

Please send
these letters
from as
soon as you
have read
them. R.

Headquarters 97th N.Y.
near Purcellville, Va. Nov. 1. 62.

Dear Sister Eliza,

I should have answered your
letter several days ago, but we have been moving
a good deal of the time, & I have been so much
occupied as not to be able to get an opportunity before
now. - Last Sunday, about ^{1 o'c.} 11 o'clock, we rec'd
"marching orders", at Mercersville, where we
had remained so long. It rained quite hard
all day & all night, so that it became quite
muddy, & marching with heavy knapsacks,
through the mud & rain, till 9 o'clock at night,
& then having to stand up around ^{the} camp
fires all night, without any shelter from
the rain, as nearly all of the men did,
you can well imagine was worthy to be called
"hardship". - I was so fortunate as to have a rubber
coat (& Guntams too) which afforded considerable
protection. We got into a shed that night
about 11 o'clock.
& lay upon some straw (which is a quilted
R.

very in the army) but being wet & cold, we
were anything but comfortable. Our whole
Corps (Reynolds') marched that day, about
7 miles, to within a couple miles of Cramptons
Gap, & passing through Sharpsburg on the way.
The next morning (Mond.) several of us
Officers, including Gustavus & me, got a good
Breakfast at a farm house, which relished
well, as we had gone without supper the
night before. That day it rained some in the
morning, & during the day it was quite cool
& very windy. We marched only 4 miles,
over South Mountain (The Blue Ridge) through
Cramptons Gap, to Burkettsville, quite a
pleasant little village. From the summit
of the Mountain, we had an extended &
beautiful view of the Pleasant Valley,
between the Blue Ridge & the Catoctin Moun-
tains. I went, with several other Of-
ficers of our Brigade & got supper at a
private house, where we had an excellent
meal, & everything betokened rest & refine-

ment. We then again lodged at another place
(sleeping all in one bed). These people were
intelligent, entertaining & hospitable, & their
roughly lay ab. - The man informed us, that
there had been quite a heavy battle close by
there, (the same day of the battle of South Mt.)
between Gen. Franklins Corps & the rebels,
2 or 300 were killed & 600 wounded on our
side. These wounded filled several hospitals
in the town. The next day, Tuesday, we
marched to Berlin, about 9 miles, on the
Potomac, 6 miles below Harper's Ferry. Here
was a Pontoon Bridge, over which Burn-
side's Corps & Army had crossed on
Sunday,
Monday, & Tuesday. We remained there until
Wednesday, engaged part of the time making
out Muster & Pay Rolls. Three companies
of the 5th Reg. (Engineers) including Capt.
Brainard's Co. lay very near us, & we
visited them the first night, viz Capt
Brainard, Lieut. Galley, & all the "new
recruits" - Jackson, Heaton, Buseamb, Eddy,
& others. It was very pleasant indeed

To meet so many friends from Rome.
Maj. Durthrop, Gustavus & I - took supper
with Capt. Bernard & Lt. Talley - having bread
& milk, tea, stewed oysters &c, in abund-
ance. Nearly all of these fellows visited
us in our camp next-day. On Thurs-
day, about noon, we crossed the Pan-
town bridge into Pa. again. This bridge
contained 57 boats, & was 1582 feet,
or nearly a hundred rods in length.

Not far from the river, we came to Lavitts
village, where there were a good many soldiers,
& the women waded the "staves & shingles".
We marched about 6 miles, to within
3 miles of Waterford, where our division
encamped in an immense field & piece
of woods. - Here - yesterday - the last-day
of the month - all the troops were "mustered
for pay", & the muster & Pay Rolls made out, so
as to be sent on to Washington promptly, in
order that we may be paid off as soon
as possible; there being now - four months pay
due us. - About 3 o'c. in the afternoon,
after finishing the Pay Rolls, Gustavus & I
started off together for a walk, stopping
at two or three farm-houses, - at one house
remaining awhile, & getting some apples