

Headquarters 97th N. Y. V.
Rappahannock Station, Va. Dec. 16th 62.

Dear Mother,

Your welcome letter to Gustavus - dated the 6th just, was rec'd right before last. Although 8 days on the way, it was the only one rec'd from home, for some time. I have just finished a letter to Eliza, though it is almost 20 days since I have heard from her. But I don't think best to wait till answers come to my letter, before writing again, as there is considerable delay sometimes, & we want to get letters, both from home & from her, as often as possible.

When I last wrote to Father, at Warrenton, we were just on the point of marching, we knew not where. Starting at about 1 o'c. P.M., we came to Bealton Station, a distance of 17 or 18 miles, arriving there rather late in the evening. It was the longest, & most fatiguing march, we have had, since leaving Merceraville, Md, but men & officers stood it remarkably well, & were soon joking & laughing in the finest spirits, around the Camp fires. Bealton Station, is about 6 miles west of Collets, & about 6 from the Rappahannock Bridge, of which we are now within a mile.

Arriving at that place Monday night, we bivouacked on the ground, very irregularly, without laying out any camp; the regiments being almost mixed up with each other; & some remained till Thursday, when we moved a short distance

we laid out regular camps, the regiments, being on the same line. The ground was very level, & smoothly carpeted with grass; & here & there at frequent intervals were scattered a variety of evergreen trees; altogether forming one of the most beautiful camping grounds, we have ever had. Our med. Gen. Duryea, & Capt. Duryea (his bro. & Adj. Gen.) returned; but the Gen. did not resume command of the Brigade, as he ranks higher than Gen. Gibbon, who is now in command of the Division, since Gen. Rickett went to Harp's Ferry; but he will probably take Gibbon's place, unless assigned to some other command.

Bealton Station, by the way, is the place, from which I was sent to Annapolis, sick, last Aug. Last night we were informed that our Reg. had been transferred out of Duryea's old Brigade, into that of Gen. Taylor, formerly commanded by Gen. Hartwiff (wounded at Antietam, & since deceased) & were ordered to report to Gen. Taylor, this morning, striking tents & marching at 7 o'clock, which we did. We marched about 5 miles, perhaps only 4, & upon our arrival here, immediately encamped. This Brigade is composed of the 88th Pa. the 9th N.Y. the 97th N.Y. & the 12th Mass. The 88 Pa. was in our Brigade a short time, at Clouds Mills. A Lieut. Wagner of that Reg. went with me to Washington last Aug. & for a short time we were at the same private house together. We think that our transfer into this Brigade, may perhaps be an improvement.

in some respects, though we were on the most friendly terms
with the other officers in our Brigade, & now will have to
form new acquaintances. It is thought that the
men will get a greater variety of nations than before, some
have a much better Brigade Commissary; who also keeps on
board a better variety of provisions to sell to the Officers.
At times, the Officers are obliged to depend almost entirely
on the Brigade Commissary, for their supplies, when little or
nothing can be brought through the Country, where we go.

There is quite a body of troops at this point, composed
of Cavalry, Artillery & Infantry. We are only a short dis-
tance from