

Near Berryville Va. Sept. 10th 1864

Dear Father

In my hasty letter of the 6th inst. I could give you but little news as I had no time or place to write. We broke camp on the 3rd inst. & after marching some 12 miles halted for a "nooning." At 5 P.M. just as we were falling in to proceed on our way we heard heavy firing in our front so instead of going ahead as we expected to, we formed line of battle across the Berryville pike, about 1 mile from Berryville. The firing continued heavily & the 3rd Brigade of our Corps together with three regiments of our Brigade (159th N.Y. 22d Iowa & 13th C.V.) was ordered to the scene of action only more to the right than the other regiments were. Our regiment was the extreme left of our line & then came the 8th Corps. which was the one engaged. We marched forward & formed line of battle about ½ a mile from the rebs. & there awaited events. As it had grown quite dark and the firing had stopped in a great measure we were all ordered to take what rest we could, so we laid right down & tried to go to sleep, but as it was raining heavily & bitterly cold this was next to an impossibility. It came near being too warm for us for the rebs commenced to shell the road about 200 yards in our rear & the shells burst in all directions. One man was wounded in our regiment not a dozen yards from where Tony & I were lying trying to get to sleep. They did not fire a great while however as the ambulances running on the road at which they were firing went to the rear & then the rebs. supposed we had fallen back. Next morning at Day light the other regiments were drawn in & ours left out as pickets. The rebs. happening to see us get a battery into position & fired nine shells at us killing one man on our skirmish line. We were drawn in at night & slept sound as you may imagine. On the 7th inst. our Brigade under Col. Molineux went out on a reconnaissance. We went about 6 miles from here & then we came across the rebel videtts one of whom was wounded by our sharpshooters but managed to escape. Finding from Citizens that the rebs. were in heavy force we returned to camp which we reached at 5½ P.M. Since then we have been lying quietly awaiting orders. I suppose we will move tomorrow as it is sunday, we have just got our tents fixed up & the men are cleaning camp. These are generally sure signs in the field, but they may fail.

We have had considerable rain lately & the nights have been very cold. Even while I write it looks as though it was going to rain again. We had a heavy shower this morning before daylight but it stopped raining about 4 A.M.

I have enjoyed good health lately except a slight diarrhea caused by the cold weather but that medicine soon stopped it. Tony is quite well. He has been mustered in & is now all right. Edward I saw yesterday. He looks quite well.

There has been some heavy firing on our right which is said to be from the 8th Corps who took up a new position a few days ago.

Hoping soon to hear from you again & with love to all

I remain

Your Affectionate Son

Frank.

I do not think McClellan is going to receive many votes of the soldiers if he accepts the "Peace Platform." The soldiers are as anxious as any one to see the war closed but they do not want it closed in a manner that must humiliate the north & do no good after all. It is rumored in camp that the 19th Corps are to return to Louisiana in about two months. I do not believe it.