

Tennallytown D.C. Aug 4th 1864

Dear Father

I received yours of the 2d yesterday evening being the first letter I have received from you since my arrival in Virginia. I have written to you nearly every other day since we landed & have had no acknowledgment of the receipt of any of them. They have probably miscarried.

We arrived safely in Washington D.C. on the afternoon of the 1st & marched up town & through Penn. Ave. to the "soldiers' rest" at the rail road Depot. We had great sport marching along as every body stopped to look at our bear who is always lead at the head of the column by our Drum Major. We had at least 500 people coming around to see him as we marched along. Every once in a while when the crowd pressed too close the Drum Major would lengthen out the bear's chain & he would start for the crowd which scattered in all directions. One darkey dressed to kill backed out of the bear's way directly under a carriage two wheels passing over him. Fortunately he was not hurt but a more disconsolate looking object I never saw. He got up covered with dirt & went limping off. I guess he will be careful where he is going next time.

That night we slept at the Soldiers' rest after the men had partaken of a good supper provided I presume by Government who have things in better style here than they do in Louisiana. We were told that we would take the Cars for Chambersburg Pa. next morning & all our baggage was put aboard the Cars. At daylight we were roused out but instead of taking the cars we were marched in column of companies up Pennsylvania Ave. past the Capitol, Treasury & White House through Georgetown to our present camping ground, which is a most beautiful spot, on one of the many hills which encircle Washington, just within the chain of forts.

We do not know how long we will lay here as the rebs. may make a demonstration on some place & we may have to go to check them. I presume we will wait for the 3rd Division of our Corps (which has not yet arrived) before we make any demonstration.

We have no news from Petersburg as we are too far out of the city to learn any thing more than what we get from the Papers.

I do believe that this war will close within a year & that without any compromise. I say for one fight it out until every man in the south is killed or submits to the Gov't. I do not believe in allowing a set of scoundrels who are led away by a mistaken idea to dictate terms of peace to men who until the outbreak of the rebellion had always acted fairly & honorably. There may be mistakes made by the Administration but every one is liable to make them & why should not we excuse mistakes made as was supposed for the best. I believe the President is doing every thing in his power to quell this rebellion & more, that he would have done it if he had not been harassed by petty party squabbles. Who are the men who make the disturbance! Only those as far as I can see who are afraid to go out & fight & because force is used to make them do so immediately kindle a riot.

I am as sick of the war as any one & yet I say put it down (the rebellion) if it takes every man in the North to do it.

I am glad to hear that you are at last taking some relaxation from the fatigues of business. I think you ought to have a good long rest, for as far back as I can remember you never gave yourself over a day away from business at a time. I hope the air will benefit Nettie & baby. I suppose the "Children" have all grown so big that I would not know them were I to see them.

I do not think I can get a furlough this summer as I expect we will be busy. I may succeed this winter & shall certainly try to do so.

Edward I have not heard from since I arrived. He went to some private house in Washington & we have had no word from him since. He is expected up to take command for the Brigade to day so I presume he is better.

Give my love to all the folks & tell them now they have the time to write as often as possible.

I remain
Your Affectionate Son
Frank.