Headquarters 97th N.Y.V.
near Stafford Court House, Va.
Nov. 21 1862.

Dear Mother,

Not having had any opportunity to send the letter I wrote at Rappahannock, I write again now; as our Brother is about starting for Washington, I can send it by him. We did not leave the Rappahannock, till nearly night, on Thursday; but the wagons, containing our tents & baggage went off the night before, & we had to sleep on the ground, - the officers having a large "fly" to shelter them. - It rained some that day & considerable the next. Thursday morning the Reg. was ordered on picket, at diff. points on the Rap. river, in the vicinity of the bridge. - The rebel pickets across the river, were in plain sight, in two or three places. Some of them came down to the opposite bank of the river, & conversed with our pickets. & threw across papers to them, by means of a string tied around stones. They said they expected to get Richmond papers of yesterday, that day & promised to exchange. They wore the Gray overcoats - light blue, & said they were very comfortable. A good many of their troops were quite destitute of proper clothing, & there was some suffering in consequence. Stuart's & Ashby's Cavalry under command of Gen. Stuart, were near by there. They

were Cavalry pickets. Pleasanton's & Buford's Cavalry were on our side, guarding the fords along the river; two Brigades under Pleasanton & one under Buford. Towards night, orders came to destroy the Rappahannock bridge; & fires were built on the bridge & under it, & a guard among after timbers were chopped off by the Cavalrymen. Our men assisted in burning & chopping. It was a grand sight to see it burn. It had been fortified before by the U.S. troops, after our retreat from the Rapidan, across the Rappahannock. Finally our Brigade, then in rear of all the other troops, took up the line of march, supposing our destination to be Fredericksburg; we went about 10 miles, turning to the right at Bealton Station & going nearly south. Having rained considerable during the day, the roads became very muddy, & marching sometime after dark, over a terribly rough, stony, muddy road, was extremely fatiguing & unpleasant. Not having caught up with the wagons, we were obliged to sleep without our tents, but fortunately the rain ceased & the weather was mild, so we experienced little inconvenience. — On Wednesday we resumed the march at 7 o'c. A.M., which seemed rather early, after breakfast, as we had not retired till 12 o'c. the night before. — We marched about 10 miles, the roads being quite muddy & bad, & caught up with the wagons in good season that afternoon, so that we had our tents that night. It rained some

during the day, & again quite hard all night, so that the roads were became terribly bad for marching & for artillery. But again we marched, going about 12 miles, through mud & rain, & being rear guard of the Brigade, were nearly all day, & rather late in the evening, going that distance. It rained almost incessantly during the day & evening & the roads were perfectly horrible. Such a time among as we experienced before. Most of the men stood up in the rain all night around the fires. But as a few of us Officers put up a tent, & had a shelter, slept tolerably well; considering that we were wet & muddy to the thighs. Shall probably remain here three or four days, & then probably again Camp, then to ship by water. Artillery has been moving all night & every the day. Must close for want of time. We are well.
Will write again as soon as an opportunity accurs to send.

Yours &c
Rush R. Cady