

Frederick, Md.<sup>1</sup>  
June 28<sup>th</sup> '63

Dear Father

I have at present no conveniences for writing, but will send you a few words to assure you of my continued good health. Since writing last we have made three or four heavy marches and that too over roads the worst imaginable. I suppose that long marches are a part of a soldiers duty but when one cannot see what difference it makes whether he marches ten or fifteen miles a day it is pretty hard to go the greater distance without grumbling. It is really surprising how much soldiers can endure without becoming sick. It has rained steadily for three days and we have all been wet through, but very few seem to suffer in health from it and if rations were plenty I think that I should grow fat. I have never been in more need of money that for the past week and if I don't receive any from home before long I don't know what I shall do.

The report has been circulated that McClellan is once more to take command of the Army.<sup>2</sup> I trust that it may not be so, but whether it is so or no I think that I can do my duty and obey my general without fault finding. I have very little knowledge of the enemys position but I think a battle is inevitable & I trust that we will be able to defeat them. I still think that the army is in a good condition & if properly generaled will make a splendid fight.

Your affect son  
Sam Porter.

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Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The Second Corps, once again, was given the task to protect the rear of the army. On June 28, 1863, the 108<sup>th</sup> NY reached Monocacy Junction near Frederick, Maryland. Later in the day they were sent 3 miles westward to Buckeyestown to guard against an imagined raid by J.E.B Stuart which never materialized.

<sup>2</sup>Command of the army had changed in the early hours of June 28, but Maj.Gen George Gordon Meade of the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps was now in command of the Army of the Potomac "that football of political intrigue and popular clamor"(Walker, p.261) and Joe Hooker was gone. This hysteria for McClellan arose with alarming regularity. Porter's comment about leadership is quite accurate and was borne out over the next week and next 22 months of the war.