

Headquarters 94th Reg. A. S. V.
near Galena, Va. Dec. 19. 62.

Dear Father,

I have just rec'd your letter tonight, & was exceedingly glad to hear again so soon from home. - There has been no mail going out for several days, so that I have been unable to send letters that I have written, - one of them a week ago, today, I gave them this morning to our letter Mr. Leamstock, who came from Washington today, in company with two officers of the Reg. who had been absent since the battle of Bull Run. He brought my valise, in which such articles as I wished to send for, had been packed by Mrs. Mendenhall, who also put in a small bag of dried plums & some Bologna sausage. She has before sent a package to me, containing dried fruits &c, & has been very kind. She also wrote an excellent letter to me, in answer to mine, requesting her to pack certain articles, in my valise & send it by Mr. Leamstock. She spoke of having received a letter from Mother. - Tonight's mail also brought a package of papers, & a letter for Mrs. Davis. - Have been so busy lately as to find it impossible to read much. - The same night that I wrote the letter in pencil, to you (Monday), just after our camp had become quiet, the men having lain down to sleep, orders came, to pack up quietly & be ready to move at a moment's notice. We did so; & in

a few minutes more on the march. He thought perhaps it was a general move of the Left, to recross the river, for the purpose of making a flank movement. The first part of our premise was correct; but we did not then know that our whole army had suffered a most disastrous repulse, & was all at the same time falling back to this side of the river. He recrossed at the same place where we went over, which was perhaps a mile & a half from where we had been supporting the battery. He then marched about a mile further up the river, & ~~again~~ bivouached on the flat. Alexander & I slept together, each of us having a rubber & a wooden blanket. It was the fifth night that we had been without tents. Soon after midnight it commenced raining hard; & the water run under us so that we were obliged to get up & walk around till morning. We started early, & came about two miles, over roads that had already become terribly muddy, encamping at this place, with our whole Division. The wagons being near by, we got our tents & baggage, & again began to feel comfortable. - That morning we learned the result of Saturday's battle. It had been attempted to force the enemy's position all along the line, & only the Left had gained any praise, although we too had failed in our attempt. The Right & Centre Grand Divisions had both suffered terribly, having charged repeatedly the enemy's intrenchments, & being as many times repulsed with heavy

loss. The rebels fought behind their breastworks, & par-
tifications, showing themselves as little as possible, thus
sustaining comparatively slight losses. There is no doubt
but that this has been the greatest battle of the war,
as regards our loss in killed, wounded & missing, which,
although not so published, is estimated certainly as
high as 16,000. The loss in our Division is between 8
& 900 killed & wounded. In the Gibbons Hospital, where
Kearney is, there are 1100 men wounded & sick, all
of our Div. The 14th on the Right, is said to have lost
heavily. The 146th only 2 men. Gen. Meagher's Brigade
(Irish) went into the fight with 1700 men & came out
with only 400, being almost completely annihilated. It is
said that they charged on some breastworks three times, &
had fairly got their hands on them, but were thus mowed
down like grass. - The brave & efficient Gen. Bayard,
(of Cavalry fame) the youngest Brig. Gen. in the army, was
struck by a solid shot in the thigh, while ~~at~~ in the vic-
inity of a Hospital ~~some~~ ^{a short} distance in the rear of the battle
field, & died in a short time. I had seen him frequently,
had conversed & shaken hands with him. He was pres-
ent at the burning of the Rap. Bridge awhile ago. He was idol-
ized by the army, & his loss will be severely felt.

A Richmond paper, giving an account of the battle, ad-
mits a rebel loss of 540 killed & 2500 wounded.

We took some hundreds of prisoners. It is said that Sigel has gone to Sharpsburg Gap, with 50,000 men, to get in the rear of the rebels. Different opinions prevail among military men, as to whether another attempt will be made to go through to Richmond this winter. Some think we will now go into winter quarters. A good many troops have returned to their late Camps along the R.R. between here & Aquia Creek. It is confidently expected that we go back to our old Camp tomorrow. The 14th has gone, & the 6th Army Corps.

I understand that Gen. Lee would not allow us - on the Right & Centre to get off our killed & wounded off the field, but nearly all the wounded were left, except such as could get off themselves. Today there have been sent over men to bury our dead. Lee would grant Burial but 6 hours to get across the river. Such was the haste, that a good many of our men must have been left behind & taken prisoners, especially at Fredericksburg. I was "Officer of the Day" yesterday, & had charge of the Guard & Camp, which gave me some orders to do, but towards night I got a horse & went to see Gustavus, at the hospital, about 2 miles from here, so had several letters from home for him to read, besides money & stamps for him; being of course very desirous of seeing him before he left. He was in excellent spirits, & looked very well - very glad indeed to hear from home & get papers. Said it was a pretty hard place to lie, there, in a hospital tent, so much groaning around him. One man, in the same tent (of our Regt) had died that morning. Another had had his knee put out & was suffering very much; while others might have limbs amputated. There were several of large hospital tents there, covering quite a large space of ground, accommodated, as I have said, 1100 sick & wounded.