

you home. ~~Another~~ If my coat  
arrives safe in Boston please have  
it cleaned & mended & kept till  
I send for it. This letter may  
seem to you merely a catalogue of wants,  
but I will finish what I have to say  
now, while I am about it.

I have joined in a mess with Capt.  
Oakey, and would respectfully suggest  
that a box of good things would be very  
acceptable. I should like some fruit,  
very much. Stewed peaches or anything  
of that sort. ~~and by way of~~  
At present dried-apple sauce is our  
only luxury of that kind. Some nice  
canned meats too would suit very well.  
I remember at Newbern buying some  
pickled or spiced salmon of the Seabird,  
that was delicious. Then lemons  
and white sugar never so amiss.  
Also I should like some brandy & whiskey.  
I know you don't like applications  
for spirituous drink, but it is often  
very useful. If I could have had some  
brandy or whiskey when I was under  
the weather at Warrenton Junction  
I should have been all right.

Camp near Kelley's Ford,

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Dear Mother,

I am very sorry if my  
letter from Warrenton Junction ~~is~~  
~~adds~~ to your uneasiness. You cer-  
tainly had enough to worry you without  
my complaints. I am happy to say now  
that there is no longer any cause  
to be unhappy about me. My life  
here is very pleasant. The weather  
is hot, to be sure, but the duty is  
light, and the situation is healthy.  
I am really enjoying myself in a  
quiet kind of way. Company duties  
no longer annoy me, now I have  
got the hang of them, and I don't  
mind going on picket occasionally  
and sitting on a puddle all night.  
It is variety at least, if nothing  
more. In all probability we shall  
stay here all summer. A campaign

is unlikly, for several reasons.

The cavalry horses are used up, and large purchases must be made before the cavalry will be fit for service.

The army is greatly reduced in number, & needs the conscripts to be effective.

The weather is altogether too hot for active service, & lastly, the men couldn't stand another campaign or marching rations.

When the army is in camp for some time, they have full rations, fresh meat, vegetables &c. But on a march they have the ration reduced in quantity & variety.

They really don't have enough to eat, and after two months campaigning a change of diet is necessary to prevent them from getting sick. Now they are indulging in soft bread & fresh meat.

We were paid off two days ago, and I sent \$200 home.

If I owe to Father, & the other hundred I should like to have kept

for me, & used when I send home for things. I put the money in one of Adams' Express envelopes, and gave in charge to our sutler to carry to Washington. If it doesn't reach home, pretty soon, please have inquiries made of Adams' Exp. Speaking of that reminds me that I inquired the other day about my great coat, and learned that it was taken to Washington by Major Francis, and delivered to Adams' Express, & a receipt taken for it. This receipt was kept by Capt. Brown for a time, & then he gave it to Tom Fox to take care of. I suppose that it must be lost now. However I don't despair of getting the coat even now, since it was actually delivered to the Express. I wish that Father would make inquiries about that also. I wrote to Lilly about it a day or two ago, but I find that he has

Here letters sometimes that I am sorry I  
came into the business. On the contrary  
I shall rejoice that I have been through  
it, — when I get through. Nine  
months are a good long time, and I don't  
indulge in anticipations.

I don't think you need feel quite  
so anxious about Jim as you seem  
to be in your last letter. Of course  
the work is hard, and the place  
sickly, but Jim has pulled through  
very well before, & I don't expect  
that the infantry will have much  
fighting to do. It will be done by  
the batteries & iron-clads, I think  
I expect the 24<sup>th</sup> will have their  
usual luck & come out all right.

Do cheer up or take the same view.  
It seems reasonable enough.

I want write any more, for this  
letter is unconsciously long for me  
already. I shall answer Bob  
very soon. Give my love to the  
Peaks & everybody else.

Very affectionately yours  
H. J. P.

Two or three bottles of each would suit.  
Bourbon whiskey I want, not Scotch.

Then I should like a flat writing  
case large enough to hold large note  
paper. Something with two compartments,  
flat, with an elastic round it.

The compartments might be made  
of oiled silk. The case should be  
small enough to carry in my haversack.

Also I want a small wooden ink-  
bottle, that can be securely carried  
in my haversack. Postage stamps  
whether I mentioned in a previous  
letter. There is one thing I forgot  
to speak of. I should like a pound or  
so of good tea.

You needn't hesitate about sending  
the liquor on account of a chance  
of its seizure. They never examine  
officers' boxes in this Army.

There, I believe I have bored

you enough with my wants.

We are being put through a course of drill now, by way of enjoying the hot weather. Gen. Williams, our Division General, does nothing himself but sit in his shirt sleeves, under a tree, smoke cigars, and drink ice whiskey & water, but he issues orders for company & battalion drills, as if it were January instead of August. Fortunately Coppswell is disposed to be merciful on us, and sends out only two officers at a time. Yesterday Capt. Powers and I took out the battalion. We had forty-eight men in all, a large regiment, wasn't it?

We drilled as skirmishers, and my part was to ~~take out~~ command the reserve, which was carefully placed in a shady spot, and remained there during the drill. I didn't have a bad time. Today two other officers go out, so that my turn doesn't come very often. The other

day I went on picket. Our picket line extends along the bank of the Rappahannock, and is very quiet. No enemy anywhere near. Well I went on, and the first thing the officer of the Day did was to take away most of my men, and to give me a lot of the 150<sup>th</sup> N.Y. a green left. They kept me constantly employed, looking out that they didn't take off their equipments or go to sleep on their posts, and when night came, it began to rain. I rigged up a rubber blanket on some rails and sat in a puddle under it all night. Charming situation, wasn't it? However I didn't hurt me any. ~~So~~ These uncomfortable times are quite pleasant to talk over afterwards, and I hope the relation of them doesn't affect you any more than the experiencing them did me. The life, on the whole, isn't hard, nor is it irksome to me, ~~but~~ I ain't suppose because I write

as tea is not often times. I have found  
your bag of tea very useful, both  
to myself & others. I don't want any  
more at present, though.

Also I should like a blacking brush,  
as it is impossible to get anything  
of value while we lie here at this  
ford. You speak of sending me  
some handkerchiefs. I don't want  
them at all. I have 16, and about  
as many stockings. I am short  
of drawers & undershirts as I said before.

Oh, there is one more thing I want,  
& that is a Buffalo robe. The nights  
now are cold & we lie on the ground  
under shelter tents & find it hard to  
keep warm. A buffalo robe would be  
just the thing. You understand that  
I don't want anything elaborate,  
but just a common thing. I don't  
believe it costs more than \$10, &  
it will be worth \$50 to me this  
winter. Another thing I had

nearly forgotten is another sleeping  
cap. Mine was lost coming to New  
York, and I feel the loss now  
that the cold weather is coming

Camp in the Rapidan

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 1863


Dear Mother,

I got tonight's letters  
from you & Bob, with some postage  
stamps. The letters, like all I have had,  
have been very welcome, and I write  
immediately in answer in order to get some  
more. First, in answer to what you  
say about Henry Ropes & the letter  
from Jim. (As the letter that I  
have received for some time I have  
done up in envelopes & will send  
them home. You can see for yourself  
whether there is any mention of  
Henry in any. I think I remember  
receiving one.) No, on second thoughts  
I will look the letter up now &  
enclose it in this. - I have  
just looked over carefully all my  
letters from Jim and can find nothing  
about Henry Ropes. What can have

because of the letter I do not know. I will make another hunt tomorrow among my things, and try to find it. Plea certainly deserves every effort on our part to oblige him, when he did so much for us. I wish he would write to me occasionally.

When you see him, please tell him so. ~~But~~ Since I wrote last, that Post containing Lewis's piece, reached me. It was later than Father's letter of the same date. I was much pleased at reading it, of course, but I still like that one in the Address book. It is a more faithful portrait of his character.

I wrote to Father three days ago, but owing to scarcity of stamps, the letter didn't go till to-day. It was a very unsatisfactory letter too, to me, and will be, I dare say, to him. But I was not in the mood for

writing at the time. I was dull & stupid & am so still. I don't think this low swampy Country agrees with me very well, and my cold stuffs me up a good deal. I wish you would send me a few things in a box. I should like one bottle of good brandy, and three or four of Bourbon whiskey. Also some lemons & white sugar. Also a tin wash basin, a table knife (small size) and spoon (a stray one), a couple of tin plates & a cup (not a big quart pot, but shaped something like this ) three pairs of flannel drawers, two moderately thick undershirts, a flat <sup>cheap</sup> common <sup>rubbing</sup> case, a little larger than a sheet of note paper. A portable ink-bottle (one of those wooden ones with a cover that screws or would do) a pen holder that shuts up, and a few pens. Also some chocolate, which is excellent when one is perfectly well

campaign, it is necessary to have  
the conscript at least a month  
in camp before they can be of  
any use to fight.

I don't suppose they will be  
very useful any time before next  
Spring. Some of the regiments  
in our Division have got them,  
the 46<sup>th</sup> Pa. & 5<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Conn. and  
they are not allowed on  
picket for fear, I suppose, of their  
deserting to the enemy.

There have been about 20 caught in  
the attempt by our Cavalry. They  
will probably be shot.

We have been remarkably favoured  
lately in our weather. Not a drop  
of rain has fallen. Since we came  
into this camp, & that makes all  
the difference in the world in our  
comfort in rotten shelters.

I will write to Bob, when I get  
out on picket. Good by

Very affectionately

H. I. P.

I lost my rubber pillow  
too. I wish you would send me  
another one. I know this list  
is a long one, but I haven't asked  
for anything that I don't really  
need, and I expect in a fortnight  
to send home enough money to reim-  
burse Father for the expense of provi-  
ding them. It is getting on  
towards 11 o'clock, and I must go to  
bed, for I go on picket to-morrow,  
and there is no chance to sleep  
there. Perhaps I will fill this  
letter by giving my experience of  
picket. It is a lively place where  
I am going, an old deserted house,  
in full view of the enemy. Fortunately  
they don't fire on the pickets, so it  
will be quite pleasant & interesting  
without the usual ~~and~~ element of  
danger. — Continued Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

This morning, having just come

in from Battalion Drill, & having  
about an hour before I go on  
picket, I will try to finish this letter.

First, I have looked over my valise  
again & find a letter of Jim's that  
contains a few remarks about Henry  
Roper. I enclose to you with this.

Then I have another want. I want  
more note-paper, unruled. My paper  
is getting used up, though I have a  
plentiful supply of envelopes -

We are very quiet here now.  
The enemy don't fire on our pickets  
much, and except an occasional  
cannonade in the distance, caused by  
some of our cavalry on a reconnaissance,  
we have actually no disturbance -

The cavalry are quite active, trying  
to find out the force in front of us, I  
suppose. If it should turn out that  
Langstreet has really gone to Brazz's  
assistance, we may have to advance

so as to bring him back again.

However I don't feel very anxious  
for Roanoke. I believe the Brigade  
together are strong enough for all the  
force the enemy can bring against  
them.

There is no chance of our crossing  
this river, if we do advance, any where  
round here. All the ford for miles  
are protected by earthworks, and the  
other side is much higher ground  
than ours. Perhaps we may go  
down to Germania Ford, where we  
crossed last April. We are all  
ready to march. We have eight days  
ration on hand.

Why don't they send us some conscripts?  
There ~~are~~ ~~are~~ only a few more left  
to supply before they come to us, when  
I was at home, and those must  
be supplied by this time.  
If we are going to have an autumn



since his fight the supplies are carried by Steamboats from Bridgeport, thereby avoiding that long route over the mountains, but now Gen Sherman has arrived at Decatur with 20000 men from Grant's Army, having marched from Memphis, and has been ordered to report to Hooker. They are going to try the flanking dodge again, and force Bragg back on Atlanta. I do not believe that the Army is at all disheartened by the removal of Rosecrans, as they have great faith in Thomas. I don't know anything of the relative merits of the two. However I haven't to fight under either. The Army of the Potomac seems to have been rather successful lately. I wish I were back there, if Meade is going to be successful on Virginia soil. I feel as if the 2<sup>d</sup> had a right to a share in the laurels. However if we gain no laurels in Tennessee, we get full rations and a quiet night's rest. So perhaps we are better off where we are.

P.S. I hope to receive some photo-graphs by this next box, and some more stamps.

Elk River Bridge

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Dear Mother

I have just made up a package of all my old letters to send home, and having kept out the last half dozen, I find that the majority are from you. So I write to you, and will answer in this anything in Father's letters that need an answer.

You see by the heading that we are back again at our old spot, where we have been twice before. The cause of our removal from Christiana was an order from Gen Grant (or Hooker) to concentrate some regiments belonging to the Reserve Corps (which formerly guarded this whole line) at the north of the line, and not have them mixed up with our Division. So the 33<sup>d</sup> Ind. 102<sup>d</sup> Ohio & moved to Memphis, and the 2<sup>d</sup> + 107<sup>th</sup> N.Y. + 13<sup>th</sup> N.J. came up in this direction. When we were stationed here before there were five regiments

and a battery here, but now we hold the post alone. Consequently the regiment is somewhat scattered. One company (C) is guarding a water tank, about a mile north of the bridge, Companies E + I are stationed at a stockade just on the north side of the bridge, and the remaining 7 companies occupy a hill on the south side, where there is a large earthwork.

It is a very important place, so I suppose it is a compliment to the regiment to be selected, but the duty for the men is very laborious. I have ten privates for duty, and they go on <sup>picket</sup> every other day. My own labors are light. There are three officers stationed here in the stockade, and we get our regular sleep, only having to visit the pickets occasionally. The troops who were in the stockade before us built very decent quarters, which we took possession of, but I have built a house for myself of heavy logs, well chinked

with mud, and a brick chimney.

It is not finished yet, but I shall get into it by tomorrow, and then I shall have room enough to accommodate Bob with ease. The house is about 7 feet by 14, and extremely snug and warm. Though it may seem rather absurd to lay again, after so many moves, that we are settled at last, yet I really believe it is true this time.

Col. Morse (who is Proo. Mar. of the Corps) said that it was very improbable that they would move us again, unless the whole division moved, and that is not at all likely, because they must have this road guarded, and they have now the smallest number of men effectual for the purpose.

I believe that we are about to hear of some important movements. Gen. Hooker so far has only opened a shorter road of communication between Stevenson and Chattanooga

If you lend anything, it is not necessary  
to direct to Dechert. Nashville will do  
though perhaps it may be well to put  
on Dechert. I have about four  
lbs expecting to see any express  
(Thanksgiving boxes in time for that  
occasion. We are getting pretty close  
on it. I have recd Bob's letter  
of Nov 12, and will answer it  
soon.

So you have had a  
musical excitement in Boston.  
Of course everybody, whether they  
know anything about music or not,  
is in raptures. Well, I can wait  
till next Spring. By the way, I see  
that Mr. Andrew has sent an agent  
to Washington to have some of the old  
represents sent home to recruit.

I hope he won't succeed, because I don't  
want to engage myself for three years more,  
and I don't think I shall have quite  
done my share, if I come home now.  
So my feelings are conflicting.

Love my love to all &  
believe me  
yrs most affly  
W. D. A.

In answer to various things in your letter,  
I fear to say that I have used the postage  
stamps, Atlantic, De Lottell's, (1013 & 1014),  
and the Harper, and I am greatly obliged  
The Lottell's especially seem home like.  
I feel as if I came in from Cambridge  
on Saturday. I have also recd several  
Sundays Weeklies & Advertisers. Also one of  
those photographs. It is not a good  
as one I had with me, not so good  
an impression. It is too dark.

Father speaks of some times that he  
thinks would be appropriate for the inscrip-  
tion on the tomb-stone. Of course I don't  
wish to interfere with Father's plans.

out, though I like the lines, my preference  
is for the simplest possible inscription.

I think that would have been his taste  
too.

Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup>, inclosing  
the poem paper, came safely, and also  
one of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Of course I was very  
much pleased to get that from Raske,  
and I have written to him, directing  
to the care of his grandfather, not  
knowing any other way.

In your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup>, you

Speak of the family of Edmund's  
of my company. I am surprised  
and rather ashamed to have them  
feel so warmly about the letter

that I did. I really did no more  
than common decency required, only  
answering their letters. Edmund did  
not die with the company. He was in  
Hospital, and the family should have  
been notified of his death by the Surgeon  
in charge. Mr. Quint is not in fault,  
that I can learn. He answered Mr.  
Edmund's letter, I know, at least one  
of them. Perhaps one missed him  
when he went home on leave.

Still, when you ask what sort of a man  
he is, I must admit that he is extremely  
selfish, though not inhumane.

I suppose you are tired of the subject  
of the valise, but I must recur to it  
to ease your mind. I learned yesterday  
that by a recent order, all exp. matter  
for the Regt is to be sent to Sechart  
hereafter. So I expect to see the valise  
very soon, especially as several boxes  
have come all right for other officers.

said that he will resign, in consequence.

So we are pretty sure of staying here.

By the way, what a curious idea you have of this country! There are regular trains running constantly from Nashville. Such a thing as a man being captured is unheard of. You speak of Stonow's experience. Don't you know that Memphis is some hundred miles from here? We are not in Gen. Hurlbut's department, & are not in the habit of having our victors joggled up as citizens of Tennessee and put into the army. If your fears were not so vain, I should be very much disposed to laugh at you.

We don't get much news about Grant's successes. The newspapers didn't reach us for some days, and all I know is that our 2<sup>d</sup> Division is almost used up, Hooker with his usual foolishness, having banged them against the enemy and caused much useless slaughter.

I am thankful that we are not under him. I have no higher opinion of his military ability than I used to have. We hear stories that Hardee succeeded Bragg. It doesn't make much difference. That army can't stand against ours now, whoever commands. I really believe that, if supplies are

Elk River, Tenn.

Dec 3<sup>d</sup> 1863.

Dear Mother,

I have been very remiss in writing to you. I am two letters in your debt. Grafton arrived here four days ago, and brought me your bountiful box. It is the most magnificent box I ever saw or dreamt of. Everything was in it. Even the cranberry jelly, that you were fearful about, came in fine condition. It is not quite gone yet, though Grafton & I have indulged in it ever since at every meal. The quince is capital. I haven't read much in the books yet, because I am afflicted with a sty in my eye, and am obliged to wander round in search of occupation. I can't do much but play cards. Perhaps you think my wants are endless, but I must ask for something more. I wish Bob to go to Huntington's and order a beaver blouse, and pair of thick light blue trousers, made rather loose. Huntington has my measure, (also a waistcoat, of the same material as the blouse) Moreover I want

from Rice's a pair of Balmorals,  
(not army-shoes, with buckles.) Also I  
want a pair of <sup>thick</sup> woolen gloves (a light  
gray color preferred, or white.)

Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> reached me to-day,  
with the photographs. I am sorry  
you had so much trouble about getting  
them. Harry Russell's is not so good as  
some that I have seen, but Bob Shaw's  
is considered excellent by the officers  
of the regiment. Why will you take  
so very desponding views of

Continued Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> - When I broke off here,  
I believe I was about to remonstrate with  
you on your use of language concerning the  
2<sup>d</sup> Man. I don't see that any one in the  
regiment is miserable. The losses, to be  
sure have been immense, but as a rule  
they don't much affect the survivors. The  
men make up their minds that some-  
day or other a rebel bullet is likely to  
put an end to them, but they don't borrow  
trouble, and as a man or a man himself  
is concerned, what difference does it  
make? I think the regiment enjoys itself  
as well as another. However I dare  
say you didn't quite mean "hopelessly

miserable". The great question now in  
Camp is the re-enlistment of the regiment.  
It is evidently the intention of the Govt  
to keep the army in service, even if it costs  
every possible Cent, or much as a Com-  
missioned Officer. The bounties are really  
so large that it will be a pecuniary  
sacrifice for a sergeant to accept a com-  
mission now. He had better wait till  
next year, get his \$700, and then get pro-  
moted. Well, the Colonel has made an  
application to the War Department to be  
allowed to go home, & recruit the regiment.  
There is hardly a man who will enlist  
out here, but it is the opinion at Hd Qrs  
that most of them will enlist if they go home.

Continued, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. There is no more talk  
about re-enlistment. We are all waiting for  
an answer from the War Department.  
Meanwhile I am perfectly contented -  
There is no probability of our Division  
leaving our present position. Gen. Heintz,  
who is greatly dissatisfied at being left  
with one division to guard the road, while  
other generals are winning distinction at  
the front, went to Gen. Grant a week  
or two ago, and requested to be put  
in command of his Corps. But he  
didn't accomplish anything. It is

I must really get this letter finished  
and sent off. I am glad that you have  
been so energetic about the Shelby papers.  
It is a matter that I have  
attended to my Shelby papers.  
I got two more Shelby papers to-day  
besides the Magazine. Everything Shelby  
has in time, except that Valer.  
I got to Nashville three weeks ago,  
I can't understand the delay in sending  
it. By the way a box of Shelby came  
to one of the officers yesterday, that  
has been nearly a month on the road,  
and yet they were in excellent condition.  
I take courage. I don't ask you  
to have some more Shelby struck off  
sent out to me? I am getting a  
collection of the officers & have to  
pay him in exchange. Wilkin  
James sent me Robert Russell & Shelby  
kin's today. He is a most obliging  
& thoughtful fellow. He sends me  
also the Army & Navy Journal, which  
is very interesting to an officer & very  
well conducted. Love to all,  
Yours affectionately  
W.

all right, Grant will drive the rebels  
into the Gulf this winter, and the war  
will be practically over. The great  
thing, however, is to have an overwhelming  
force ready in the spring to finish the  
war quickly. The Army must  
be recruited, so that the rebels may see  
that their last chance of success,  
the melting away of our veteran force,  
is out of the question. I am almost  
inclined to think that the bounty  
system is a good one. It is perhaps  
all we can rely on now. If we had  
had a good conscription act in operation  
two years ago, we could go on better  
that way than any other, but now new  
levies are worth nothing unless we have  
the old troops. Fill up the old regiments  
& recruit them, and the war will  
soon be over. Let the old regiments go  
out, and we are beaten.

I have had another letter from you  
a from Bob, written Nov 29<sup>th</sup>, and also  
letters, Atlanta & Harper. Very much  
liked indeed. I have now, with what  
Grafton brought, plenty of reading matter.  
Hawthorne is very pleasant, and

Deep Water, though rather of the Miss  
Braddon style, is interesting. I sat up  
till half past one last night reading  
it. I was on picket & had to sit up  
till after midnight, any way. My eyes are all  
wretched & I have delayed this  
letter so long. I think that I read  
Tynney Hall once, but I have forgotten  
it, if you like it, I know & so.

I am very sorry indeed to hear of  
poor Park's misfortune. From my late  
enforced abstinence from reading & writing  
I am in a condition to sympathize.

It is wretched to have no eyes, in camp  
peculiarly so, for we spend a great  
deal of time in reading & writing.

There are no drills, because of the  
heavy duty that the men have to do.  
Just think of it. There are 12 privates  
in the company, of whom 5 go on guard  
every day. That gives just 2 men off  
duty in a day, and they have to work  
on the fortifications.

Continued, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> This letter  
is getting to be very rough like  
the wounded snake that "drags his  
slow length along". But yesterday

we had an inspection by the Brigade  
Inspector, and we had to wait so long for  
him that there was no time for any  
thing else. Last night I went down to  
the regiment's camp in the evening.

Today it is raining, and we have  
to pick out dry places to sit in, as the  
rain is uncommonly leaky, and there  
are large cracks in the side of the house.  
Still we are used to it, and unless the  
rain actually drips on our heads, we  
don't think anything of it.

Before I go any farther in this letter,  
I must mention a want that has slipped  
my mind ever so many times. I want  
a sash, rather one of various sizes as  
well as qualities. I want a light single  
sash, not too coarse, but neither do I care  
for an extra fine one. It ought not to  
cost more than \$10. As soon as I have  
an opportunity, I shall send home some  
money, including that \$40 that belonged  
to Edmund. I am not very flush, for  
I lent home money, which has not been  
paid in consequence of an omission in the  
pay roll. Captain's pay was not forthcoming,  
too, at the last pay day, and I must keep  
money enough for both.



three Generals here, McCum, Williams,  
or Reger, with their Staffs.  
The Band is here, and Balls are  
frequent. (Oh that I appet Balls.)  
I think that we shall remain here  
for some time. Perhaps two months.

Continued. March 5<sup>th</sup>

I have felt but little inclined to write  
until now, as we have had no tables  
in our house. Now that want has been  
supplied. We have just got our table,  
and I shall expect to write frequently.  
There is really no reason why I should  
not, for we have very comfortable  
quarters & nothing whatever to do.

It may be that we shall have some  
military duty to do, but it hasn't begun  
yet. We amuse ourselves by practicing  
with our pistols, and reading novels.

Such are the miseries of a Soldier's  
life. I shall write to Bob soon,  
as soon, indeed, as I have a letter  
of his for a text. At present there  
is nothing whatever to say, and  
you must accept this letter as the  
best I can do for you. Love to all.

Very affectionately  
Stagnant

Tullahoma, Tennessee -  
March 3<sup>d</sup> 1864.

Dear Mother,

I wrote you from Nashville  
which place we left on the afternoon  
of the 29<sup>th</sup>. It was a pouring rain storm  
when we started, and it lasted all night  
and the most of the next day. We  
reached Tullahoma about two o'clock  
in the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup>, and got into  
such temporary resting places as could be  
found. The officers all piled into a sort  
of hotel they have here, but we couldn't  
get any room in it but the dining room  
and there a ball was going on. So it was  
after three o'clock we got a chance to lie  
down. The ball was a very absurd  
performance. It was got up by the  
Adj<sup>ts</sup> Clerks & orderlies & some of the  
men of our Regiment who were left behind.  
They had collected about twenty or thirty  
dandy-looking women who live here,  
and the costumes, of course, were not  
in the most modern or elegant style.  
Tullahoma, like most Southern  
towns abounds in woman-kind.

Men are scarce, but almost everywhere I have been inside of, has half a dozen women in it. They may have attractions to men who have been out here in the wilderness some time, but I think anybody who has been in civilized regions a month, even if he is an ardent admirer of the sex will agree with me in thinking them very unimpressing.

After the ball was over, we lay down on the floor & on benches, and contrived to get a little sleep, a very little indeed, for the rippers were tramping over us very soon to put the room in order and get ready for breakfast.

That next day, after we arose, we wandered rather dimly round the town, looking for a resting place. I fear that everybody was rather home-sick. The circumstances were not cheerful. It rained & we had no quarters and no baggage.

The baggage had not come from Nashville. Finally things looked brighter. Crafton & I got a room with a fireplace & a bed, and even a carpet, and about half past seven we went to bed and slept twelve hours. The next morning it cleared off brightly, and we had

quarters assigned us. Three companies A, F, & I, are quartered in the camp just vacated by the 10<sup>th</sup> Maine detachment, which has gone to Banks' Department. The officers, five in number are in a house, which has two large rooms, with fireplaces in each.

Today we have got cleaned up, and feel very cheerful. I can sit before the fire & write letters quite at my ease. We are not detached from the Regiment, but are stationed here partly for convenience, and partly to protect Gen. McCoin's Hd Qrs, which are only a stone's throw from the camp. We have got our companies back in their original shape, and the Regiment for a little while, will be a Regiment once more. But I fear that it never will be a full one, or anything like it. What chance is there of receiving any recruits under the draft? I don't see any.

We shall dwindle away to a mere shadow of a Regiment.

This place we are in is a much more lively place than Elk River Bridge. We have

one, and I don't care about it  
much, though of course I should  
take it if offered.

We are going to make an effort  
to fill up the regiment. By a liberal  
use of money, and the employment  
of summer, I believe we can do a  
good deal, perhaps get a couple  
of hundred recruits. In that case  
we shall do very well. But if we  
do nothing, we shall sink into a  
mere skeleton. You speak of the  
consolidation project as a good one.  
It would be, only the Govt haven't  
pluck enough to attempt it. Besides  
we want more men, and perhaps  
we can't afford to throw away our  
skeleton of <sup>investments</sup>, if there  
are worth anything. (These  
last two sentences are rather  
contradictory. Such is the result  
of writing down the first thing  
that comes into my head  
without reflection.)

Tullahoma, Tenn -  
March 20<sup>th</sup> 1864.

Dear Mother,

I despatched a long letter  
to Bob yesterday, and this  
morning as a reward for my  
pains, I got one from him  
& yours of the 11<sup>th</sup>. I desired him  
to let you read the letter I wrote him,  
as I have nothing to say now, having  
exhausted my budget.  
My daily life is confined to the  
Court Room, and I but little to  
think but the cases that come up.  
As they can't be very interesting  
to you, I will say <sup>about</sup> nothing about them.  
I have been waiting for a letter  
from you before I wrote, so that  
I could have something to  
answer. You commiserate  
me a good deal about having  
to sleep in a ball-room the  
night I got here. I don't think

I minded it much. We were all so tired of the cars that a fire & a dry floor seemed luxurious.

Since that time we have had another ball. I send you the card of invitation that I received.

It was quite a lively affair. I am told, though of course the costumes were rather old-fashioned.

Gen. Williams went & danced, notwithstanding his fifty years of age. Our present excitement is the talk of going to the Army of the Potomac. We think there is some chance of it, though there is no foundation for the rumors in anything that comes from Corps Hd Qrs. We merely consider the probabilities. If Grant is going to make his great campaign in Virginia, he will make the Potomac Army strong enough

for anything, in fact I don't believe he will move until he is sure of victory. In order to do this he must re-inforce that Army. No troops are more likely to be sent there than our Corps, which properly belongs there, and Gen. Stocum wishes very much to get off this railroad. So I ~~still~~ hope we shall go. I am tired of this guard duty. If Richmond is to be taken, may I be there to see.

Another topic which interests us is the sending a recruiting party home. Captains of companies received orders from Reg. Hd Qrs this morning to stand in the name of some man in each Company who was fit to send home for that purpose, and it is expected that they will start soon. Two or three officers will probably be sent with them. Of course I shall be

Bob mentions in his letter that the photographs that I ordered, were done. I wish that you would send me by mail that photograph case that the Park was going to make, and send with it, besides the half a dozen of my new photos, a few from my book, that I intended to bring, but forgot. I want the head of Jim, one of Bob & also one of Nell, if she has any, and the best ones of Ned & then Abbott, & Kashe Jarves'. Those are all I think of at present. Don't let Nell ~~forget~~ herself, if she hasn't finished it. Let her take her time. Also I wish Father would let me have some money, say \$50. The Paymaster hasn't come, and I am \$20 or \$30 in debt. I can't pay my board bill or my washer woman. As soon as I am paid off, I will send home enough to cover everything, including

Huntington's side. I shall have  
over \$300 then. At present I  
have only 95 cts in the world.  
You mention in your letter my  
dinner at Mr. Hall's. What  
an awful siege that was.  
I am glad that Mrs. Reed agrees  
with me in thinking the D.D.,  
a severe infliction. He was  
worse, he was an incubus, a  
nightmare. I wasn't aware  
that Mrs. Reed exerted herself  
specially for my benefit. Never  
having seen her before, of course  
I couldn't tell that that was not  
her usual style. If she did make  
an unusual effort on that occasion,  
I am sure I am very grateful.

We have been discussing  
the new engagements that  
you mention in your letter,  
Louis's & Dalton's. I should think  
they were both very good

though there isn't much money  
in return in there.  
I am a little surprised at  
Red Louisa's. I thought him a  
more worldly man than this  
shows him to be. Miss James  
is pleasant, but she is neither  
rich, fashionable, nor a beauty.  
Is there is some prospect of  
that long-deferred marriage  
of George Perry's taking place,  
is there? I can't say I take  
much interest in it. I think  
that the love is very likely about  
all on one side, and that it  
would be just as well, if he  
were to take himself off to  
Ramschatten.

I am glad you are going to  
continue your littles &c. I  
always like to see them, & in this  
stupid hole they are doubly  
welcome. I hope I will write  
up, having already exceeded my intention  
Loveball - Myself W.P.D.

Army for whom I cared so much.  
I really feel desolate, as if my  
friends were all leaving me -  
How awfully the abbots must be  
broken down by this. To have lost  
two such sons as they have lost  
must be almost too much to bear.

We have not yet heard of the losses  
at the Spotsylvania fight excepting  
the death of Gen. Sedgwick.

I hope & trust that the losses were  
light. The Army of the Potomac  
has seen its hardest fight.

The rebels must give way soon  
everywhere. Perhaps next winter  
I may be at home. As soon as  
active operations are ended, and  
our Army becomes an Army of oc-  
cupation with no forces of consequence  
to make head against it. Of course  
I shall go home if I can.

A few weeks ago such talk as this  
would have seemed premature. Now  
I don't really think it is.

Good by -

Yr aff son  
G. S. P.

Your letters to be speaking of the female economical  
peak have reached, as well as all Father's papers.  
They come regularly here very welcome, especially now.

Camp 2<sup>d</sup> Mass Infantry  
near Cassville Va. May 27/64

Dear Mother,

I sit down to write this letter  
with very little expectation of its being  
sent for the present. But I know you  
must be rather uneasy about me, after  
you have heard that we had a fight.  
We get our mail from the north  
pretty regularly, but we have had  
only one opportunity to send letters home.  
A mail left camp the other day before  
I was awake in the morning, and the  
officers were notified after I went  
to sleep the night before, so you see  
I had but little opportunity to write.  
However, the Adjutant sent off a list  
of the killed & wounded, so you must  
know that I am all right.

We didn't have much of a fight, any  
way. For two days there was some  
heavy skirmishing. We were acting as reserve  
to the 14<sup>th</sup> Corps the first day (Saturday  
the 14<sup>th</sup>), but toward the close of the day,  
we were ordered to the left, to support  
the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps. We arrived just in time  
to see them driven in like a flock

of sleep. We formed line at once and the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade of our Division poured in quite a heavy fire for 10 minutes, which drove the enemy back in confusion and saved a battery of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps from capture.

That night all was quiet, and indeed there was hardly a shot fired until noon the next day. Then our Corps was put into a new position, and attacked the enemy's intrenchments.

Butterfield's division was repulsed with loss. Our division, instead of attacking, was attacked by the enemy, and in about half an hour we drove them back with heavy loss. Our own loss was light. We had only two killed & twenty wounded in the regiment. One of the killed was in my company. At dark the firing ceased, and I got a good night's sleep, wrapped up in my overcoat.

The next morning, finding the rebel army had retreated, our army began the pursuit, and we have followed them up pretty closely. Of course they retreated on several roads, and our army in the same way is

divided up. Last night our Corps skirmished through the woods for several hours, and finally occupied this town. It is in the same latitude with Rome & Kingston, but further to the East. It was expected that the enemy would make a stand here, but I guess they found the force too heavy for them. They left in a hurry. I don't know whether there is any chance of a fight this side of Atlanta, but I suppose they will attempt to defend that.

This Army, though a poor one, is superior in strength to Johnston's that ~~they~~ are so sure of beating them. I really think that the war will be ~~practically~~ <sup>virtually</sup> over this summer, after the success in Virginia & here. I don't see what the rebels can do but fight us. But our successes in the East have been dearly purchased. I received yesterday the newspapers of the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> that gave the list of casualties at the battle of the Wilderness on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, and saw the name of Henry Abbott among the killed.

As you know, there was no one in the



without a pitched battle. The trouble  
seems to be that we can get no good positions  
for our artillery. So I suppose flanking  
would be the thing. It is easy for an  
army of twice as many as the one opposed  
to it to turn almost any position &  
save the sacrifice of life that a great  
battle. We are so far in the rear

that we know but little of what is  
going on here, and yet we get no mail  
to tell us what is going on in Virginia.  
I did hear a rumor today that Grant's  
campaign was over for the present, but  
I hope it is not true.

The mails are not stopped, but we are so  
far from the railroad & somebody or other is  
so inefficient that we don't get them as  
we ought. Our unit is extremely small now,  
having only about 90 men for duty, armed &  
equipped. 79 recruits were sent to us, of whom  
30 deserted before they got to Cincinnati, and  
36 were lost somehow or other between that  
place here. The remaining 13 reached us  
yesterday. They are very well as far as  
they go, but we should like about 600 more.  
Col. Caswell has gone home to hurry  
up the business. When he comes back, will  
you give Grafton my watch to give to him.  
He has agreed to bring it to me.

2  
Camp D. Mass. Infantry  
Pumpkinvine Creek bridge near Dallas, Georgia  
May 28<sup>th</sup> 1864.

Dear Mother,

I began a letter to you three days  
ago, wrote two pages, but finding no  
chance to send it off, I kept it in my  
pocket, and today, when I looked at it,  
I found it so full of rumors & mistakes  
that I resolved to begin again. We left  
Cassville Monday morning at 4 o'clock, and  
reached our present camp Wednesday  
afternoon. We stayed two or three  
days at Cassville, as I told you, to get  
time to bring up supplies & get all  
ready for a grand triumphal march  
to Atlanta! Twenty days supplies  
were laid in, a new supply of shoes  
& stockings were issued, and we  
started. So far there has been nothing  
particularly triumphal & our progress  
has not been especially rapid.

The Army of the Cumberland, Maj. Gen. Thomas' command, which comprises the 4<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> + 20<sup>th</sup> Corps, was the center, the Army of the Tennessee, Maj. Gen. M. Sherman's command, which comprises the 15<sup>th</sup> + 16<sup>th</sup> Corps, was the right, then the 23<sup>rd</sup> Corps, Army of the Ohio, Maj. Gen. Scofield, the left. Our Corps has had the advance of the Army of the Cumberland, and on Wednesday afternoon met the enemy strongly posted, about two miles south of here.

The 3 divisions of the Corps were marching on parallel roads. Geary in the center first came on the enemy. Then the other divisions were ordered to Geary's support.

Our Division marched half a mile, left our right to guard the bridge, and turned off to the left + came up on the road where Geary was. Williams took the advance + pushed ahead.

Our brigade advanced in two lines of battle with the 13<sup>th</sup> N.J. in advance

as skirmishers. The enemy didn't fire until our line got quite near them + then opened a battery on them with grape + canister. For an hour or a half the fighting was severe, but when it grew too dark to fight any longer, our Division had driven them over a mile.

Our losses were quite heavy, estimated all the way from 800 to 1000 in our Division. Strange to say, but very few officers were hit. The Division has been highly complimented by Gen. Thomas + Gen. Hooker.

Since the fight the whole Army has been concentrated here + there has been considerable firing, both of artillery + infantry at different points of the line. For several hours everything has been quiet, but I suppose Sherman is preparing some infallible means to get the ~~the~~ rebels out of their position.

death of Tom Stearns, I should  
 like to hear them. I wish  
 John Roper, if he has time, would  
 write me what he hears. He  
 must hear a great deal that is interesting  
 to me, and I have now at home no  
 correspondents excepting the family,  
 i.e. you & Bob.

There are a few things that I want,  
 that can be sent by mail, in one  
 or several packages. 1<sup>st</sup> a bunch  
 of envelopes. 2<sup>nd</sup> a package of Midway  
 soap. 3<sup>rd</sup> half a dozen shoe strings.  
 4<sup>th</sup> a knife (pocket knife) 5<sup>th</sup> a pipe stopper.  
 Bob can get the pipe stopper at  
 Drumbann's. The heavy articles might  
 be put in a small post-bound box & securely  
 sealed up. I would not send for them  
 in this way if they were not absolutely  
 necessary. The pipe stopper, perhaps,  
 is not so necessary. I believe I have never  
 informed you that I had my pay stopped  
 a few weeks ago. All the officers of  
 the regiment read notices from the  
 Chief of Ordnance that this pay was  
 stopped for not sending in the proper returns  
 of Ordnance. I had sent in all I thought I was  
 responsible for, but it seems the Dept. doesn't  
 agree with me. All the company books & papers  
 are in Bishop's hands so of course I can do nothing till the  
 camp is over. Still I don't want any more.

May 31<sup>st</sup> Kingston, Ga -  
 I had no chance to send the preceding  
 pages from Pumpkinvine Creek, and on the  
 morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> we were waked up at  
 three o'clock ordered to march at four.  
 We started off & marched a mile & ascended  
 till nine o'clock. Then we found that  
 the regiment was ordered to Kingston to act  
 as guard for a wagon train containing the  
 wounded of our Corps. They have not enough  
 ambulances to carry the wounded in & are obliged  
 to use wagons. We reached this place  
 yesterday noon having marched twenty miles  
 in a little more than one day, pretty fair  
 marching with a train. We went into camp  
 where we shall wait until Col. Morse receives  
 orders to go back. This place is the present  
 terminus of the railroad, and all supplies have  
 to be brought from here. There is a Hospital  
 here, which seems to be well managed, although  
 few inferior to the Hospitals in the Army of the

Potomac. They don't attempt to provide enough tents here to put all the wounded into. They get some houses near a Spring or creek, and all that can't get into the house have to lie on the ground. Fortunately we have had excellent weather. Our Army seems to be concentrating at Dallas, but where we shall find them when we return I can't say. Probably Sherman will try another of his flank movements.

There is a brigade of the 23<sup>d</sup> Corps stationed here at Kingston, who are engaged in strengthening the place by throwing up earthworks. A raid is very unlikely, but of course the place is quite important & no precautions should be neglected.

We thought that very likely we should get a mail here, but all the mails are sent to Corps H<sup>d</sup> Qrs, and we must wait till we get back to the front. I haven't seen a letter or

paper from home since we left Cassville over a week ago. There must be an enormous mail for us somewhere.

I wrote to Judge Abbott several days ago, & sent the letter to Division H<sup>d</sup> Qrs. Whether it has gone or not, it is impossible to say. The army has practically left its communications & everything is a matter of luck & chance.

Your last letter contained the first confirmation I had seen of the death of Gen. Stevenson. We heard the rumor, but did not know whether to believe it or not. I am ~~terribly~~ very sorry indeed to hear it. Though I hardly know him, yet it seems as if I knew all about him.

There is hardly any one, outside of my own intimate friends, whom I should regret so much. He was a splendid fellow.

Out here we get nothing but the bare facts in their cases. If you hear any particulars about H<sup>d</sup> Qrs,

Camp near Atlanta, Ga.  
August 1<sup>st</sup> 1864

Dear Mother,

I don't write this as  
a letter, for I haven't time  
before the mail goes, but as  
the papers tell such big stories  
all the time about Hooker's  
Corps & its losses, I just let  
you know that I am all right,  
& perfectly well.

We are in our works state, where  
we have been for some days.  
The Artillery on both sides keep  
it up very lively, but as many  
of the rebel shells are not  
filled, we have the satisfaction  
of seeing those that come our  
way, tumble into the earth  
without doing any damage.

Our ~~Camp~~ division is nearer Atlanta  
than any other part of the Army,  
& day before yesterday we advanced  
our picket line still further, &  
our regt was sent up on the picket-  
line to assist. We had a lively  
time for 5 hours. The enemy  
shelled us from two forts. The

regt lost 10 killed & wounded.

One of the killed & one of the wounded  
were from my Company, both veterans,  
unfortunately. Lt Thompson was slightly  
wounded. He will return to duty  
tomorrow. Gen Hooker has been relieved.  
He wouldn't stand Howard's getting command  
of the Army of the Tennessee. He thought it a  
personal insult. We think <sup>him</sup> quite right, but are  
very sorry to lose him. Thomas has applied for  
Hocum. I hope we will get him. Shouldn't we  
rejoice? Williams commands the Corps at present.  
I got today a L. N. Journal & Liberator, advertiser of the 23<sup>d</sup>  
& a letter from Bob Bates at Providence. Why don't  
I get more advertisers. I want all I can get, espec-  
ially all those that have anything about the College,  
& I haven't need one that mentioned Commencement.  
I want the Annual Micrology. Please send another  
whole paper of Windsor Soap by mail & <sup>a bunch</sup> ~~some~~ of  
envelopes & some stamps. Also have a vest made  
of blue flannel, ready to send by Express. Huntington can  
make it on the old measure. Very affly & R. P.