

Camp of the 108th N.Y. Vols
Near Falmouth Va.
June 1st '63

Dear Mother

I received a nice long letter from you on Friday last, and if the Rebels will give me time I will answer it now. There is some little doubt whether they will give me the opportunity or no as we have been called out three times this morning under arms. I suppose there has been some firing of Pickets and we being on the extreme right must be kept in readiness to resist any attack. This is very annoying especial when the alarm is raised as it was this morning at about three A.M. just when one begins to enjoy his morning nap. I was in a deep sleep when some one looked in at my tent and called out "turn out under arms." The first thing I was conscious of was standing on the ground trying to decide whether the fire bells were ringing or no. Arms are stacked on the Parade Ground and the men wear their accoutrements ready to fall in at a moments notice. For a few days the weather has been much cooler than previously and if there were any books to be procured here I could enjoy myself but in the last move every thing b not absolutely necessary was thrown away and among other things all reading matter. This leaves us very little amusement and were it not that I have a good deal of Company business always on hand I should get tired to death. The new appointments for commissions in the Regt arrived last night. Parsons, Welles & Ayers the Non-commissioned staff are all to be 2nd Lieutenants.¹ I have heard nothing for some time from Capt but understand that there is a long letter in *Democrat* from Capt Putnam in which Thrasher is mentioned.² I will probably receive the paper tonight. I have been hoping to hear of the taking of Vicksburg but am afraid that we will have to wait some time before that stronghold will be ours.³ [On?] Monday Fathers letter came to hand yesterday. The pantaloons he speaks of were received at about the same time. I see that he is still fond of spelling words with a qui as for instance risqué. The promotions were all read off on Parade last night and made quite a stir. I officiated for the occasion as Adjt as there were a great many orders to read and Everett who has been asking for some time is such a poor reader that the Col would not trust him.⁴ I have been sitting on a Courts Martial all the morning but there were only two cases before the court & we finished both of those. Everything is still in a very uncertain state and we are prepared for a move at any moment.⁵ Please tell father that the money I wrote for is needed & I wish that he would send it at once.

Your affect son

Sam

Transcribed by Terry Crooks.
The original letter is in the *Porter Family Papers*, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections,
University of Rochester Libraries.

Notes:

¹ Theron Edwards Parsons, Travis A. Wells, Charles b. Ayers, all 2nd Lts on June 1, 1863.

² Captain Thrasher died two days before on May 31st at Armory Square Hospital in Washington. The *Democrat* was one of the three daily newspapers in Rochester. Captain Putnam may be Captain George C. Putnam Co. A, 13th NY who resigned on May 27th, 1863. Newspapers often used regimental members or ex-officers as war correspondents.

³ Vicksburg fell just over one month later on July 4, 1863

⁴ Ambrose S. Everett, Captain, Co. B, 108th NY –see letters Dec. 20/62 and March 12/63 for Sam's complaints about this man.

⁵ The movement would begin on June 14, 1863 for the Second Corps with the beginning of the Gettysburg Campaign.