

Camp of the 97<sup>th</sup> Reg. S. V. A.  
near Belle Plains, Va.  
April 10<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Dear Mother,

I received your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. inclosing Grandmother's, by last evening's mail. Its words of good cheer were very encouraging; and although I do not allow myself to become down hearted and despondent, my inward spirit and satisfaction is always strengthened by the counsels & tidings from home.

You hope that I will form no bad habits while in the Army, and that I may return home no worse morally, at least, than when I came away. I have endeavored to bear in mind your admonitions, & have neither become profane nor intemperate.

There is little danger of my becoming addicted to the use of profane language, I think, as I detest the habit.

I have just written to Gustavus, thinking he must be in Washington, as you said he would probably start from New York for Washington, on Tuesday. Unless he can come to the Reg. I shall not be able to see him, as there is no hope of getting a leave of absence just now, there being no chance open. I should be sorry to miss seeing him.

Yesterday our Corps was reviewed by the President, on a large plain, upon the River, about a mile below the Landing, & about 4 miles from our Camp. He started about 10 o'c. AM. taking with us dinner pations, & arriving upon the ground at about 10 o'c.; but it was some time longer before the other Brigades had formed upon the line. The Review itself commenced at 2 o'c. a salute of 21 Guns being fired. The Corps, composed of 12 Brigades, and Three Divisions, was formed in two lines, the right being in close column of divisions (presenting a front of only two c's) & about 12 paces apart. The Pres. accompanied by Gen. Hooker & his staff, rode up to the right & down in front of the first line, the bands playing, colors dipping, and each Brigade in turn presenting arms, then riding back in the rear, and in like manner down in front & up in rear of the second line; afterwards taking his place in front of the lines, all the troops passed in Review, marching in close column of divisions. They were at least an hour in marching past, there being from 15 to 20,000 troops. Pres. Lincoln was accompanied by his wife and son, the former riding in a carriage, & the latter upon horseback. The Pres. was plainly dressed, but appeared quite dignified. He looked much faded and careworn, though his eye was clear, & seemed

to take in everything. Ours was the first Brigade  
to pass in Review, & of course the whole immense col-  
umn was in one rear. Leaving a hill, which over-  
looked the entire field, what an imposing & magnificent  
spectacle was presented! All these thousands of troops  
upon the march; Bands playing, ensigns floating upon  
the breeze, & their unpolished weapons glittering in  
the sun light! It was a sight to be long remembered.  
The weather was very fine, & exceedingly favorable  
for the occasion.

Day before yesterday, the Pres.  
reviewed four Corps together, near Falmouth, there  
being in all more than 50,000 men, some say 60,000.  
Several of our Officers witnessed it, & upon their re-  
turn, gave glowing accounts thereof.

Our Reg. was "mustered" this morning, in con-  
sistance with the order for a Gen. Muster of all the troops  
on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. -

The order came this afternoon, for the consolidation of all  
Regts of less than 500 men, into 5 Co's, Col's, Maj's &  
one Inf. Surg. to be mustered out, as also the super-  
numerary line officers, those to be retained having been  
selected by Corp and Div. Commanders, for their offic-  
ing.

Whether this order will prevent our con-  
solidation with the 104<sup>th</sup> we do not yet know, but rather  
think it will. - The health of our men is very good

and their spirit, excellent. I think the discipline of this whole Army, was never at so high a point as now. The mail has just now came, bringing a letter from Sumner, at Washington, where he arrived on Monday last. His letter is dated the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. He has obtained a med. cert. for 15 days longer. Says he will try to visit the Reg. I hope he will, as I shall not be able to see him otherwise.

This fellow who robbed the mails, has not yet been punished, but he must be, or there will be great complaint made. Col. Wheelock is now absent, but when he returns, the case must be properly attended to.

Was sorry to learn of Grandmother's ill health, & of Collins' severe sickness. There is little sickness here now. As for shelter tents, when we came to march, I am sure I shall get along very well with them, having had considerable experience, in living & sleeping without any tents whatever.

We are pretty busy now, with inspections, Reviews, Drills &c, besides making out Returns, Rolls &c, I have about all the work of the Co. to do, that is the drilling & account keeping. Simeon Alexander having been unwell for several days; but my health is good, & I like to work. It is becoming late & I must close. With love to all, I remain

Your affectionate Son

Rush P. Cady.

P.S. I enclose a brief letter to Willie, as I know that he has long expected one.