

Miss Ben
Wright
Mrs. Jones
in receipt
of Reg. H. B. V.
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Rappahannock Station, Va. Nov. 17th 62.

Dear Mother,
I have received your kind letter
of the 15th inst. & am glad to
hear from you again. I hope
you are all getting ready for
Christmas. I am well & hope
this letter will find you
all the same. I have not much
news to write at present.

I had not finished the letter I sent by Maj.
Crawford, yesterday afternoon. While writing it, the Reg. was called
out to listen to the reading of the articles of War, & when I returned,
the Maj. was on horse-back, all ready to start, so that I had no time
to complete the letter. But I sent a full letter to Eliza. Her note
to Mr. Abbot, at Rome, requesting him to send for them months, to
the address of Capt. Palmer, The Harper's Monthly, Harper's Weekly, Frank
Leslie's Illustrated, N. Y. Ledger, Flag of our Union & Weekly Sewall's,
the kind-hearted & I, are to pay for them. Thus we expect to have
plenty of good reading matter, for the lack of which, camp life is
sometimes very dull. I did ever when on a march, we halt
frequently & are sometimes a good deal delayed, so that a good
paper or two, would be desirable, for whiling away the time.

I made a mistake in regard to the reg's composing
our Brigade. They are the 9th & 99th A. B. the 11th & 88th Pa. & the
3rd Mass. Regts. The like our new Brig. Commander, Gen. Taylor, very
much. Our Brigade is now the 3rd instead of the 1st, 2^d Division,
(as before) commanded by Gen. Gibbon, 3rd Army Corps, commanded
by Gen. Reynolds (formerly Gen. Hooker) Yesterday, while at din-

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ever, we were ordered to get our men under arms immediately, & be ready to march at a moments notice; but not to strike tents, or pack up. The occasion of this order was afterwards ascertained to be this: two or three squadrons of rebel Cavalry were seen across the Rappahannock, & an attack upon the bridge was anticipated, in which contingency this Brigade would have been ordered to support a battery, which commands the approaches to the river & the bridge, from the other side. But no demonstration was made. The rebels are supposed to be in pretty large force upon the other side. Their pickets are plainly visible - on the R.R. - half a then quarters of a mile from the bridge.

Guistans, Chaplain Ferguson, Capt. Paragay & I went out there this morning, passing by the Station, which has been destroyed, & going to the bridge, which is very long & high - distant from where we now are, about a mile. It was destroyed of late we came across it on our retreat last summer, & afterwards rebuilt by the rebels. - It was but a short distance from the bridge, where our Reg. lay when I was sent back with the sick to Beulah Station. Guistans pointed out the different positions in which our Reg. lay that day & the next, after I left, & they were exposed to the shells of the enemy, at which time some of our men were wounded.

We have just taken down our tents, & packed everything into the wagons, as we are to march at 4 o'c. to Warrenton

junction, two miles this side of Cattlets, & perhaps 10 miles
from here. We may not get there tonight, but probably shall
the men have three days rations in their haversacks, & as we
do not see the wagons, (which go by a stiff road) for two or three
days perhaps, we are prepared to bivouac, at night, without tents,
except the small shelter tents, which the men all carry.

It is believed that our advance is now at Frederickshavn,
which is probably now our destination. The orders - rec'd
from Gen. Taylor, a few minutes ago, are very strict in regard
to straggling. The Commandants of Co's are to be provided with
slips of paper, on which are written "sick", & signed by the Com.
men must have one of these permits, in order to fall out of the
ranks, when they can get written permission from the Com.
to ride in the ambulance. - Halls are to be made every 50
min. for 10 min. Capt's march in rear of this Co's, & file closers (
Bergts & Thiers) are to be held strictly accountable for any men
leaving the ranks without permission. At the end of a march
1st Bergts will call the rolls of this Co's & report the Absentees
to the Capt., & the Commandant of the Regt. (who has the power of a Court-
Martial, for the trial & punishment of offenders) will immediately try all
such. - Under such strict orders as these, which make Comman-
ders of Regt responsible for their observance of them ~~by~~ by superior's
note officers, there will probably be as little straggling. - There
are few sick now, any way, & the men can march first-rate.

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It rained some this forenoon, & is still lowering & cool, & looks like more rain. We will be ready to start in 10 min., but it is now only half past 3. We march at 4. Gustavus has been rather unwell today, with pain in the bowels, but no doubt will feel better soon, as he has taken some medicine. He has a horse to ride, which is very fortunate. - This forenoon a good mail came, containing a letter from you, dated the 9th inst. I cannot tell you how glad I was to get it. There was also a short letter from Father, enclosing postage stamps; - also the Citizen, which I thought I should this week expect to see my letter in it, which I sent the 13th inst. - Gustavus rec'd a letter from Old Warren, at Vienna. He said he had just rode down town in a cutter, there being four

inches of snow. - We have had no snow here since a week ago last Friday, when we marched to Warrenton, & no rain till today. - An important Gen. Order has been received today, from Gen. Bunnell, which divides the Army into three grand Divisions, the first - on the right - commanded by Bunnell; the second - the center; the third - ^{on the left,} - commanded by the Army Corps of Reynolds (ours) & Hooker (formerly Porter) is to be commanded by Gen. Grandin. A large reserve is to be commanded by Gen. Sigel. Not having seen the order, I cannot ~~give~~ designate the Corps in each Division & their respective commanders. Will give you particulars, in my next letter. Gustavus & I are both well provided with shirts, drawers, wraps, & socks. I rec'd a package this evening by mail carrier, from Mrs. Winters, containing a shirt & necker, & small book. Mrs. Mendenhall, a young married woman, at Mrs. Bunnell's, who has the keys of our trunk & my valise, sent us also, two small bags of dried plums & peaches, which will be nice. How do Ruth's

March 10th. 1862. From Warrenton, Va. to this place.