

Headquarters 97th Reg. Ill. Inf.
Camp near Sharpsburg, Oct. 30th 62.

Dear Mother,

Nothing of importance has transpired with us, since my last letter home. We still remain in the same camp, to which the Brigade moved, the day I arrived here. But we are every day expecting another supply of the "A" tents, which we formerly had, & also new clothes, after which, we are to move to a new camp ground, upon the summit of an adjacent hill, which commands an extended view of the surrounding country. The soldiers are all lousy, without exception, & most of the Officers, - they can't help it, some are obliged to wear underclothing so long, & many are even destitute of shirts. But we expect a supply of clothing daily, & the intention is, to leave all the old clothes behind us in our old camp, when we move. In this way alone, can the men ^{be} entirely freed

of the vermin, with which they are infested. It is an every day affair, for men & officers too, many of them, to take off their clothes, shirt & pants, & lurk lice. Such is soldiering! & such camp life! I have thus far been so fortunate as to keep clear of them, but there is constant danger of catching them from others. - But enough on this interesting subject. -

It is some time since I heard from home, - but I am expecting letters every day. I wish you would send me the Utica Herald every day, or at least when it contains Co. or some news of interest. I am always glad to get hold of a copy. Father can get some self-sealing-stamped paper envelopes, so that it would be little trouble to send them.

My health has been quite good since my return to camp, quite as good, I think, as at any time since I enlisted, so that I feel much encouraged.

The major was unwell a few days ago, but is now all right again. - Will Wright was taken to the Hospital at Hedgesville, a few days

ago, quite sick. He looked very miserable when he went. I think he will probably have a run of fever, though perhaps not, if he is properly cared for.

Yesterday, our Brigade & Gen. Yawers' were out, & got ^{all} ~~the~~ ready to be reviewed by the Pres. waiting some time, for him, but he did not come. - Gen. Durgei made a speech to his Brigade, which seemed a mere handful of men, to what it once was, saying that he had made application for leave of absence, for 30 days, & he expected to leave very soon, but before going, he had desired such an opportunity to express to them the gratitude & pride he felt, an act of the noble gallantry & bravery they had shown in the last two battles, in which they were engaged. They had done some of the most desperate fighting ever recorded in History; & they might return to their homes feeling the proud consciousness, of having manfully done their duty to their Country, & of having reflected the highest honor upon

I have heard nothing from the Hospital, in re-
gard to Dr. Briggs, yet, though I wrote to the
Surgeon several days ago. - I wish you
would enquire ~~if~~ whether his friends have
heard anything from him. - I would like
to know more of the 5th. Onida Reg. - its no.,
the names of such officers as I know, how
full it is, & when it is to start.

Wallis Root, teaching at the Acad-
emy, with his bro., is a classmate of mine.
Col. Whelock is expected soon. Rush,