

Washington, D.C. Aug. 28. 69.

Dear Parents,

I know you will be somewhat surprised to receive a letter from me, dated at Washington. I have been here a week now having been sick with the Dysentery, my whole body for some time being as yellow as saffron.

For a couple of weeks before I left the Reg. (which was on Wed. the 19th, since which time I have neither seen Gustavus, nor heard from him.) I had the diarrhoea very badly, & it was very fatiguing for me to march. For the space of about a week before I left, I had no appetite to eat anything, except perhaps occasionally a little beef or veal broth, which we did not often have. So that, with lying on the ground, exposed to heavy dews, & with no covering, perhaps having a single blanket & perhaps not, you will not be surprised that I became sick. Joe had been taken sick nearly two weeks before, at the time we left

Waterloo, & we knew nothing of his whereabouts.
So it seemed very hard for me to be obliged
to leave Gustavus, with so much on his hands.
But he was in pretty good health & spirits.

I believe I ~~write~~ ^{informed} you of affairs up to Tuesday
morning, ^{after the battle of Cedar Mountain.} We then ~~marched~~ ^{retreated} 4 or 5 miles
further, as the rebels had fallen back, &
pitched our camp within about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile
from the Rapidan River. This was on Thurs-
day, I think. Here we remained till Mon-
day, when that famous retreat commenced.
I was entirely unable to march, but rode
in an ambulance all the way. - On Tues-
day night, at a late hour, we crossed
the Rapahannock bridge. It is a truen-
claus bridge, very long & very high.
Within a short distance of the river they
encamped. The next day (Wed.) early
in the afternoon, orders came to pack
up & be ~~at~~ ^{ready to} march, as the rebels were
close by. All who were sick & unable
to march were taken in ambulances

about a mile & a half to the rear, where we slept in an old house, on the floor, that night. The next day, (Thurs.) there was heavy artillery firing along the Rappahannock. We could plainly see the smoke, & sometimes could hear the hum of the shells. The sound of the firing, of course was plain.

Early in the afternoon the sick, after undergoing a thorough ^{medical} examination, some were sent back to their regiment, & the rest taken to Bealmont Station, about 4 miles from the Rappahannock bridge, to be brought to Washington. We started that night, lying on the floor of a dirty freight car, jolting all night, & arriving at Washington about 9 a.m. Thru. crossing the Potomac by the Long bridge. Several officers were aboard the train; - officers & privates were a dirty, rough looking set of fellows, all of whom had seen a good deal of exposure & hardship. - Soon after our arrival, a good many ladies, from private houses near

Reg, came to the cars, & furnished all the soldiers with refreshments, consisting of biscuit, & bread & butter, cheese, tea, coffee, milk &c. Free of charge. They were very kind indeed. I accepted an invitation, with three other officers, to go to a private house, & be taken care of, as we did not wish to go to a hospital. I was attended by a private physician, four or five days, but got out on Monday, & came down town to see if I could find Doc, at Mrs. Bannerman's Boarding House, 447 Pa. Av., where the officers of our Reg. have always stopped. I did find him, & stay before yesterday, (Wed.) I came here myself to stay. Doc had been pretty sick, but when I first saw him, & now he is getting along nicely. Both he & Capt. Hutchinson (of our Reg) who staid with him, had the Yellow jaundice. I was pretty sick for a short time, but soon rallied, & am now steadily on the gain, though my back is very weak, & I am very much reduced in flesh.

It may be three weeks before I get strong enough to return to the Reg. & may be, if I am careful I can go in two. -

You must have been anxious to hear from us for the past week, there has been so much fighting going on. - I can't tell you anything about Gustavus, having heard nothing at all from the Reg. - As soon as I do hear, I will let you know. I presume they have been fighting. I am at a loss to account for the success of the late rebel raids upon Catlett's, Manassas & Centreville. The rebels have destroyed the R.R. & telegraph about Manassas, so that Gen. Pope's supplies must have been cut off & we get little or no news except through couriers. Last night, a Cavalry Captain reported that Jackson had got between Manassas & Fairfax C.H. with 20,000 men, & had sworn he would take dinner in Washington on Sunday. Rebel Guerilla parties were

6 reported to have been within 14 miles of Alexandria.
But we don't know what to believe, reports are
so confused & contradictory. Do write to
your Reg. for some days now. I be-
lieve there is no direct communication between
here & there. So direct your letters & papers
to me & I can send them by the mail car-
rier, (who is now here) as soon as he goes.
I am very anxious to hear from home, to
know how you all are, & what is going on.
I saw the N. Herald of Mond. & Tuesday, from
which I learn that the excitement in Rome
& Antica is very great. Jesse Armstrong & Vern
Cowell getting up Co's. Ed. Wardwell Lieut.
with Capt. H. H. Curran. Bailey at Wamp-
sville, at a meeting addressed among others, by
Rev. Mr. Mikel, "speaking at some length, ex-
horting the young men to go with him to the
defense of the Country", & exhibiting several on
the spot. All these items were fraught with
the greatest interest to me, & spoke volumes
of the intense enthusiasm reigning. Is Bailey
raising a Co., & does Ben. or Dan. leady start?
& who has enlisted in Rome? Please send
me the N. Herald, while I remain in Washington;
let Eliza get some of the self-sealing stamped