

In the field Va. Aug 31st 1864

Dear Father –

Yours of July 23rd & Augt. 25th were received on the 27th instant. I have been unable to write before as we have been on the move & have not had a piece of paper big enough to make a memorandum on let alone write a letter on. We left our encampment at Halltown on the 28th having been in readiness two days before they moved us. We made a very easy march of it to our present camp about ten miles from Harper's Ferry. We are behind stout breastworks & I think if we are attacked we will give the rebs. a good reception. The day after we arrived here the Cavalry had quite a fight a short distance out. How it resulted I would not dare to say as I have heard a hundred different stories in regard to it.

The weather is getting very cool especially at night & as we have had to sleep in the open air without any covering whatever except our clothes for the past week we have felt it some. We get up at 3 A.M. daily & stand under arms till broad daylight (about 5½ A.M.). We have hardly any thing to eat except green corn & apples. I bought a ham from the Commissary yesterday & paid 28¼ cts. per lb. for it. Every thing else is in proportioned & yet they keep our pay down & tax us 5 per cent on what we get. I shall resign this winter if I possibly can. Edward does not want to let me as he says he knows you will not care to have me do so. So I have not said any thing about this to him lately.

I think that our campaign in the valley will be ended very soon as the rebs. here have retreated to Richmond. There is still a large force here supposed to be fortifying Bunker Hill some 6 or 8 miles from here. I am glad to hear that the country air is benefiting you & Nettie. I suppose you will soon be at home again as it is getting late in the season. I have been enjoying good health lately except the old complaint rheumatism which has troubled me somewhat, lately. I hope soon to be rid of it. I think it much healthier here than it was down south. I hear a good deal of talk of our going back there again. I do not know whether we will or not, but think it depends greatly on how Grant & Sherman get along in the next two months. If they succeed we will stay where we are as there will be no need of us in Louisiana.

I am sorry to see that the Chicago Convention are pressing McClellan so strongly for President as I do not think he will go down with the Army. Had they nominated Dix there is hardly a man who would not vote for him or at least they say so. You can hardly depend on what is said however. I know one thing & that is, that as sick as the Army is of fighting, they will never submit to a compromise or peace on such terms as I see published in the papers as the platform of the Peace party. Why they are the most degrading & debasing terms I ever heard of. Put more men in the army & keep it full & the South have got to cave before long (for they cannot stand it) before submitting to any such terms as those.

I have not seen Edward for some time. He is quite well I believe. Give my love to all the folks & tell them I am waiting for them to write. Tell Harry I write to him tomorrow.

I remain
Your Affectionate Son
Frank.