which I named, in my last letter, and am quite anxious that my application may prove successful. I am still in doubt as to the view which you & Father will take of this matter. Should my health not improve, I ^{may} get a resignation accepted, at Washington, where I might get a medical certificate, or perhaps I could enter the Invalid Corps. But I must close, with abundant love to all.

The mainy "tattoo" is beating without, & seems to prepare for bed, as "lights" must "out" at "taps."

Your Son, Rusb P. Gady

P.S. I am short of envelopes, which accounts
6. for my using this.

I sent you a glow worm in a little
box this morning. You may never
have seen one; it is very beautiful at
night.

I will send this letter to Eliza
again, as it will be delayed but one
day, & will save my writing another
immediately; in a few days she will be
at home, I presume.