

In the field Va. July 28/64
(near Hatcher's House)

Dear Father

Since my last we have moved several times until now. We are at present as close to our fortifications as we can get & from there we can see the rebel pickets & a small portion of their works. The position we at present occupy has been attacked by the rebs. 27 times & ending each time in great slaughter to them. They call it Fort Slaughter as it has proved so to them. The rebel & our pickets conversed together & exchanged papers 'till about 4 days ago when a general order was issued forbidding any communication to be held. They do not fire at each other unless in case of an advance. There has not been a gun fired in our front for nearly two weeks, as every time the rebs. fire a gun all our batteries open & give them "Hail Columbia." Our works are immensely strong, redoubts being built at very short distances from each other & each redoubt is commanded by the one on either side of it. In fact we could repulse almost any force they could bring against us. I do not think we will make any advance till Lee is driven from Petersburg when Grant will probably swing his whole army around him & hem him in in Richmond. Every body seems to think that things are progressing very favorably for us & that although there does not seem to be any thing doing Grant is progressing steadily & surely towards his objective. The other night the rebs. gave "three times three cheers for Georgia." This was the night before we received the news of Sherman's fight at Atlanta. He appears to be pushing forward & I think will whip the rebs. so down in Georgia that there will be nothing left of them. Now you must not think because we are quiet that nothing is doing. "It is always quiet before a storm," says the old proverb & I think before long something will happen to astonish the community for I do not believe Grant is going to lay quiet all summer.

Give my love to all the folks & tell them to write. More news by & by. I remain

Your Affectionate Son

Frank.