

Camp of the 108<sup>th</sup>  
Sept 27 [1863]

Dear Father

Yours of the twenty third inst reached me yesterday, and although I have written home three times within the last ten days your anxiety to hear from me seems to merit a letter and I will write a few lines. We were relieved from picket two days ago after our fearful charge upon a few Rebel pickets & since then have spent our time very quietly. Yesterday I did not feel very well and entirely on my health's account indulged in a few bottles of Porter the only liquor of any kind that I have tasted since leaving R[ochester]. Today I feel much better and lay the change to the effects of the Porter. Everything goes on very quietly we half expect a fight but are beginning to be doubtful. I am reading Sumners speech will express my opinion upon it when I have finished it.<sup>1</sup> You must excuse my writing such short letters and my writing them so poorly but there is nothing to write about and I have no conveniences for writing. Two Corps of our army are reported to have gone to reinforce Rosecrans but we are unable to speak for certain.<sup>2</sup> I hear that some conscripts have already started for the 140<sup>th</sup>. It is strange that we are still without any. Our excursion the other night was rare sport I can assure you. I dont know when I have had more fun. The skirmishers however did not appreciate the fun. They advanced first and were rather too much exposed for comfort.<sup>3</sup>

Your affect son  
Sam.

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Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Sumner's speech was "Our Foreign Relations" in which he dealt with the idea of the inadvisability of the intervention of England and France to mediate between the North and the South. Also he dealt with the impossibility of recognizing any nation which had 'slavery as a corner stone'. It was delivered on Sept 10, 1863 at the Cooper Institute in NY and published the next day in the *NY Times*.

<sup>2</sup> William Starke Rosecrans ('Old Rosy'), a Maj-Gen. of Vols (Oct 25, 1862) commanded the Army of the Cumberland (Oct 27, 1862). On Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> /63 the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Corps of the Army of the Potomac were detached and sent to to relieve Rosecrans who, after the disastrous battle of Chickamauga (Sept. 19 -20) , was now surrounded in Chattanooga by the victorious army of Braxton Bragg.

<sup>3</sup> That much of his final comment about 'fun' is sheer bravado for his worried parents is a distinct probability.