

## Diary of Cyrus Bacon

Cyrus Bacon's diary was given to the Michigan Historical Commission by S. C. Bacon July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1946. The donor's address at that time was 433 Harmon building, St. Paul Minnesota. It's transcription in 1996 was by Henry L. Henson, 2117 Tamarack, Okemos, Michigan, 48864. (517) 347-4967.

The use of square brackets denotes editorial additions. If, for example, the reader encounters [was], the word "was" was added to Bacon's text to provide clarity as to the presumed meaning of the sentence. When a "?" is used inside the brackets as in [?Bernmond] it indicates that the handwriting was not sufficiently legible, leaving the editor in doubt about the spelling or the intended meaning. Bacon mentions many people using only their last name. The full names of many have been added when obvious from other records. The source for names of medical personnel are Barnes and Hambrecht, for Michigan soldiers, Robertson, for other military personnel, Boatner, or the Official Reports of the War of the Rebellion. Hamersly was used for several in each category. [Ed. ...] indicates commentary added for the benefit of casual readers.

Punctuation has been generously added. Dr. Bacon used very little. Occasionally he used parenthesis and when doing so often used only the opening character, "((", without indicating the close. In such instances I have added the ")" where it seemed most logical to do so, and in a few instances resolved the problem by deleting the opening parenthesis.

In several places, Dr. Bacon left blank spaces as if he had forgotten some detail that he expected to fill in later. In such instances, I have inserted a blank line "\_\_\_\_\_."

Words that are underlined are underlined in Dr. Bacon's text. When used in annotations underlining refers to matters noted by Dr. Bacon.

In correcting typographical errors, Dr. Bacon's spellings have been made to conform to the standards used by the spell checker associated with Word Perfect, 5.1. Bacon used many abbreviations. Most have been replaced with the full spelling of the word.

Matters of interest discovered in the course of editing this diary have been appended.

While I have received a great deal of assistance from the staff of the State Archives, and other members of the Bureau of Michigan History, any errors in the transcription or editorial comments are my own.

Special thanks to the many people around the country who have answered calls for help in understanding Bacon's diary. Joyce Braver of Alexandria, Virginia; Dr. Candy DeBerry of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine; Jamie Hunt at the Baltimore City Life Museum; John Fry at the Washington county Library, Hagerstown, Maryland; Miriam Meislik, Photographic Curator at the Hillman Library in Pittsburg; Ralph Naveaux of the Monroe Historical Museum; Jennifer Nichols at the archives of the Smithsonian Institution; Dr. Richard Sommers and Ed Olmstead at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania; Don Pfanz of the National Park Service in Fredericksburg, Virginia; Francis Pollard, at the Virginia Historical Society; Terry Van Meter, curator at the Horse Cavalry Museum, Fort Riley, Kansas; Julie Walker of Olivet College and Joan Youngken of the Portsmouth Historical Society have all been very helpful. The staff of the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation at 604 Williams Street and the Historical Society of Washington D. C. on New Hampshire Avenue at 2st Street have been equally gracious.

Henry L. (Hank) Henson.

C. Bacon Jr., Asst. Surg, USA  
Aug. 12, 1863

Daily Register of Dr. Cyrus Bacon  
Edwardsburg, Cass County, Michigan

**August 16, 1861**

Office of Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Boston, Mass.  
Cyrus Bacon Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Army  
Dr. C. Bacon Jr., of Edwardsburg, Cass County, Michigan  
Assistant Surgeon of 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteers, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1861  
Assistant Surgeon U.S. Army April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1862

“1861” - “1862” - “1863”  
Home Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1862

**Memorandum - August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1861** Bacon

Received my commission as Assistant Surgeon of the Seventh Regiment, Michigan Volunteers August 17, 1861 which was dated August 15, 1861.

[The unit] was enrolled upon the United States regimental rolls August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1861.

My prayer is of the Lords.

*August 30<sup>th</sup>*

Returned home on leave of absence of two days. Returned in the morning of September 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
The regiment rendezvoused at Monroe, Michigan commanded by Col I. R. Grosvenor of Monroe, Lieutenant Colonel Winans [and] Major Eldridge.

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Attended the sociable of the Ladies Soldiers' Aid Society. September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Surgeon Barnum came but did not enter upon active duty while at Monroe, [Michigan], leaving me in charge.

**Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1861**

[We] struck our tents with orders to proceed to Washington D. C.

Friday morning [September 6<sup>th</sup>]

[we] were in Cleveland by Boat from Toledo, By thence the Cleveland & Pittsburgh R.R. At Ravenna, Ohio were met by the citizenry with refreshments for [our] regiment. On the boat, carried with me, [were] the Hospital [supplies].

At Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the men and officers were supped.

The officers collation was a rich one. Went to obtain a gallon of wine for the sick when it was presented.

At Harrisburg, Pennsylvania the troops were treated shabbily.

Middle of forenoon [we] were in Baltimore, Md. Citizens came to the hospital cars, while [we were] lying at the lower depot, with coffee, tea & bread for the sick. Accepted an invitation to

lunch by a union man, James Courtney of the firm of Courtney & Son, Tobacconists, in company with Frederick Rowe. Excellent dinner with ale previous.

Sunday evening [the eighth, we] came into Washington. Troops lay in [the] Soldiers' Rest all night. Left part of [the] sick there. Took a part to [the] Soldier's Home. Sick taken care of. At 2 a.m. Monday morning [I] went to [the] National Hotel with other officers. Breakfasted the morning at nearly 11 O'Clock.

### **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.**

While at Baltimore Captain David Bacon & Major Edward Bacon, of the 6<sup>th</sup> regiment Michigan Volunteers, came to [our] cars.

David was very attentive. Walked a little around the city with Murray, a Real Estate dealer. [I] had forgotten it was Sunday, but for reason of it, shortened my walk. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy.

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup>, 1861.**

Set [up] camp on Meridian Hill near Columbian College [of] Washington D. C.

Our tents were thin. A severe storm one night shook through the tent so freely, I went into the city [and] purchased a rubber blanket.

### **September 13.**

Took dinner with one of my old friends, Sears. He has pretty children. Tucker and wife have gone into Virginia. He, however, was born a Southerner. Fred McNulty & wife have gone to Richmond. Only in such a war could such things occur. Here is my old friend Fred, arrayed against me.

Friday [we] received our arms. Was at the Medical Directors & Purveyors [offices].

### **Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup>.**

[We] marched for Poolesville, Maryland. Our Brigade [is] under General [Fred W.] Landers, General [Charles P.] Stone commanding [the] Division. Brigade composed [of Company] A, Michigan 7<sup>th</sup>, Massachusetts 20<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, [and a] Battery of Artillery [under Lieutenant Edmund Kirby (USMA 1860)].

Colonel Grosvernor [is] sick in [a] private house. Getting well in a few days. Captain McKernan took his room. In two weeks Captain McKernan died, Typhoid fever.

Considering our camp unhealthy, it was removed up on the hill by the woods.

*September*

Rode with Dr. [Bolivar] Barnum first time down to look at Dixie across the river. Bathed my face and hands just opposite one of the confederate pickets. There was at the time a truce between the pickets. General Stone had, the day previously, been shelling them from a battery overlooking the river. Our troops are here in a large body under General Stone. Do not think the enemy will cross. The rapid pushing of troops this way indicates an advance into Virginia.

Dr. Barnum's wife being ill, the doctor thinks of going home. About this time received Arabelle's ambrotype. She is beautiful.

### **Oct. 5, 1861.**

I will treasure the flower [&] I will "forget you not".

My ankles trouble me much by becoming edematous.

Oh, I pray I shall not be ill for the sake of those I love. Father, hear thy servant, for Christ's sake.

### **Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>**

My ankles have suddenly ceased swelling, the edema has entirely disappeared. How very good God is to me. My father, I know this help came of thee. I adore thee. Thy mercy endureth forever. Oh God, in granting my requests, bring not leanness to my soul.

### **Sunday Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The long roll was beat. How excited the men rush to arms. General Stone has just ridden through the camp toward the river. The band play Dixie, the boys shout goodbye.

No one knows where they are marching. This seems to be a peculiarity of General Stone's, "keeping his own counsel". After lying in the woods 'til evening, the regiment returned to camp.

### **Monday Oct. 21, 1861**

The long roll was beat. The Massachusetts 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> had not returned. The division seemed on the move. After completing the sick call, I rode down to the river. Our regiment lay back in a ravine out of sight of the point opposite. The Minnesota & New York 2<sup>nd</sup> had crossed. Artillery was stationed on a hill this side. Shell were thrown from it. An attack during [the] day. At evening, [the] 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan crossed [the river].

### **Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

I crossed into Virginia for the purpose of obtaining nurses for the sick in camp. At this time numbers were sick with measles as the hospital nurses had been taken away by the captains. Crossed the Potomac in a row boat. Found the regiment encamped on the right. While resting, the confederates fired from the woods & retreated. Howitzers opened. General Lander was shot in [the] leg while lying in corner of fence.

Terrible night. Continuous cold rain. Such [also] was the following day and the wind blew very hard. Many thousand men lay at [the] Ferry on this side apparently waiting for the wind storm to moderate. Before crossing, darkness came on. River still foaming savagely. Under cover of night, General McClellan who had ordered a retreat, effected it.

This is the first I have seen of war. God save my Country.

Routine of Camp duties 'til November

Removed the hospital to [a] tobacco house across the field. Dr. Barnum placed me in charge of Hospital, took [for] himself the sick call in order to be in my camp.

Night of moving [the] hospital took time. No serious harm.

Near the new hospital, [I] dug out the side of the hill and placed in [the hill] my tent. Then I banked [the tent] with logs and earth making my quarters warm.

November.

Officers opened a mess together. [We] have things very nice at [our] table.

### **November 28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving day**

Reviewing the past year, I find [that] the number of my blessings have been very great. Truly, God has been good to me. My health is nearly restored and while God has helped me physically and mentally he has added many other blessings until my cup is quite running over.

God has extended his salvation to me in his richness. Father, I thank thee for thy mercies and I beseech thee always to bestow upon me thy blessings and to increase me in thy salvation. [We] had a thanksgiving dinner at the mess.

#### **December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

The hospital was visited by Dr. Crosby, [Stone's] Division surgeon. [He] complimented me on the neatness of the hospital. [On] December 2<sup>nd</sup> [the] Hospital Steward, Dr. S. L. Stevens was taken sick. I have to work hard as I have the sick in quarters to attend to beside the hospital. I read late [at] night while posting myself on my medical lore.

During the latter part of October [I] received Arabelle's ambrotype. With it she sent a flower of the "forget me not." She is beautiful and lovely and pure. Her heart possesses great wealth of affection. Doubly, doubly dear is she to me. May God help me always to treasure and make her life happy.

One of my treasures so far away is the lock of Belles's hair.

#### **December 19, 1861**

On this day began a new year of my Stewardship. I shall always end and begin the year of my stewardship unto God, upon this day.

May God grant [that] I may always be faithful.

May he abundantly bless me.

A faithful stewardship includes much, very much. God help me to do all my duty zealously, with a love to the service of God.

I pray it in Jesus Christ.

December 20<sup>th</sup>

Barnum left for home, leaving me alone in the regiment. Have done all the duty of the regiment 'til January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862. On this day, Dr. Chaddock of Jonesville & Smith of Monroe, Michigan began medical attendance in the regiment.

Colonel Grosvernor promising me leave of absence for a month.

Father, forgive me for all of my sins, remember not thine anger against me.

#### **December 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Had, the evening previous, placed Arabelle's ring on the bed before me falling to sleep. This morning [I] could not find it. Paid Ash one dollar for finding it.

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862

January 26, 1862. Received a present of a housewife from Belle. It is the richest present. I have never seen a work of the kind so finely executed and so richly furnished. [It] has been nearly two months on the way.

#### **January 15.**

Went down to Washington by canal boat. Was quite open. Some New York men going down purchased an old stove. Drew canvas over [the] deck.

Found Surgeon General absent.

Monday morning returned by stage. Roads very bad. Stage going up [to] the hubs in the mud.

Very dark getting to Camp.

Dr. Smith did not do two days, at least no more than two days, full duty, [He] being sick.

**February 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Went to Washington by way of Point of Rocks.

Stopped at [the] Avenue House. Saturday [I] went to Baltimore returning Monday (Tuesday).

With Lydia, [I] went to Canfield's Jewelry store where I purchased Arabelle's ring

**February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1862 (Monday).**

Being cited to appear before the Medical Board for an examination for an Assistant Surgeon of the Regular Army, I, Upon the 18<sup>th</sup> [of] February, went to Washington.

Three days examination.

**March 10, 1862**

It is for good.

**March 11<sup>th</sup>.**

The regiment marched out of winter quarters playing Dixie.

Dr. [Francis S.] Bradford, Assistant Surgeon [1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Light Artillery], was to take charge of the hospital which was now to be merged into a Brigade Hospital.

Upon his assuming charge I was to proceed after regiment. Dr. Bradford appeared first day. Was taken sick so that I was obliged to remain.

Soon after, I received orders from Surgeon Bates, senior Surgeon of the Post, to remain.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Discharges from hospital to rejoin their regiment. Some 27 men. Dr. Bradford continues sick.

**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1862**

I am this day 25 years old. The past year has been to me a year of peculiar blessings and providence.

As I recall it's days I can, I think, say that all has been to me in God's goodness.

My health has become much improved. Yet were I to enumerate, I should find God's goodness in a continual shower about me.

In this can I at least see God's continual goodness and mercy to me as to the interests of my soul, in the present, and in the future.

Oh God, I bow myself before thee in this night, humbly acknowledging thy merciful hand in thy ways toward me in this past year.

There are some things I cannot fully perceive except it be to teach me the sin there is in my heart and the little strength I alone, without God's will, possess to resist temptation and to do righteousness.

I acknowledge, my Father, thy mercy and loving kindness and I pray thy forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Perhaps in the future I may understand better the ways of God in the present. Now I see much of it. Perhaps then I may realize the whole.

Father, be nigh me in the present and [in] the future.

**March 20**

Went up to Poolesville. Went to see Dr. Bradford. Found him at Dr. Brace's, sick in bed. It had rained most of the day.

Greek Colonel was buried in the regimental burying ground. [He] died at Tripler hospital. We had but one man out, an attendant, who could perform the necessary burial ceremony with arms. Therefore, he was attended out of Poolesville by [the] 42 New York with military honors. I said prayers over the grave.

I learn the regiment are going below. Should like much to go down the coast.

### **March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Evening

It is for good. I have struggled against it, but Father, I know it is for good. O, give me faith and grace to trust all thy hand and love.

My future I do not know. O, God, do thou guide and keep it. In Christ.

It is late, but [I] could not lie down for the night without writing this. For the sake of all I love, O God in Christ, grant me success. Let thy servant be heard in Christ.

### **March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Dr. Bradford continues ill. By this time [we] have cut down the number of the [patients in the] hospital largely.

### **April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Received an order to break up hospital and report at Poolesville for duty. [I] send [the] sick to Washington, [the] well or nearly so [are sent] to their regiments. [The] remaining sick [are sent] to Poolesville.

Dr. Bradford rode through camp on monday. [He is] on [his] way home on leave of absence for reason of ill health to extend one month.

### **April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Went to Poolesville. However, went to camp again that night.

### **April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Said goodbye to Camp Benton having begun duty at Blackman Hospital, Poolesville.

Found Blackman Hospital somewhat at points. I sleep in Tripler Hospital. Of this hospital J. F. Bates is Surgeon, is Division Surgeon (acting), is Surgeon of Massachusetts Volunteers (15<sup>th</sup> Regiment).

Dr. Bates is a man of admirable qualities. Thorough determined, has the respect, and I do not doubt, the love of all.

### **April 7.**

Went into [the] shoemakers shop under my hospital with the doctor to look after the shoemakers selling liquor, fellow cowed. A few days after, I put the same man out of [the] hospital, he being drunk.

Corporal John W. Bernmond, Co. H, 19<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers [is] Steward of [the] Hospital.

I have charge of Blackman Hospital.

### **April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Began boarding at Dr. Brace's.

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Attended [the] Methodist Church.

By order, [I] was obliged to work all the afternoon for the purpose of sending men to Washington. Vomiting. Busy work for two days.

All is improving at hospital. Ward is put, as far as can be, to rights.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**

Ward all astir, [? the/No] boatmen disappointed in moving.

**April 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Men away. My duties now are quite entirely at [the] Division hospital. All are to be ordered to Tripler Hospital by the \_\_\_\_\_.

**23<sup>rd</sup> April**

[We] are away from Blackman [Hospital]. I have occasional letters returned by Regiment. I am so cut off from communication outside, that letters come like green spots in the desert. Belle's letters are treasures. I prize them very, very greatly. Her life possesses a wealth of affection. A deep earnest life that burns it's fires upon the alters of her heart. Doubly, doubly dear are her letters, for they speak the wealth of her heart. I prize richly her love and I pray God that I may always make her life bright and happy. My precious darling.

Dr. Bates is a surgeon of extensive education and experience.

**April 26.**

Sent men from hospital to Seneca to wait for a boat as the canal is broke above.

Ord. Sergeant Cook, a returned prisoner from Richmond, went [to Washington] in charge of men at two different periods. By him, I sent a packages of pictures to Belle, to be expressed at Washington.

For some days, [we] are very busy in preparing to move the hospital to Washington.

Easter Holidays

The negroes claim Easter Sunday and the two days following. In consequence of recent events in congress, in addition to the rebellion, the slave holders are feeling very bitter. No troops are at this point. Threats are made of an attack upon us. Not knowing to what the drunken negroes may be incited, we placed ourselves in readiness to meet any attack.

The night passed quietly.

We take pistols when going into town in [the] evening. For some time after [we] may be used by them. [I] shall not be caught napping.

**April 18<sup>th</sup>.**

[I] accompanied Dr. & Mrs Brace and Miss Stoddard, on horseback, to [the] marble quarry near Conrad's Ferry, Poolesville, Maryland. From this quarry the pillars of the Capitol Extension are built. (specimen).

**April 30<sup>th</sup>.**

[By] direction of Tripler Hospital, ambulances came from Washington to remove [the] sick.



**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1862.**

Started with the remaining sick of the Division for Washington. Goodbye to Poolesville. [We] were refused admittance for sick at Rockville though it was raining. Came on to Tennally Town where we stopped overnight.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Before Breakfast went out to Fort Philadelphia. Came into Washington in the forenoon. Stopped at Willard's [Hotel in Washington D.C.]. Had a little fever for a day or two back.

**May 5.**

Dr. Bradford burst into [my] room before I was up. [I] wrote to Belle.

**May 7.**

Have my orders from Surgeon General [William A.] Hammond.

Surgeon General Hammond, by advice of Surgeon [Lewis A.] Edwards, directed me (in order that he might enter into contract with me as a private Surgeon) to tender to [the] Adjutant General my resignation as Assistant Surgeon of 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteers. [There was a] reason for asking acceptance of resignation.

Surgeon General Hammond then, upon the back of my resignation, endorsed the request, that it should be accepted as I was wanted for other duties. (I think this an honor.)

By special order of 100 War department, my resignation was at once accepted as it was tendered, and accepted May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

May God be my God and may I be faithfully his servant always. In Christ.

**May 7.**

In the morning [I] obtained my papers from the Adjutant General's office and was immediately entered with into contract as a Surgeon of the Volunteer Medical Corps. Am now a private citizen. [I] rank as an Acting Assistant Surgeon U.S.A. This will place me in Hospital duty. I learned, at Surgeon General's office, that my nomination as an assistant Surgeon USA. had been sent in to the Secretary of War on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1862.

**Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>**

[I] proceeded, in accordance with my orders, for the [York] Peninsula. Left on the propeller Octorara from [the] dock at Georgetown at 11 ½ a.m. Passed Mount Vernon at a little before 1 p.m.

This is the Shad fishing season. See many extensive fisheries along the river. [It] is a beautiful day.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Going on deck [I] found we were just entering mouth of [the] York river. [It is a] fine morning. The boat is a government transport. [We] were soon putting into Ship Point. Went with boat ashore. Considerable entrenchments [are] here. [They were] thrown up by the rebels.

At this place General McClellan [had] landed his army in his advance upon Yorktown. Find here [that] the boat has to go up [the] river. [We] put out towards the open sea in order to get round the point.

It is pleasant to look out over the broad expanse of water. Truly, God is infinite.

Sea Gulls and Loons appear numerously.

[We] arrive at Yorktown at 10 ½ a.m.

Report at Dr. [Charles Ravenscraft] Greenleaf's, [the] Medical Director of [the] Post. Learn [from?] (Dr. [Francis L.] Wheaton) [and/that] Dr. Charles S. Tripler is up country. Proceed up the river to West Point. [The] boat takes two schooners in tow. As the day was warm, I stretched myself on the yard arm of one of the schooners. Talked to the Captain and man.

At Yorktown lay an immense fleet of vessels & boats of almost every conceivable description; from the schooner to the steamship. At West Point, lay also, a great fleet of transports, [and] two gun ships.

[We] lay all night at this place.

### **May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Went up the Pamunkey river 5 miles to Eltham. At this point lay [General John] Sedgwick's Division, Franklin's, [and General Henry Warner] Slocum's.

[Major General Fitz-John] Porter's Division lay near. These had only a little previously arrived. At this point was the advance here.

[We] are, at this point, right upon the enemy's lines.

### **May 11<sup>th</sup>.**

The Provost Marshall gives me a horse and orderly to go across to the Headquarters of General McClellan. Reach there early. Dr. McClellan return[s] to Williamsburg. General McClellan's Headquarters are occupying a church back some six miles from Eltham. A romantic place. Just within timber. A deep ravine just below.

Returning to Eltham, [I] found a letter for me at the camp of the Michigan 7<sup>th</sup> from Belle.

Colonel [Rufus] Ingalls, Quartermaster at Yorktown, [is] going down the river with his boat (the Ariel). [He] said he should be pleased to give me an opportunity of getting below.

We first went up the Pamunkey a number of miles. Gun Boats coming up behind. Along [the] river from West Point the Richmond railway runs. The negroes crowd, congregate, along the river to see the Yankee Boats. Such shades simulate wild life in Africa.

All along the Pamunkey & York rivers are fine plantations.

Early in evening, Colonel Ingalls ran up alongside the Hospital ship off Queen's Creek against Williamsburg. Had tea with Colonel Ingalls, so [I] went to my stateroom early.

### **May 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Fine morning. Went ashore with [a] tug going to obtain wounded and disabled soldiers from Hospitals at Williamsburg and from the recent great battle there.

Brigade Surgeon [Jedediah Hyde] Baxter of Tripler's staff said Tripler had gone below, and being ranking medical officer placed me to duty in removing the disabled soldiers.

This day we were actively engaged in removing the sick and wounded of the Confederates to the steamboat off the landing for the purpose of taking them down the river. Landing on Queen's creek, [we] could only enter the creek in high tide.

Dr. Tripler had, during [the] day, returned and as [the] boat was to be taken by [the] Sanitary Commission, I was asked to his Headquarters at Williamsburg. In proceeded these with Dr.

Baxter. [F. N.] Knapp, Olmstead and others of the Sanitary Commission had been relic hunting

on the battlefield. The boat was ran to [the] lower landing, it's prow ran up to the bank, and we had a laughable time getting them on board.

Went up in ambulances. Found Dr. Tripler in an old house. [It] evidently had been occupied by [a] person of cultivation. Slept at the Dr's place. Had breakfast with the Dr.

### **May 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Dr. Tripler, after breakfast, gave me orders for duty in [a] Hospital at Yorktown Virginia.

Among the wounded and sick of the Confederates [I] found only two instances of humanity & [I] care for the great number of their disabled soldiers. One assistant Surgeon of the 24<sup>th</sup> Virginia and one other Medical officer only remaining.

Assisted in removing sick to [a] steamboat. Being anxious to get in shore after noon with a message to Dr. Tripler, [I] ordered the tug boat in. As tide was not yet sufficiently high, [it] went aground on the bar across the mouth of [the] creek. While lying for tide, men got out oyster tongs and [the] deck was soon covered with the luscious Oysters of the river.

While coming down from Williamsburg in the morning, after getting outside of the village on my way to landing, I left [the] ambulance and afoot went over the ground of the late battle. It was to me of peculiar interest. Here the ground was torn as of horses in fierce conflict. Here men tramped the agony of the charge. Accoutrements of the soldiers. Broken muskets, stocks, barrels, locks, balls of all sizes, shells, strewed the ground.

I picked up, upon the field, a musket for uncle Nathaniel Bacon. Not being as perfect as I wished, I exchanged it with a negro who had picked his up a little further out on the field. The exchange was made right on the field. I pulled the bayonet from the ground in the front of the charge made by \_\_\_\_\_.

### **May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1862.**

By Sanitary Commission boat, [the] same [one I] was loading, [we] came early into Yorktown.

Post Medical Director, Brigade Surgeon Wheaton, assigned me to duty with Dr. [Wm. O]

Mansfield, Assistant Surgeon 92<sup>nd</sup> New York Volunteers, at Hospitals E & F. Afterward we were assigned also, Hospital D.

### **May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Took a walk by [the] river side. Many vessels [are] lying in [the] stream.

### **May 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Went down by river for [a] bath. The country below seems to have been a wash of the sea. The earth is filled, rather composed of, small shells, and [the] whole is of [a] calcine character.

Indeed [it] is one vast Channel house of the Sea. High rocks of this formation jut into the river below.

Williamsburg is the most interesting town I have visited in the South. [It] contains many fine residences and it's buildings are built in a pure classic taste, peculiarly rich. This architecture is the finest of the literary institution here. (William's & Mary's College) [is] the second oldest College in the United States.

Yorktown has little other than local importance. A few good buildings, Oyster fisheries. General Magruder's occupation took down many houses in order to have fill work for the soldiers during the siege. The fortifications surrounding consist of earth works and trenches. Many of these are

massive & deep structures. McClellan's approach is as heavy. [It] reaches the river some two thirds of a mile in front of the Confederate fortifications.

The quality of soil in [the] vicinity is very poor. [The] swampy water here [is] bad.

We are every day or two sending off boat loads of patients and receiving from above to refill our Hospitals; in like manner to be soon exchanged for others. Receiving new patients so frequently makes our labors arduous.

**Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1862.**

Attended the afternoon meeting at the only Church in Yorktown. This was the first sabbath service after the evacuation.

**May 22.**

Anxious to have a letter, [I] went to mail [call]. [I] have had no letter for a considerable period. Letters scarce. No letters today.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Two letters from Belle. Papers from Tract Society, which I distributed.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday.**

Attended Church.

**June 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Raining. Late in [the] day went down by beach. Found the Siege train and mortars were loading for the advance near Richmond.

Steamships lay out in river. The ordinance trains and subsistence of the army above required an immense fleet of transports. Boats & vessels of every description swarm the river. Verily, some of King Solomon's ships have been resuscitated by United States contractors and again are in the carrying trade.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Large bodies of troops have been going up the river today.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Bright sun. The vessels all have hung out their sails to dry.

I have been obliged to keep still from a bilious diarrhea.

10,00 or 15,000 troops, it is said, have gone up the river.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862.**

Received Arabelle's picture an[d] a letter. The picture is very perfect. It is very lovely. Her assurances of the future. I know she is all my heart loves. May she, My Father, be a christian and thy blessing be with us.

**June 7<sup>th</sup>.**

More troops going up the river. Headache nearly all day.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Attended Church in afternoon. Little headache still.

**June 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Go with Dr. [Joel] Seaverns around the wards. Sick call for outside patients from 7 to 8 O'clock. I proceed early after breakfast, or before if required. At 8 a.m. begin [the] rounds of wards. We complete them by 11 o'clock. [We] May then attend [the] surgical wards. Many wounded from [the] battle at Fair Oaks continue to come down. Operations numerous.

I note for curiosity my assisting in trepanning the skull of a patient in one of the rooms of the old Judge Nelson House which is used for a Hospital.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Felt much in my Christian life was lacking, [and] determined to do my whole duty, went to [a] prayer meeting. Offered my first public prayer since my sickness. Jesus, make and keep me faithful. Is cold weather.

**June 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Boat loads of the troops going up the river. [They] are General [Ambrose Everett] Burnside's troops from North Carolina.

General Burnside went up the river a day or two since.  
Still cold.

**June 12.**

Quite warm. Walk by [the] river. Near dock lies six of the ten pieces of the battery of Whitworth Guns from Loyal Americans in Europe to the U.S. government. [They] are brass pieces, 6 or 10 pounders, breech loading. Are beautifully finished. [They were] presented early in the year of 1861.

Have a letter from Belle.

**June 13.**

Very warm attending to the policing of [the] hospital. Walk out at evening beyond the fortifications, find [the] Blackberries ripe.

June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Hot. This sun chases away the dew much earlier than in the north.

Began boarding at the surgeon's mess.

June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Naval school ships (2) lay in anchor. Middies ashore.

**June 20**

Was so unwell today, I did but little, took a dose of Rhein as bowels had for a few days been almost inactive. Had much headache.

With the action of the Rhubarb [I] began a dysentery. To check this [I] use Morphine. (The secondary effects of opium upon me are very unpleasant. Always when taken in quantity making me very sick.) And my dysentery was so severe I was obliged to use large quantities. Therefore, I was kept with nausea and vomiting and very sick 'til June 27<sup>th</sup>.

**June 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Still sick.

Dr. Seaverns went home June 25<sup>th</sup>. [His] residence; Jamaica Plains, Roxbury Massachusetts. Gave up work on Friday, June 20, as I had done the Dr's work while he was up the river. On the Dr's leaving, was obliged to resume work. Informing the medical director that could the outside patients be attended to, I would continue in charge of hospital (physicians being so few). Dr. [Frederick Smith] Ainsworth (Massachusetts 15<sup>th</sup>) was ordered to attend to them. This he did not do and I was thus obliged to increase my work. I finally was obliged to say to Dr. Wheaton, I could do no work. The whole was then given to Dr. Ainsworth. When the [patients] received, if it were possible to give less than no attention, worse treatment. He did come once, I believe. I succeeded in getting a surgeon who would stop to see me at two different times to visit the wards, and pulled myself in to see some of the very sick. The Dr's (Ainsworth's) only failing was being drunk and confoundedly lazy. His own men were attended in quite the same manner. I assisted the Dr. in Trepanning one of his own patients who at least owes the early termination of his life to the Dr.'s neglect.

### **June 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Dr. Wheaton went, by order of Medical Inspector Dr. [Edward Perry] Vollum, to Newport News to select a site for the erection of a Hospital preparatory to transfer of [the] Government hospitals from Yorktown.

### **June 28.**

Rumors of a disaster above.

### **29<sup>th</sup>.**

Huge stories told of rebels in rear of McClellan. Then came information of the burning of White House (We had seen boats loaded going down the river for a day or two before with rumors of the transfer of government stores.)

General [George] Stoneman [USA], with a considerable body of cavalry, came into town. Some infantry also came into town. It is said they have been cut-off by the falling back of McClennan's right wing before the enemy. The soldiers have no idea of what was going on but in their immediate vicinity. That they were driven by an overwhelming force of the enemy is all they seem to know. It is said the rebels are in force above. Fearing an attack, General Van Alen is actively repairing the village fortifications.

### **June 30.**

Excitement has become intense. (Heavy firing all night, at no great distance up the river.)

### **July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Are expected to have hospitals removed at almost any moment.

### **July 2.**

Am still required to be abed most of the time. My stomach is very irritable. Vomit much. There is so much prostration in this diarrhea that it is with much difficulty I force my mind to anything. I feel, in an especial manner, the goodness of God to me, an unworthy sinner. God, grant me now and always a rich faith in Jesus Christ.

### **July 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Walked up to Headquarters. The Medical headquarters were used by the confederates for the same purpose. (The medical director of Magruder's army was the one referred to.)

I took the knocker off the hall front door of the building as a relic.

Have orders to be packed at once as all the hospitals are to be removed. They are exploding some of the large guns on the rebel fortifications. This looks like putting every thing out of the way of the guerrillas and [also] abandoning the place. All packed.

### **July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1862.**

Orders to remove [our patients] to the boats. Hospital [patients are now] all away. I am convalescing [and] able to be up. Appetite something. At [the] dock learned we were bound to Newport, Rhode Island.

Dr. Wheaton, Medical Director, goes with the Steamship Atlantic. Ainsworth [goes] with the Coatzacoalcas. I go on [the] Atlantic [and am] on a little before noon. [The] sick are well provided for on [the] boat. Lie all night. Gloucester Barracks are burning. A fit conflagration to celebrate the day of the National Independence. It removes rebel relics on the opposite shore. It adds to the appearance of the fire works thrown in from the Yorktown side.

### **July 5.**

On going on deck, found we were already a little below Fortress Monroe. Good breakfast, then went out and leaned over [the] bulwarks to relieve myself. Sometimes out of sight of land. Sea Gulls.

### **July 6.**

Sunday. Sea very quiet. Very warm. Since leaving fairly the Chesapeake out of sight of land and early this forenoon made Block Island. At 2 p.m. the shores of Rhode Island were fairly against us.

Passed Newport about 4 p.m., going up the bay. Stop at Portsmouth Grove about 5 p.m.

### **July 7.**

Champaign dinner. After dinner went ashore, occupy a room in the hotel. Last night [I] was quite sick. Crowds of people [are] on the shore. I was able to dispense with the offered services of citizens to carry some of my articles.

Portsmouth Grove is on the island of Rhode Island six miles above Newport on Naragansett Bay. It is simply a summer resort. [There is a] Hotel with the usual out buildings of sheds, saloons, swings, bowling alley, [and] bathing houses.

Tents are being rapidly pitched for the sick. Necessarily slow.

### **July 8<sup>th</sup>.**

[It is] very warm removing [the] sick. I am so unwell as to be only able to be around. Can eat but little.

The committees & Ladies & Gentleman of the vicinity & Cities are very abundant in their supplies of oranges, lemons, cake, bread & c in assisting to put up tents, ice, newspapers. The citizens have met us with a liberality truly very great. Citizens unloaded boats, put up tents.

A body of the artillery from Fort Adams have volunteered their services.

Am very unwell today. Took my blanket and lay out in the shade [for] part of the afternoon.

**July 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Citizen's housing, rise early. Very warm. Am better today.

**July 10.**

My fever returned today. Mr. Bailie (of Philadelphia) made purchases for me at Newport at cost. His mother hemmed my handkerchiefs.

**July 11.**

Am better. The boat from Providence was crowded. As [they] came up to [the] dock [all] were singing "Hail Columbia".

**July 12.**

No fever today. Very warm. Can eat fish. Great crowd at the grove.

I would not close the week without remembering God's goodness to me. My Father, I pray thy blessings upon all I love. Prepare us all for the Holy Sabbath.

**July 13.**

Sunday. The Episcopal Bishop of Rhode Island, Reverend Dr. Clark, preached. Prior to services, the choir sang several patriotic hymns. Many men came in sail boats. [Some] came on excursion steamers from Providence. Boat loads of other excursionists [came], 'til with the carriages, wagons & c, the grounds were fairly swarmed with people.

This visiting [of] the Hospital has become a nuisance. Today a guard was requisite before one [Hospital] tent.

Bishop Clark's sermon was apposite to the late call of the President for troops. Being an appeal to the soldiers to stimulate enlistments by a courageous bearing, to maintain their integrity as soldiers, to be men, and make ever their wounds and suffering honorable.

I am pretty well, only weak with an irritative tendency left.

The hairs of your head are all numbered. Gracious assurance that God keeps watch and ward over us. Not one step too much. All is love.

**July 14.**

Began duty. Set and dressed a boy's thumb taken entirely off by an air gun.

[Ed. Guns that operated with compressed air had been developed by 1750.]

**July 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Had a salt bath in my room. Today report under my charge [are] 216 patients.

**July 16<sup>th</sup>.**

216 men. Wrote to Belle.

In afternoon, went up to Providence. Boat left at 3 ½ o'clock. Arrived at 4 p.m. Providence is well built. Some 60 or 80 thousand inhabitants. Streets were very hot.

Had a late supper. Lobsters.

**July 17.**



Very warm. Days here all have been generally hot, but the nights are always cool. Clams for breakfast, fish also.

**July 18.**

Not well.

**July 21, 1862.**

Send my secession chair to Dr. Joel Seaverns, Roxbury, Massachusetts

After mature deliberation, I determined to go home to recruit myself as I should probably have to go into the field before a great while.

**July 22.**

Fulfill my determination, [by] getting a release from Dr. Wheaton. By morning boat [I] go to Newport. Take dinner in Newport.

I hope I may be allowed to remain sufficiently long to recover my health. Father, forgive & bless me for Jesus's sake.

Dr. Wheaton today goes to Washington under orders from [the] Secretary of War. Have since learned he was dismissed.

Leave on the Empire City, 8:45 p.m. for New York. At office [the] state rooms [are] all taken. Camped on [the] floor of [a] cabin. Sea Quiet.

**July 23.**

Arrive at New York at 8:45 a.m. Just before entering the Hell gate we passed the steamship Great Eastern. She floats like a Leviathan. Her lighters look like floats at her side. She carries 6 masts [and] 5 smoke stacks.

Stop at French's Hotel. On the order of the Medical Purveyor (Dr. Satterly) from whom I received very courteous attention, I concluded my business early in [the] afternoon.

At 5 p.m. left New York by Hudson River R.R. Had passed Newburg before sunset. The scenery of the Highlands is very rich. But I still think the Narragansett Bay surpasses [it] in scenery.

[The] approaching sunset over the hills at Newburg was truly almost enchanting. Diffusing over the hilltops a flood of light that quite is Elfdom. Passed Barrytown when quite dark.

Took [the] evening train at Albany for the west.

**July 24<sup>th</sup>**

Pass Rochester in the morning. By way of Great Western R.R. reach Toronto a little after noon.

(Not Toronto, but London.) [A] British General of that district, General [Edward Hungerford Deleval Elers] Napier left at this place. [He] was in citizen's dress. [He] was given a military reception. The British uniform is very gaudy. Its bright colors, however, make it dangerous in the field. Dinner [was] at Hamilton.

[I] arrive at Detroit in [the] evening [and have a] cup of tea on [the] boat while crossing the river.

On the Michigan Central R.R. [I] took a sleeping berth and engaging the waiter to wake me at Niles. Slept like a log. Was woke from a sound sleep on reaching Niles in the morning at 4:05 a.m.

**July 25.**

Took breakfast at [the] Bond House. Called then at Samuel Griffin's. Then at [my sister-in-law] Lydia's.

Towards noon was at Mr. [Abraham P.] Knox's. This is a happiness I have long been thinking of. Belle is pale but beautiful. We talked 'til I [left and] stayed all night at Lydia's.

**July 26, 1862.**

Arrived at home.

Came up with Cholwell [Knox]. Called to see Dr. S. F. Spear & wife at Judge Bacon's.

I enumerated a singular feeling today on my way home. A welcome seemed to be for me. I rejoiced to be rid for a while of the care of the world outside. I felt in my bones the happiness of going home to rest. Here I am all well at home. Now rest for me, rest for me.

**July 27, Sunday. At home.**

For a couple of days [I] was quite unwell.

**August 3, 1862 [Sunday]**

Received from Secretary [of War Edwin McMasters] Stanton my Commission as an Assistant Surgeon in the Regular Army of the United States. Dating April 16, 1862.

May God be with me in this appointment. Father, for the sake of Christ. My Father, if thou goest not with me, let this appointment be of no effect. If thou blessest me, then am I blessed indeed.

But if thou withholdest thy blessings, I shall not prosper.

My Father, accept, sustain, help and bless me for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**August 5.**

Invitation to [an] afternoon party at Mr. Knox's. With [my brother and sister] James & Sarah, on [the] way, [we] called on Dr. Spear. Took dinner at uncles.

After [the] party left, [I] remained. Spent the evening with Belle.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>.**

At Mr. Knox's. These evenings are very pleasant.

**August 7.**

Drove Belle and Lydia to our house [for a] dinner party. Remained at home.

**August 8.**

My limbs are more swollen. This edematous condition of my limbs has troubled me very much since being so reduced. My diarrhea is better. Am taking cathartics & diuretics.

Px. Pill Hyd gr V.]

Squills & Digitalis A A gr 1/f. Two pills at night.

**August 9.**

Drove Dr. & Mrs. Spear's brother to Andrew & Henry Starr's. Dinner at Henry's.

**August 10. [Sunday]**

Reverend Dr. Spear preached in our Church at the Burg.

**August 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Went to Niles. At uncle's all night.

**August 12.**

Called on way to town at Mr. Knox's. Took forenoon train for Detroit on account of my health. Could not learn at Niles of Surgeon General of State.

Finding there was none, I [on] August 13<sup>th</sup>, called on Dr. Tripler [in Detroit].

At the fort I met Dr. White. Made out my pay roll [request] and saw Colonel [James E.] Pittman, [paymaster,] at the camp of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Left it with him. He promising to send a check to the amount to me.

Returned home on evening train.

Stopped at [the] Russell House [in Detroit the previous evening].

**August 14.**

Arrived at Niles early in [the] morning.

Afternoon party at Lydia's (family party).

**August 15.**

At Mr. Knox's.

**August 16.**

At Mr. Knox's.

The history of these days must be a silent history. In the afternoon came up home with Mr. Krepes.

**August 20.**

Went to Niles. Learned of David's being wounded. Lydia was suffering under the uncertainty, not knowing how bad the wound was. And too, little Paul was sick. At Mr. Knox's.

**August 21.**

Learn David's wound was in the shoulder. He received it in the battle at Baton Rouge. "Our troops did ably today. In the fight [General John C.] Breckinridge was repulsed."

**August 22.**

Went to Adamsville. Took my wood trunk home from the blacksmith's.

**August 23.**

Am better again.

**August 24**

Sunday. Went to Mr. Knox's.

**August 25**

In town. Lydia had just learned by newspaper that David was wounded at Baton Rouge. How severely, [she] did not know. Poor child. She was nearly beside herself and [the] baby too, to add to it, was sick.

**August 26**

Took dinner at Mr. Griffin's. In [the] afternoon [we] went to South Bend. Belle accompanied me. After returning to Niles, [I] came home. [It] was nearly 2 a.m.

**August 28<sup>th</sup>**

Lizzie Knox went home.

**August 30**

Father & mother went to see David. He arrived on [the] afternoon train. [David] was badly wounded, but comfortable.

**August 31**

Nothing yet of my orders.

**September 1<sup>st</sup>**

Went to Niles to attend an afternoon party at Sam Spear's. Went first to see David. Sitting up comfortable. The bullet passed entirely through the body. Entering one shoulder, passing out at the other and passing anterior to the spine. Joseph leaves tomorrow for Vermont to be married. He has nobody to pray for him. Now he goes in the dark and must pray for himself.

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

[I] was in Mishawaka [Indiana] but [a] short time. Left a quantity of papers (my accounts) with Samuel McMichael to collect.

**September 4**

Went to Niles. At David's all night.

**September 4**

Having had no orders as yet from the Department, I wrote them.

**September 5<sup>th</sup>**

At Mr. Knox's in day, at night at David's.

**September 6**

At Mr. Knox's.

**September 7<sup>th</sup>**

Dinner with Cholwell at David's. At night at Mr. Knox's. Pleasant evening. Belle is happy to night. I am glad I came home. Had I remained away I should not have been at home long enough to have become acquainted with each other, and these days with Belle Knox are pleasant days [which] I shall never forget. I love her.

At Mr. Knox's in afternoon, & at night at Mr. Knox's. Part of Sunday with Cholwell at David's.

**September 8**

Came home.

**Wednesday, 10. 1862**

Father was at Niles. By mother's advice, I determined to have my business at home fixed.

**Thursday, September 11. 1862**

Placed with Father for [safe] keeping, a note dated July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1862 for the sum of Three Hundred fifty seven 67/100 dollars (\$357.67) with interest.

Did not finally leave it.

**September 12<sup>th</sup>**

David improves rapidly. Arabelle came up with me from home

**September 13<sup>th</sup>**

Received orders from [the] Surgeon General to report at Washington.

This is my first order as an Assistant Surgeon of the United States Army. O God, be thou with me.

If thou, O Lord, blessest me then am I blessed indeed, but if thou dost withhold thy blessings I shall not prosper.

Lord, go thou with me for Christ's sake.

Do good and God will bless thee.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Took Belle home, returning [the] same night. At the Church in the forenoon. Praise the Lord for his greatness in the earth & [for] his salvation.

**Monday 15**

Returned home. Busy the rest of the day packing my trunk. Andrew Starr came to see me.

**Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1862.**

Left home at 9 a.m. to report, according to order, a[t the] Surgeon General's office, Washington. Mother had prepared me nicely with stockings and such other things as she could do. She had prepared some nice graham biscuits, an abundant supply, and urged apples upon [me]. And [she also] fixed for me a roast boned chicken. Very nice. My mother is such a mother as fewer boys have. I shall never be cared for as she has cared for me. She is an earnest, kind mother and a true great woman. My father possesses the finest talent of any of his family that I have seen. He is a man of commanding talent, of polished mind and a great true man. My parents have been so good to me. May God grant I may bring honor & happiness to them. I am leaving home behind me. May God be with me for Jesus Christ's sake.

At Mr. Knox's for dinner. Bid good bye. When getting out beyond their woods the thought pressed itself upon me that I was now fairly afloat in the world.

[At] 4:20 p.m. [I] took [the Michigan Central] train for Chicago. Arrived in [the] evening [and] stopped at [the] Tremont House. Write to Belle. How fondly I love her.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Left Chicago on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, & Chicago R.R. for Washington. [The] Fare to Baltimore [is] \$21.

[The] country around Chicago is very low, pass as far as Crestline, Ohio by \_\_\_\_ p.m. Arrive at Pittsburgh at \_\_\_\_.

### **September 18<sup>th</sup>**

Route so broken up [I] do not take [a] sleeping car. Proceed directly to Harrisburg. Breakfast at Altoona. [The] mountain scenery is very rich to one born and living among the prairies and forests of the west.

Arrive at Harrisburg [a] little after noon. Direct for Baltimore [we] arrive early in [the] evening. Stop at [Doctor] Barnum's. Hoped to there hear from Dr. Bugbee. After tramping over half the city, [I] found him at the Gilmore House, just leaving.

### **September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Arrived at Washington on [the] early afternoon train. Stop at [the] Ebbitt House. Went up on [a] street car. Slept quiet.

### **September 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Reported at Surgeon General's office. Hammond absent. Assistant Surgeon General Smith ordered me to be ready within perhaps two hours to proceed to Frederick, Maryland in charge of a train of ambulances, (12) loaded with Hospital Stores, to proceed as expeditiously as possible. From paymaster Kinsey, [I] received on pay roll, \$101.55. [The ambulance] train did not leave 'til 2:15 p.m.

Drove all night, had a wagon master along. After sundry mishaps [we] reached Frederick at 7:30 the following morning.

### **September 21<sup>st</sup>**

After reporting at [the] Medical Director's (John J. Milhau), [I] proceeded to breakfast, then obtained my orders for duty. [I] was ordered to report to Surgeon [H. S.] Hewitt, USV in charge of Novitiate Hospital.

Dr. Hewitt has both the Novitiate building and the Convent and Academy of the Visitation under his charge. Assistant Surgeon [Philip] Adolphus of the Regular Army is the executive officer of the Novitiate. This building belongs to the Society of Jesuits. Both buildings will accommodate some 600 patients.

Leaving my orders at the Hospital, I went to my Hotel as I was completely tired out. Had some fever today.

### **September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Monday.**

[I] began duty at the Novitiate. Board at Mrs. Elliot's on Church Street. First days duty not hard. Dr. Hewitt tied [an] external carotid artery.

### **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

[We] have some 80 patients. Almost without exception [all] are wounded. [I] have an acting cadet (Morgan) to dress for me.

### **September 24<sup>th</sup>**

Patients increased. (Morgan is from South Amboy, N.J. An excellent fellow.)

**September 25<sup>th</sup>**

I get tired easily, and have to work very hard. We have operations every day, some days several. This is hard work. I put a man in my wards under chloroform for the extracting of a bullet. It is interesting to see how busy the brothers are around the sick. Dressing wounds, counting their beads over the sick beds, saying prayers. I do not doubt but some men die in Catholic hands because we have no Protestants as active [as they].  
I hope our people will be more active in [the] Hospitals.  
When I speak of an hour, except otherwise stated, I but about that time, intend shall be read.

**September 26**

Officer of [the] day every other day. Then sleep at [the] Hospital at midnight. Tied common carotic artery performed by Dr. Adolphus.

**September 28,**

Sunday At church in [the] evening. [I] was so busy [I] could not go during [the] day.

**September 29.**

Operations nearly every day.

**Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1862**

[Cadet] Morgan goes home tomorrow. [I] relieve him from assisting me in dressing injuries. I excise nearly all the Carpal & part of [the] Metacarpal bones of [the] right hand of one of my patients.

**Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Amputate a leg, Dr. Hewitt says it is the best stump that yet has been made. It is very nice. Morgan left for home this morning. [I] purchased his sash & sword belt (\$14.00).  
Operations at [the] Hospital again this afternoon at our own building. When we do not operate ourselves, we assist the Doctor in all his operations. Our patients are almost without exception, surgical patients.

**Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> [Sunday]**

Officer of [the] day. Do not go to Church. As we have now the assistance of another Assistant Surgeon of the Regular Army [Charles McIlvaine] (Colton). Our time as Officer of [the] Day comes once in three days. Colton came October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**

I amputate a leg.  
Having no dresser, I really have more to do than [I did previously] with my dresser. And all of my wards [require attention]. I had then 85 beds. In the new subdivision [I had] 58 beds.  
Dr. Hewitt begins a course of lectures on Surgery.

**Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>**

Dr. Hewitt lectures on surgery.

**Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Lecture from Dr. Green on waste and repair.

**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>**

Dr. Hewitt operates very prettily. Wrote to Belle. Both of her letters (the first two) came yesterday. These two are very precious letters. [They] quite annihilate [the] distance.

**Oct. 10**

Write Home today.

**Oct. 11**

Officer [of the] Day when I sleep at [the] Hospital.

**Oct. 12 Sunday.**

Inspection of Hospital. Attend Church, [where a] German reformed pastor preached today. Had a headache & did not go to Church in [the] evening.

**Oct. 13**

Headache slept away. Probably arose from a cold. Performed a partial excision of the radius (rather was a resection). The weather within a few days has become greatly colder, [requiring] that we have a fire in the office. And [thus] when [I am] officer of [the] Day I have to have much care used that the windows of the wards are not closed. Should they be suppurating wounds [they] would soon poison the air. Pure air is worth more than medicine.

**Oct. 10**

An order issued by Surgeon Hewitt USV in charge of [the] Hospital that Assistant Surgeon Adolphus should be transferred to the House Surgeoncy of the Convent Hospital and Assistant Surgeon Bacon shall be House Surgeon of the Novitiate Hospital.

[My] steward is quite sick. Have a ward master who will do the policing.

Dr. Adolphus is really a good man. The army has tampered little or none with his morality. The most exalted thing I can say of him is that he is a Christian.

He is sensitive by nature, but has schooled himself to calumnies. [He] Is cultivated. [He] possesses much general knowledge and has a fine knowledge of Medicine & Surgery. [He] is an excellent police officer. Good Surgeon.

[His] hair [is] reddish brown. [He] wears heavy whiskers cut out at the chin, [and a] moustache.

[He] is very positive in manner & kind [and] never hesitates to speak the truth. And [he] always defends his own rights. When we first came to the Hospital the Surgeon in Charge chose to decide on the cases under our care without asking often [of] our opinion. Neither would he ever permit us to perform any operations of importance. Adolphus almost invariably demanded his right, yet respectfully. Therefore, [this] is one important reason at least, [that] these privileges were given to us and we operated frequently.

Dr. Hewitt calls him Don Otello.

Dr. Charles Colton, Assistant Surgeon USA, with me in the Novitiate possesses the most brilliant talents. [He] obtains knowledge almost by intuition, and has a remarkably retentive memory. He is the son of a minister living on the eastern shore of Virginia. [He] left home early and finished his education in a topographical Engineers Camp. [He] dislikes the authority of others yet always



does his duty well, is independent in manner, in fact just such a man as has always paddled his own canoe. He has a brilliant imagination, fine command of language, [and] withall is extremely witty.

Poor fellow he has already had attacks of Delirium Tremors and it is with difficulty he is now able to steer clear. Yet [he] is never drunk. If he reforms he will make one of the most brilliant men of the army.

#### **Oct. 14**

I do not have sufficient active exercise.

#### **Oct. 19 [Sunday]**

Attend Church with Miss Lena Stopp of Baltimore, a friend of Aggie Elliot.

#### **Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>**

I did the circular amputation of a thigh. Also the flap amputation of the leg. Saw the girls off from [the] premises, going to Baltimore. Wrote to Belle.

#### **Oct. 22**

At work bringing up [the] register of [the] Hospital. Officer of the Day each alternate day. A letter from Belle. I got it at the Convent while going with Colton to an operation.

I, the other day, met one of my class[mates] at Washington [Medical college], who for a time has been Brigade Surgeon of Volunteers. [He] is now an Assistant Surgeon USA (Dr. [William P.] Waters.)

John Milhau, the Post Medical Director, boards at our place. He is an efficient executive officer. 12 years in the army.

Mrs. Elliot and daughter are union. Mr. Elliot, Secesh. The wife proves too much for the Husband. Ergo, Cat's Jaws.

Some rebel surgeons drank, in a public Saloon, [to] the health of Jeff Davis. They would string us [up] should we do the like for Lincoln in the South. They were only arrested and ordered at once to leave the states. Had it been an officer of the line he would have been treated more summarily, but Surgeons are not prisoners of war. [They] are treated as gentlemen, therefore their offence is the greater because as noncombatants they cannot be punished.

How often seemingly accidental things (Providences) prove the turning point of our destiny. I should have left home on Monday. Mother was very anxious I should delay 'til tuesday, and with Belle's solicitations, I finally yielded, leaving on tuesday. I then reported in Washington during General Hammond's absence. Acting Surgeon General Smith just [then] sending a train of Hospital stores to Frederick, ordered me in charge. At Frederick I have the choice of places in every respect.

If thou, O lord, blesseth me then am I blessed indeed, but if thou withholdeth thy blessings, I shall not prosper.

#### **Oct. 26**

Sunday morning inspection of [the] Hospital. Dr. Hewitt compliments us highly on the admirable condition of the Hospital. Attended morning service at the Catholic Church. The sermon was a practical Christian one.

As Colton & I were coming out, Hewitt touched each of our hands with holy water. [I] wrote a long letter to mother.

**Oct. 27**

Had the first letter from home since being away (from father). A letter & paper from Belle, darling.

**Oct. 28**

Officer of [the] Day for joint houses, Novitiate & Convent. This brings me on every six days.

**Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**

Wrote to Belle. I am very well these days. I thank thee, O Lord, for my health. Grant to preserve it to me.

Received pay for transportation to Washington from home. For quarters & wood up to Oct. \_\_\_\_\_ 1962, from Captain J[ohn] C. Crane, Quartermaster USV, at Frederick.

**Oct. 30**

At work bringing up my monthly report. [I] read 'til late at night, finishing Midshipman Easy.

**Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>**

By Dr. Hewitt's direction, [I] helped Dr. Hines at the Convent arrange a limb in Buck's splint.

**Nov.**

**Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>**

Received Belle's picture (Melainotype). The picture is but the bust. It is very fine. Her form is fuller than her last picture. Her cheeks and neck are full and rich, and the bust is beautifully rich in it's fullness. The hair is as I love it. So drawn back, it makes the forehead in fine relief.

Belle is beautiful and now the picture is in such relief I can almost fancy it answering my caress. Precious little darling. My very soul loves her.

**Nov. 8, 1862**

Received a letter from Belle containing her photograph.

**Nov. 9, Sunday**

Officer of [the] day. Wrote to my Belle. Going over to [the] Hospital before breakfast to get a sick [patient] away to his home in Baltimore, I learned there was an official document for me at the office. After breakfast then, I sent for it. It proved to be an order to report for duty at U.S. General Hospital Camp A, just outside of the city. Well, there was no help for it, but I was very much vexed for the reason (aside from the comparative comfort of quarters) of breaking up old associations. (Persons & places to which I had become much attached). The order came from the Medical Director and the surgeon in charge expressed himself disappointed.

Well, I grumbled and laughed, still being vexed 'til dinner when by the remarks of one of the Doctors I took the philosophic view of it. We talked of the disposition of others in the Department (of urbanity) and in that quarter of an hour I had learned what years of quiet perhaps never would have taught me. (I came to the house tired of the army, feeling that it would be pleasanter to be a hewer of wood, drawer of water with a home life than to be ordered [around])

ruthlessly in the army.) But now by determination, I had mastered this disquietude. I had risen above this feeling of selfish comfort. I had learned to obey. I had been taught urbanity of manners (no matter if the heart is sore, be pleasant.) I had learned to be always pleasant. In truth I had lived a life in those few minutes and when Dr. Milhau, the Medical Director came in, instead of grumbling as I had intended, I smiled. Then at the table he an[d] Dr. [James Cooper] McKee, Assistant Surgeon USA talked of their roughing it in the great west for years, and I was content.

Once in conversation with Belle, I had smiled at the idea that men often grow old in this manner in the army, and she had warmly defended it. And this now occurred to me, when I considered these few minutes.

#### **Nov. 10**

I had obtained leave not to go 'til this morning. A little after ten I went out to camp A [and] reported to Dr. Notson, Assistant Surgeon USA. My ward was not complete, therefore I had nothing to do. The camp is very pleasantly situated and I think I shall like it much.

In camp are over a thousand persons. \_\_\_\_\_ Doctors. The Doctors and Lieutenant of the Guard mess together.

I have [a] wall tent assigned me. It is made very comfortable.

#### **Nov. 11**

Went up to the city with Dr. Notson. In the evening I went around to Hospital Camp B [and] found two other Doctors from the city had been ordered recently to report there. Our camp is far superior to camp B. [I was] back in time for tea.

#### **Nov. 12**

The camp is very pleasantly located, one and a half miles from the city, on a slope just above a fine run of water. I have no work at all as the ward assigned me is yet to be filled. At present in camp [there] are over 1000 persons who, occupying large hospital tents, cover [the] ground for a brigade. I went out to one of the camps of condemned horses (rather corrals). Such an abuse of horse flesh I never saw. Hundreds of good horses [are] killed in the service by bad teamsters and [just] as bad, cavalry [personnel]. The appearance of the horses caused me to give up all idea of a purchase there as I had been told some of them only needed care to come.

#### **Nov. 13**

Boarded up my tent. Put in some shelves. Have a small stove. The tent is now really comfortable.

#### **Nov. 14**

With a teamster, [I] rode part of the way up the mountain. Walking back.

#### **Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**

Wrote to [my sister,] Sarah. Go up to city after dinner.

#### **Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, Sunday**

Go the round with inspecting officers. In the evening fifteen patients came into the camp [and] were placed under my care. [They] are mostly confederates.

**Nov. 18**

Took a ball from one.

**Nov 20**

Went up to [the] city in [the] afternoon. Dr. Notson went [also]. A horse [is available] always to ride while here if I will obtain a saddle. I need some active exercise, without [which] I am sure to be sick. I am already suffering from want of such exercise.

(In a ball which I removed from the muscular tissue of [the] thigh of one of my patients here, was found a hammering out flat, quite as if it had been upon the anvil under the hammer. It did not appear to have struck the bone, yet was in the leg deep and spread out flat and thin almost as if intentional.)

**Nov 21<sup>st</sup>**

I have the papers of the Hospital to look after, keep up and correct, viz; rolls, requisitions, hospital accounts, discharge papers for disability, & c. [All this] besides my wards.

In a few days [I] shall have my corps of clerks organized when work on papers will begin in earnest.

**Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, 1862**

Late in the evening, [I] received orders from General Burnside to report to [the] Medical Director's office, Army of [the] Potomac for duty (now at Falmouth, Virginia). So I wrote home, wrote to Belle, and by early forenoon [of] November 25<sup>th</sup> [I] left camp for the city. Made arrangements for surgical instruments, for which I have the invoices, but not yet [the] instruments received. [Also arranged] for letters [to be forwarded]. Took dinner at Mrs. Elliott's. Left Frederick on the 2 p.m. train for Baltimore with Adolphus. Colton & [Dr. Ira] Russell, Assistant Surgeons USA [are] under like orders. [We] arrived at Baltimore in the early evening, [and] stopped at [the] Eritane House.

**Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>**

After doing my mornings work in the city, [I] took the 10 a.m. train for Washington. Arrived at 12 p.m. [Took the] City cars to [the] Kirkwood House. Go to paymaster \_\_\_\_\_ [and] obtain pay for months [of] September & October. Pay \$223.35. Make purchases in the city. In the evening [I] call on Mr. & Mrs. [H. J.] Alvord, No \_\_\_\_ 11<sup>th</sup> St, near J. Return late. Tea.

**Nov 27<sup>th</sup>**

Go to the corral and satisfy myself that I should not attempt the purchase of a horse. Therefore [I] get Phillips at the \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital to obtain one for me. Toward evening [I] go to Government Corral with him to get the horse. Value \$112.00. He is a fine grey, not yet four years old. Somewhat mottled in color.

Get a Grimsley Saddle. The tree of the saddle was picked up on the old battle field of Bull Run, in [18]61.

**Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving.**

I neglected to write of this in it's place. I was at the Kirkwood in Washington, but was so pressed to get away to my duty in the army of the Potomac that I had no rest all day long. After 11 a.m. most of the stores were shut.

Had a Thanksgiving dinner of Turkey, Plum Pudding and Squash pie [and other] items general. I have reason to be very, very thankful to almighty God for all his blessings to me in the year past and I trust that in Jesus Christ, He that day accepted my thanks. May the Lord alway[s] show me the source of my bounties, and may my heart ever turn to him with sincere humble thanks, Father in Christ.

### **Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>**

Get pay from paymaster \_\_\_\_\_ for November \$110.95. At 1 ½ p.m. leave Washington for Aquia Creek, having in the morning had my pass visaed by [the] Provost Marshall. [We are] on the Propeller Wilson Small. Going down [we] 8 pass cars for the Military road to Fredericksburg, [Virginia]. It is cold. [I] have to sit close to the stove. Arrive at Aquia Creek about 6 p.m. Supper on board. Horses must go off. Cannot get them from the wharf. After obtaining feed for [our] horses, [we] make our beds on the dock. It is very cold, but [I] find blankets on the dock & sleep warm. I laughed at Adolphus and Colton who were rolling and pulling from each other the clothes complaining of cold and one finally getting up to walk himself warm. Seemingly long before day, some soldiers began the work of preparing coffee, and I turned out, further sleep was out of the question. The coffee mill began to grind in Colton's ear and he begged they would remove it. I was up twice during the night to fix my horse who was right at my feet.

### **Nov 29**

Breakfast on the boat at 8:20 a.m. Ride my horse toward Headquarters, sending my valise by Adolphus' boy on [the] cars. A ride of 13 miles ahead. Arrive about noon, [and] are ordered to report to Major General "Joe" Hooker, Center Grand Division, for duty in [Major General George] Sykes' Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Army Corps.

Get to General Sykes in the evening, then report to his Medical Director. We then go back to [General Daniel] Butterfield's Medical Director, having passed over that part of the red tape. On our way to General Hooker's we had driven over a great extent of country being directed wrong. Having an ambulance from [Dr. Jonathan] Letterman's (Burnside's) Headquarters.

The whole country fairly abounds with troops.

Dr. Ramsey quarters us in a tent with blankets. (Having had no dinner after driving 'til toward evening, we have supper by politeness of an Assistant Surgeon of the \_\_\_\_ Pennsylvania Volunteers.)

### **Nov 30<sup>th</sup> [Sunday]**

My face & hands puffed. [I] feel better later, and in Company with Dr. Ramsey, are introduced to the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment United States Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. 277 men total [are] present for duty. Dine with Captain John D. O'Connell, commanding [the 1<sup>st</sup>] Battalion & Regiment. The Captain is a phlegmatic inhuman who is as brave as a lion. It is said he fears nothing and does his duty, when under orders, to the letter.

After dinner [I] go out to the woods to pray. I feel that God is with me if I do right. I have always found it so and now wilt thou help me, O my Father in Heaven. [I] sleep in [a] hospital tent.

### **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862.**

I have no tent as yet, and cannot make out my allotment for this reason. I afterward find it stands thus \$ \_\_\_\_.

I placed my chest in store in Washington at the rooms of the Michigan Soldiers Relief Association, in the basement of the Patent office.

I left my dress Coat with Dr. Alvord on 11<sup>th</sup> Street near J in Washington D.C.

I mess with Captain O'Connell, & Lieutenant [David Bell] McKibbin Jr., Company G, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

Mess began November 30<sup>th</sup>, with dinner.

[I] have a place for sleeping with Lieutenant Broadhead, Co. G & McKibbin. I found it hard when lying down to kneel and pray before a number of officers playing cards. May God forgive me for such fear and give me grace and grant that I may fear nothing but him. Card playing was kept up 'til late at night.

### **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

No one but Lieutenant Broadhead in [our] tent at [this] night.

### **December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Got up early. Sat over [a] fine fire before one of the units tent's. [My] horse is sick from a severe cold.

### **December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Snow nearly all day. Many of the men in the Division are without shoes, shirts, [and] overcoats. One man [was] on guard without an overcoat at night.

Wrote a long letter to Belle, My Belle.

### **December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Considerable snow has fallen. Yet by melting, shows now but about 2 inches. [It] is very cold. [The] ice will almost bear a horse. The Potomac Creek is as deep again by the melting of the snow. A review was ordered today but was recalled. Chow for the dinner.

O my Father, wilt thou be always with me. I need thy help alway[s], O Lord, grant it unto me.

The officers seem very anxious about the clothing of the men. The clothing has [been] estimated but not received. I have also to wait the coming of my tent. I sit a good deal by the Captain's fire. The out door camp fires have a singular look as the smoke settles close over the camp from thousands of camp fires. Officers group around them. Men hang over their fires reminding one of Abbott's winter scenes in Napoleon's Campaign in Russia.

### **December 7<sup>th</sup> [Sunday]**

[I] have a headache, much of it caused by a cold. Sunday, only an opportunity to engage in silent prayer. [It] is very chilly. [I] go to Chaplain Winslow on the staff of Brigadier General [G. K.] Warren to see if I can obtain a testament.

General Warren is a young man and in the Regular Army [is] only a lieutenant. [He is] not over 36 years of age. It is said he is brave. Belle's picture is beautiful. Write my diary before O'Connell's fire on a saddle cloth. There is in life in camp though, [and] much that is pleasant.

### **December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Wrote to [my second] cousin, Hattie Bellus [of Adrian]. The last night was my first real comfortable camp sleep.

Wrote a letter to my Parents to be left in my trunk in case of my death in the field, in reference to my engagement with Arabelle Knox, requesting them to love her as a child and more. It will, should I never return, be found in my valise here.

I love Arabelle. My very life is devoted to her and she is pure and good. [She is] worthy [of] all the love of a life.

I love my parents. I love all, may God bless them always.

We shall probably advance soon against the enemy.

### **December 9<sup>th</sup>**

It is said that the day after the morrow, the 11<sup>th</sup>, we shall move against the enemy [who are] now in force on the opposite bank of the Rappahannock. The pickets of each army were in the habit of conversing across the river 'til it was forbidden.

In the evening, Medical Director Ramsey sent [orders] to see [George P.] Jacquette of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and myself to assign us our position in the approaching battle.

Assistant Surgeon Jacquette, USA, is to remain at the general depot for wounded in the rear while I am to take charge of both battalions in the battle.

And now may God be with me. May he help me do my whole duty. By His help it shall not be said that I am a coward. Where my duty is, I will go and may God be around me. Be with our armies, O my God! In the day of battle give us success, and preserve the lives of all men engaged in it, so far as is in accordance with thy will. All in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

### **December 10<sup>th</sup>**

I wrote home. I wrote to Belle.

We have orders for three days rations. It is said we break camp early the 11<sup>th</sup>.

May the Lord be our God. May he fight our battles. And may the contending parties again speedily be united [as] one people.

Lord, help us to do our duty.

### **Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, 1862**

In accordance with orders of the previous evening, reveille was beaten at 3 a.m. I rose [and] had sick call sounded for purposes of sending away men not fit for [the] march. Breakfast in about 40 minutes. About 5 a.m. [an] assembly was sounded, [and I] saw my boy all ready. Sent away 7 sick to [the] General Hospital. At 5:40 a.m. [we] were marching away. [It was] still quite dark. Have knapsacks of [the] remaining sick carried. At about 4 a.m., [I] heard the first cannon. Soon their report[s] came in rapid succession. By sunrise we were some 3 or 4 miles from camp in [the] direction of Falmouth. On the march the guns (to our front against Fredericksburg) continued to thunder terrifically. The sun rose with a most singular appearance. A heavy mist hung close to the ground and though it [was] apparently at but a little distance from us, it came up an irregular globe of fire. Not lurid but dull. The day afterward opened fine and warm. A rest from [the] march was given. The men start fires. Here the cannon continue their roar, and at but a little distance from us. I felt peculiarly my need of God's care and tried to place myself in his hands. By the help of God I was determined to do my work boldly.

After resting an hour, [we] took up the march again. I rode in the rear of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion [14 U.S.], by [the] side of Captain [H.W.] Keyes, acting Major or Lieutenant Colonel. By 12 p.m. [we] were resting on our arms a little below Falmouth, nearly against the roar of guns playing against the city of Fredericksburg. Sitting here on my horse, Dr. Chaddock of the Michigan 7<sup>th</sup>

comes up. He says the regiment only number some 130 men for duty here. A biscuit for dinner. A lull in firing about the middle of the afternoon. At 4 a.m. [I] was trying to sleep and was startled by [a] sharp thick roll of artillery which now was like moving the hand rapidly across the board.

The firing was from our Batteries on the right, above Falmouth, [and] as far down as Franklin's position some three miles below.

It is said one hundred & forty five guns (145) have this day belched forth shot & shell on the rebel earthworks. Such thunder is terrific. While this was going on the engineer's corps were attempting to throw [a] pontoons bridge across the river directly opposite Fredricksburg. A small force of the enemy said to be 240 men from the houses of the city, by picking off the men, drove the engineer corps from work on the bridge. For this reason the command had been given by General Burnside to turn the cannon upon the city, in order to drive out the rebel infantry. Now the shells plunged through the roofs & walls of the devoted city and soon many buildings were in flames. A dense smoke enveloped the town and at times little or nothing could be seen.

Finally the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Michigan Volunteers, & 20<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers, Colonel [Norman J.] Hall acting Brigadier General, volunteered to go in boats and drive the sharp shooters from the town. Captain Steele of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan was the first man to set foot in the town. I did not discover the report of a rebel cannon during the day. They seemed silent.

The cannon early in the evening became silent. During the night a little musketry was heard. [I] had my bed made under the open sky. Night cold. Toward morning I drew my bed to the fire, but still going cold, I got up early. A very heavy frost covered the ground. [I] had 3 blankets over me. Breakfast at 5:30 a.m. The fires of the city still crept up.

### **December 12<sup>th</sup>**

A heavy fog. Much of it, no doubt, [from] the smoke [of fires] settling over. Toward noon the fog gradually raised. My face is a little puffed this morning. At 10:30 a.m. [I] was having a cup of coffee. A few guns now. No letters from Belle, none from home this morning. [At] 11 a.m. [the] firing ceased. Soon follows slight musketry. I am amused to hear the officers who have fought again & again during the war and whose bravery is acknowledged, talk of preferring to be at Delmonico's or liking to be on recruiting service.

I ride out after dinner to see [the] ambulance officer. Turn up to see [Captain Rufus D.] Pettit's Batteries open on the rebels from our immediate right front. As the guns are discharged, a stream of solid fire seems to spring from them. The gunners load, run the pieces into position, and fire rapidly. From the guns all along the line we can see the shells explode away over the position of the enemy's guns. Toward evening their pieces reply. I can discover no execution. Probably they are turned upon the city.

Sleep out again tonight. [My] blankets get very damp. I pray earnestly to the Lord to be with our army, to be about our command, and to be near me. [The] day has been very warm & [we have a] bright sun.

### **Dec 13, 1862.**

Reveille at 5:30 a.m. Breakfast [at] 6:30. Cloudy, warm, fog & smoke so dense [I] can see but a few rods. [At] 10 a.m. [the] guns near [the] city open heavily. A little after 10 a.m. [the] smoke is very thick, probably from guns and also the rising of yesterdays smoke from the valley of the river. [A] wind blowing toward us, soon cleared up the smoke. My only hope for success is in the Lord. May he help us, may he protect us, and Father, sanctify all for whatever awaits them. If



thou, O Lord, goest out to battle before us we shall be successful. Wilt thou, O Lord, so be with our arms. May the Lord Sanctify, and be around me.

25 guns crossed [the river] last night. [I hear] firing far down the river. I believe the gun boats can only come within a few miles of the city, near enough to give [Major General William B.] Franklin some aid below.

Lowe's Balloon is up quite a distance [about three miles] from the river.

The enemy's batteries [were] at work last night. In the dusk it was interesting to see the flash of fire from their guns along up the hill.

12:20 p.m. Musketry, which before was only slight, became very rapid and continuous. It is being evident that the first range of hills in the rear of the city are being attempted by an advance of infantry. It now seems that our troops were met by a terrible fire from the enemies guns and Infantry and were forced to retire. Again our troops advanced and gave away in disorder. The firing spiritedly continues. Orders to march. In the continuous peal of musketry we can see the enemy along the hill. The smoke of the musketry is loose and rolls up more like a light vapor, while from cannon, it is a dense cloud.

Occasional cannon open from [the] side of hills. Who knows what execution these guns do? A single shell may strew death and destruction around.

At 3 O'clock p.m. [we] marched away to cross the river on the pontoons against the city. We have to cross an open plateau. The enemy see our large body of men and open heavy guns upon us that either whistle close over our heads or plunge into the side of the bank on our right. A shell passes just over and explodes near. I confess my blood ran fast. [We are] ordered to march by company front, in order to expose [our] men [as] little as possible. [We] were soon in [a] ravine against [the] bridge. The whizzing purr of the shell that the men say says "Where is you" (repeating). I confess no liking to [it]. Double quick is the order.

While we lay in the ravine, I think I was able to put myself in God's hands very wholly. I now saw that I had not given him as much honor as I ought, and I determined to honor him as my God in the future. May God help me to do so.

I think I can now go across the river in the confidence of the Lord.

The pontoons sway as we cross, my horse is quite at home near other horses. Two bridges are laid.

The city has been terribly destroyed by fire. Houses are torn by shell or other missiles. In ashes. Streets seem a complete desolation. March down Caroline street. Throw off knapsacks, turn up toward Spotsylvania Court House road. All this time, since being in the city, the battle rages in the outer part of the city. It is now dusk. The columns of smoke make it rapidly darker and now we are right between the lurid flash of our cannon and the enemy's. Missiles fly around us. One man of the 12<sup>th</sup> regulars [was] killed by an exploding shell. A little rest. As we are here the columns in front pour flash after flash on the darkness. Cannon seem too, to support them. During this time the rebel cannon from their near earthworks opened upon our devoted columns. The retreat sounds. Already Humphreys' Division [of Pennsylvanians] has broken disgracefully. The forward brigades of our Division are ordered to check the attack of the confederates. As Sykes' brigades advance, what columns of flame they send forth. This was a most sublime scene for the darkness made the line of battle so distinct in the flash. Cheers ring in the air. Amid the flames, long lines of men would be discovered rushing, swaying with excitement. While the evening sky was painted with the lurid flame of many pieces of artillery, our brigade is ordered to advance on the rebel lines. [It] then is ordered to form across the road to arrest the flight of the broken ranks of the volunteers.

Sykes men in the front hold their ground. Gradually, [a] quiet of musketry comparatively takes place. We lie on our arms by the side of the road 'til toward midnight, when we are ordered to the right front to take the place of other troops. Get [to] our position. All quiet so far as we are concerned, [and we] rest on our arms. Where we first rested, a dead man lay. I picked up a cartridge box that lay by him, probably his, and placed my head on it for a pillow. Dead men lay around the streets. I lay near this man.

Morning [of the 14<sup>th</sup>]. Very early [we] are ordered to get [to] our places. Find we are lying on the back slope of a hill from the enemy. Go into a house near to obtain a cup of coffee. The house has had shell through & around it. Excellent coffee. As our pickets return, rebels rush after them, but [only] one man hurt. They retire again.

### **December 14, 1862. [Sunday]**

Again I commit all to God. The bullets of the enemy whistle close around. It is rather amusing to see one and another's head bow as the bullets whistle or kerchug near.

Just to our back's is a fortification of the enemy. From this place [there] is a sharp shooter on the watch. He fires matches to see the effect and prepares for another pick. I take O'Connell out something to eat and as we both stand the fellow seems to think a bead on us [is] an excellent thing. We conclude to take ourselves out of his way.

Some of the fourth regulars behind the brick wall of the cemetery [are] wounded. A shell bursts near. I go down into the house to get a cup of coffee. An excellent cup. An old gentleman & lady are in the house. [They] would take no pay for coffee. They have remained here in the shot and shell. Their house has been pierced with shot.

I stepped just to the edge of the street with Dr. [Gabriel] Grant of the 12<sup>th</sup>. "George" how the bullets hopped by, and both of us hopped back in "double quick".

This is Sunday. A Sunday under the enemy. Such a Sunday. God, bless my country. God, bless our army. All over our land may there be earnest prayer for the safety & success of our army. And may God sanctify in all, for death or for life.

The bullets whistle thick above us as we lay protected by the slope of the hill. I was amused at Lieutenant Broadhead saying he preferred the Chimes of Trinity, to such Sunday chimes.

8 a.m. Rapid musketry on the line in front (This proves to be either a push of the enemy or volleys of musketry from the pickets or [the] front line. The front on the right, we occupy. Still to our right, in a brick tannery, is the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry. The left front is held by our 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. A little to their front and behind a stone wall lie the rebel Infantry. In turn they are supported by earthworks on the crest of a line of hills immediately to their back. It was this crest, in the general account, the second slope from which our forces were continually driven the previous day. Under a slight slope from this line of the enemy and but \_\_\_\_\_ yards in front of the Stone Wall, lie our troops. If they even rise upon their knees a bullet takes them and here, as a rebel could get a gun to bear, were our men. One after another [were] shot in the head. Below this point, on the open plateau, the enemies cannon had swept as our army advanced the previous day. They could not plough us behind the slope. Should our men advance to the wall their cannon would enfilade us, and if still we charged the line of earthworks on the crest immediately above, and should [we] be successful, we would only expose ourselves to the terrible sweep of their guns in nearly every direction to the right and left and front.

Why the hills above us are a Sebastopol, impregnable. Place a million of men where we are and they would melt like frost before the sun, should they advance. Our protection now is that we are beneath the line of their cannon. Away to our own right we watch the repairing of a battery that

has probably been silenced by [our] cannon. Did this [battery] have pieces mounted, how they would deal death among us where we lie.

There is an earthwork to the back of us. Here the rebels [are] striving to get a gun in position, but as often as they lift it the 4<sup>th</sup> regulars pick off the gunners. My God, what work that gun would do; enfilading the line on the left of the road and throwing shells into our position. During the day they succeeded in exploding one shell near us, but the 4<sup>th</sup> saved us with their sharp shooters. Between our position and the city is an open space which their sharp shooters watch with a hawk's eye particularly from toward and after 10 a.m. One of them seems to have a very heavy piece and as their bullets cut the line near over our heads this heavy rifle sounds almost like a round shot.

The sound of the shells travels slower than the shell. In the dark the light of the fuse of the shell can be seen and then shortly afterward comes the sound. This is what the men say [it] says "where is you." The round shot has a sharp whistle. The bullet gives a rough light purr. The enemy fire a grooved missile that gives a clear fine sound. (Something of a singing whistle.)

A very little to our left too is another open street. Up & down the open spaces men must continually pass. And where we lie bullets first whistle near over us toward passers on the spaces and we watch with interest the result. Sometimes there are a number of sharp shooters. We watch the course of their bullets and, no harm being done, how we laugh at the antics the men make as they pass. During the whole day we continue to amuse ourselves at the expense of these passers. How ridiculous [they appear] as they run or dodge.

I desired to go into the city. Accordingly I took off my uniform overcoat as that was an additional mark, and keeping out of the road as long as I could, I walked leisurely down. Some bullets zipped down. If they were aimed at me, it was very poor firing. I asked God to keep me before I went, but now I think I sinned for it was unnecessary to go into the city, and I tempted God by exposing myself so. It was foolhardy. Coming back no bullets came down and I stopped and pulled some turnips.

I am not brave, I think, by nature but through faith in God I had no fear. Just so, I felt all that day, and now the officers say, "I was very calm under fire" and say too, "I was so cool I ought to be in the line."

Occasionally the men stand up where we lie and the Captain says, "Sit down there or you'll get your heads knocked off." Yet strange to say, no more than two men were hurt by these sharp shooters and sometimes the bullets would go in numbers. Lieutenant [James Bruce] Sinclair laughs loud & long at shots & men. He has been a long time in the army, and is known as the Scout of the regiment. During the day he had seen where an officer lay now beyond our lines and in the dark he stole out after it. Not finding it, [he] brought back some guns. But in the retreat the guns were, of course, left.

The men had to run thru shots to get at some bee hives. Never-the-less they got much honey. Just across the road on the bank lay a dead man, his blankets rolled up near him, and up the street, the rebels kept an eagle watch. Finally one of our men started for the blanket, and pretending to be shot, fell near the dead man. As soon as there was a lull in firing he seized the blankets and returned.

A couple of our sharp shooters from the right saw a confederate officer pass and grumbled that they did not have a shot at him. "Hould on", says the other, "we'll try his orderly", and they brought him [down].

7:30 p.m. How the bullets whistle. I should not wonder if there was a dozen trying the roads. It is a beautiful day. Warm & sunny.

Such a sabbath. I have had some sense of the presence of the Lord. O Lord, grant me a richness of thy presence ever.

Father McKibbin gave me a testament he picked up. I had gone back of the house and was sitting alone and opened the book to these words of the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter of St. John 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> verse. I had been thinking as to why all this death and asking if possibl[y] it might be prevented and these verses were peculiarly apt.

May the Lord grant the battle for us. Assist us. Put confusion among our enemies. Be around about us, O God. Be around about me, O my Father. bless, assist, & keep me. For thy Son's sake. Clothes have been strewn over the ground where a volunteer regiment lays last night. The stragglng soldiers & others try to get them and the rebel sharpshooters keep them away. Our boy Bedard, & Reuben the black boy, [are] to bring our dinner. They return to the city on the run, the negro ahead. They tell of one man being shot resting on [his] hands & knees with [his] gun in hand as if in the act of creeping forward, and he was fairly checked with bullets. As one man hugged the mud, his flapping coat tail had several bullets in it and two in the body of the coat. When it was dusk, so that all was safe, Colton and I went over to the city & got supper. Returning [we] learned the regiment was going into the city. So I returned to Colton's Hospital to sleep. Found a feather bed upstairs. Spread my blankets and had an elegant rest. Made myself comfortable at the expense of the owners. The room had cannon holes in it and was close in the line of the rebel guns. But as there was no safety from them, I found comfort here.

### **December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Do not rise very early. [I] learn [our] regiment is but a square or two off. Coffee. Had left my stockings down stairs and one of the men, supposing the were the spoils of the house, cut off the feet to adapt them to his own purpose. After finding the regiment, [I] finish my breakfast with the Captain. [I] visit the Hospital for the Division. [It] is in an old church. Brick (not very old either). [The] wounded of the Division number nearly 200. Early I go with O'Connell and two or three other officers to see a house richly supplied. The occupants had evidently left in a hurry and [the house] had been ransacked by our soldiery.

The house contained a good many books. These were strewn over the tables & floors with rich dresses. Dressing case drawers & c, pictures, a piano. And the house was altogether richly furnished. Some of the soldiers had found a gold watch in one of the cases. Across the street was a great many books. Farther down, while the officers lay, they amused themselves by strumming a piano [playfully and] looking around the house. The first house had negroes left with it. Their books show them to have traveled abroad. Besides these, presents of honor from abroad. The people of the city seem to have left in a hurry. They probably thought General Burnside would not shell the city, but loathe as he was to, they forced it upon themselves by firing from the houses upon our men in the act of crossing the river. (The houses served them in place of fortifications.) Yet the sacking our soldiers gave the city was shameful. The town was fairly turned inside out. Not a nook or crevice, not used as a hospital, but was ransacked. Libraries distributed at will. As I was passing down by the ruins of the Virginia bank, I heard a yell of exultation and soon learned they had succeeded in breaking the safe of the bank open. They afterward told me they had found some silverware, half dollars. A quantity of [Confederate] bank bills. A man passing along the street gave me 3 one dollar bills. I have kept one as a relic. I am proud of one thing, that it is not the Regulars who have sacked the city. Our regiment took but little. The men, for the reason that they were kept to their places by order. I took a couple of books and having no opportunity to return them, I burned them up. I would not take such

disgraceful evidence to camp with me. I have simply the little courtesy of a bell pull I stumbled on to some where around the city.

It is a sad sight to see the city in all it's wealth in ruins, burned, shelled, ransacked. Yet I am glad to say that where the owners remained to protect their property, they and their property were respected. A good many negroes were left in the houses which, of course, was no protection. About noon, the wounded were being taken across the river. I go down [to] the city to establish my regimental Hospital as in case the city is shelled we shall have to take charge of our wounded in regimental Hospitals. The enemy threatens us. I find a commodious house on Caroline Street. [A] private house, but [it] is nice & airy for wounded men.

About noon, while at coffee, there comes from the front a rush of firing. O'Connell starts from his coffee. [He] soon returns and completes it. What an excitement. Where we lay yesterday the rebels had worked their battery so as to bear on them and the cowardly fellows run. They tell a frightful story of numbers being killed [by] the first fire. Now the excitement seems imparted to the whole line [on] both sides of the road. Of course, all draws the fire of the enemy. General Sully, to whose Division they belong, shouts at one of the flying regiments and calling them (being a new regiment) 250 dollar men, saying he would not give 50 cents for them all. All have run except the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota who still lie, yet I believe further from the stone wall than lay our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigades on Sunday.

Here, our Division to the front, just back of the Stone Wall, were shot as they moved to ground. Our regiment, on Sunday, lost four me[n], all wounded. A few men, at this present [time], still hold the old tannery. There [the] 200 dollar men, as they run, throw away guns [and] baggage. 1 p.m. Shell come into the city. One bursting a little west of us injures 2 or 3 men. How many killed I do not know.

I wonder [why] the confederates do not shell the city, for our troops fairly pack the streets with Division after Division.

General Sully sits with some of our officers (one or two others) on a portico and tells of the terrible destruction of General [Darius Nash] Couch's [II] corps on the 13<sup>th</sup>, saying his loss is 6500 men.

I do not wonder some of these new regiments run when their officers get frightened as badly as were some on monday afternoon (the 15<sup>th</sup>).

[Ed. General Couch is generally credited for leading his unit with distinction at Fredericksburg and again at Chancellorsville four months later. Bacon's observation of Sully's comments after the failure of nerve of the later's unit is poignant. See Boatner.]

On Saturday, we had orders to take some of (one) of the first [earth]works on the second crest but [the order] was countermanded. I am glad it was, as had we charged & taken the earthwork it could only have resulted in being swept by new works. Certain death. A million of men could not have marched up against the works, one after another.

I have, after dark, a long talk with Lieutenant [John] Henton about the nights of sacking. We agree in opinion. A little later I go down to my Hospital. Men have a nice fire and light, so I draw up to the front of the fire an armed sleeping chair, soft and very easy and after reading some aloud take from an old copy of [the] Niles Register a fly leaf, and with pencil write to Belle. Have a watch for fires & c of the drummer boys and having my blankets drawn over me turn my chair back for a sleep. My boots hurt my feet. Pull them. Early [a] man is making coffee.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1862**

Someone comes thumping at the door. Says the Provost Marshall, [Marsena Rudolph Partick,] has ordered the clearing out of the town at once so taking some orderlies with me [so] that, if true, I could return word, I go to General [Robert Christie] Buchanan's Headquarters to inquire for the 14<sup>th</sup>. His adjutant says O'Connell will be along soon. Sending for my steward, I order the rest to get across the river at once. In getting up, my feet had swollen so as to make it impossible to draw my boots and I slit the instep of each. It was raining and still quiet dark. O'Connell came [and] we marched around. By [the] time it was light [enough] to read a newspaper, we were at the upper bridge. Captain Keyes, by order of O'Connell, had been looking after me during the night, but had failed to find me. They were afraid I should be left.

During the night the regiment had moved to the outside of the town. We were nearly the last troops to leave.

While the last of the soldiers went on the pontoon bridge, the ties to the opposite bank were cut, and as the last man was going from the bridge, the whole [bridge] floated against our bank.

While we were standing upon the city side of the river, the pontoons brought the last bridge up the river. It was interesting to see how rapidly the bridge was constructed.

I believe our troops were nearly or quite all across before the enemy thought fit to open a gun on us. As we halted a little from the river "Fighting Joe Hooker" & [Maj. General Daniel] Butterfield passed. They looked heavy.

9 a.m. [General] Franklin evidently recrossing [the river] from the firing down the river.

We marched to nearly [where] our position [was] before crossing [and] built fires. When the rain ceased, the wind blew very raw and cold.

I am surprised to see how little the men seem to care for the retreat. They laugh and engage themselves just as they did before crossing. They seem not to know or care for our disasters, and I think our men would go back & fight nearly as well as ever.

Officers gather around the fires laughing over the events of the last few days, their escapes & dangers, but are disheartened. We have crossed the river for what they say (to the loss of 15,000 men.) Franklin loses 6000. We the rest.

I sit down and talk with Lieutenant Henton of God's singular protection of our command and ourselves since being out this time.

God has been good to us. May we thank thee, and thee only, O God, for thy singular protection of us.

And our army might have walked to certain destruction among those earthworks, but God turned away our enemies and preserved us. May we thank him, through Jesus Christ. And I thank thee, our Father, that thou wast around about me, and didst bless me. Henton is a Christian and is brave.

They who put their trust in the Lord are safe.

The rebels appear, soon after we leave, to pick up the waste. I had stocked one gun before crossing. This is often done (broke) to prevent the rifles [from] falling into the enemies hands. As we lie here today they come down and pitch their tents as though they expected [to] winter there. I sleep with Lieutenant [John H.] Walker. We sleep warm as a top, (in an A tent). I have had but little opportunity for silent prayer today (or have not prayed as I ought. My God keep me from such sin and forgive me. Sanctify me.)

From home, from Belle, [I find] letters in getting to [our] old camp.

**Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.**

[The] general call sounds early in the forenoon. I had not bestirred myself very early [as] I had slept so warm. I think it was not yet noon when we marched into our old camp. O'Connell places my tent over his chimney. Now I am snug. Sleep nice.

### **December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Attend sick call for both Battalions as Dr. Jacquette has not yet returned from the General Hospital.

By the reveille mail [I] send my [report] of the following morning.

Send letters which I tonight wrote to Belle & home.

### **December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Yesterday & today are both quite warm. Ride a little. Do not feel very well today as I am trying to rid myself of the anasarous condition of my limbs, feet, & c.

Dr. Jacquette returned tonight. I had my boys bring the chair found on this side of the river, which chair is a great comfort.

(I forgot to say that on the 15<sup>th</sup> General Burnside rode down Caroline Street, and was warmly welcomed by the soldiers.)

### **December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Have settled down into quiet camp life.

### **December 20<sup>th</sup>**

Write to Belle an account of our advance and retreat at Fredericksburg.

### **[Thursday] December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1862**

Christmas. A merry Christmas to all I love. Father, Mother, all, I love you. Belle Darling, very dearly, I love you.

The day is very warm. I go out toward Falmouth with my horse. Meet Adjutant [Daniel] Loosley & Lieutenant [George L.] Choisy. Have to play "turkey and point" for a Christmas dinner.

Prayer. My duties to God. "Peace on Earth, good will to men", More than eighteen hundred years ago, angels sang Hallelujahs at the birth of the Savior and now, in the light of his salvation, I pray for all who are dear to me, for all who [are] dear to those I love, for all who are near to me in my daily life and, O Father, I pray for my distracted Country. Grant us not separation but speedy peace. Sanctify my country. Save our armies. Love our enemies. Make us speedily one people whose God is the Lord.

### **December 30 & 31**

[I am] busy bringing up my individual and department reports.

Rumors travel freely of intended movements of the army but, chameleon like, [they] daily change their colors.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brass Band see the old year out. I should say, "the New Year in".

### **January 1<sup>st</sup> 1863**

1863. A new Year. A New Year of days.

Each day will tell it's history. May they be filled with more than gossamer threads. Though I have been deep in the mystery of papers my thoughts have often been away in Michigan. Most

earnestly do I pray that God will make this a “happy” new year to my parents and unto all theirs (full of rich mercies and blessings to them). Wrote a happy New Years to Belle. Belle’s happiness has become a part of my life and [I pray] that God will abundantly bless her and make all the year happy to her. And each returning year fill with happiness and good for her and finally when life is done give to her the “white stone” of his salvation. Write very late. O’Connell serenaded, but is out. Sweet home. [The] Mocking Bird Song [is] played by the Band.

### **January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Early [we] receive orders to go on picket. Miss the road and march quite a way around. [I] finally establish Grand Reserve compound of first Battalion of the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry. [It’s] in a fine range of timber in a hollow. [We] build fires. [I have] a lean-to shanty covered with pine boughs, and with the pine leaves for a couch, [I] sleep nicely. The picket (1<sup>st</sup> Brigade) is commanded by Major [Richard S.] Smith of the 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He is only recently out from West Point where for years he has been [a] professor of drawing. 3<sup>rd</sup>. also of West Point. Captain S. \_\_\_\_\_. Captain [John Darragh] Wilkins of the 3<sup>rd</sup> [Brigade is] also of West Point. Captain O’Connell who is occasionally here. Captain [Charles G.] Smedburg and all make the pickets very agreeable.

The Major being new at this kind of life, came out woefully prepared for comfort. So he had some of my blankets which I brought with me. We coffeed & toweled him and he told anecdotes while he also added from his store of knowledge and cultivation to the interest of the picket. Day warm. Night cold. Indian fire.

### **January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Very warm day. Letter from Belle. One from Sarah. Stroll out along the line through the woods. Come unexpectedly on Captain [H. De B.] Clay’s quarters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. I had returned my horse to camp as I could better have him cared for there. Tonight the restraint on fires [was] quite removed. We burn a good one.

### **January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1862 - Sunday**

[I] had sent for [my] horse [and] rode into camp. Burns growing better. The officers in the evening brewed some hot punch. On it’s inspiration, they sang songs & told stories. The Major, [Smith], par excelas the entertainment of the evening.

### **January 5<sup>th</sup>**

Came in from picket. Day warm. Walked in viewed by, a whole or part of, an excelsior Brigade. I was early each day while out.

During the night I was called up to see a man who was nearly dying through a drinking bout. I worked a long time with him, [and] finally roused him. Yet [he] will still remain in a dangerous condition for a while.

### **January 7<sup>th</sup>**

My muster rolls [are] complete. Ride out. Rather cold. Have blankets today from [the] quartermaster for which I had made a request. My horse is sick, [but] better today. The dews that fall at night are very heavy. At night the atmosphere becomes so damp as to present the feel of density almost. No doubt much of this arises through the great amount of



smoke from camp fires that cover the country around. Still I think [it is] in the common course of the seasons here. The dew begins to fall with the declining sun.

While on picket we would escape from the dew mist by standing close to the fire, and the ascending current of air would cause it to be dry near around. And we heaped up, when we could, huge piles of fire. After the first night, orders about great fires were relaxed and our Indian fire of little limbs (mostly smoldering coals) became a great comfort of flames.

[Ed. "Density" is used above to mean a "croud" or "pressure".]

### **January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

[A] review of [the] 5<sup>th</sup> Army Corps by General Burnside. We left camp about 11 A.M. [I] took my horse [and] Captain Locke's sword.

General Burnside first rides up to Acting Major General Warren collecting other Division Commanders, then collects Brigade Commanders, raising his hat as he dashes by each regiment. We march in review by division. My place [is] to [the] rear of [the] last division. [The] morning [is] cold, [the] day finally grew warm. [The] brigade mustered (1800) men.

The whole army of [the] Potomac lies here, save a comparatively small body. One can ride through division after division in a little time and their camp fires go up so numerously as to even make these warm days murky. By night the atmosphere is heavy and dense. The great quantities of smoke cause the night (besides its natural dews, which are heavy in these low lands, which form a large part of the Southern Country) to deposit very much moisture. And the damp shakes down through these linen A tents (which mine is) making, by morning, my things quite damp. When it rains the first dash of rain causes the canvas to stretch and fill and then the canvass turns the water well. Never-the-less it requires experience and of camp life to preserve one from the effects of exposure. (My first nights I took cold easily and my secretions were easily colored through the exposure. But now I am quite a soldier. [I] do not take cold so easily, and dwell in comfort. I think, could I but have books, I would like this camp as well as a Post. I get up at reveille or as soon as my fire is warm. [I] have had sick call soon after [arising] but shall have it later hereafter. Sick call does not number more than 30 men and my work is done before breakfast. The papers are a little wearisome, but all in all the work is not hard.

One has to mourn the flesh pots of Egypt out in camp. We particularly, as very seldom does a sutler come, not being allowed to come down the river and the land route from Washington is exposed to rebel raids. So being afraid of being gobbled up, here they are not. Sic Transit, [So goes it!].

Dr. Adolphus, Colton, Eastman [and] Baxter, Assistant Surgeons of the U.S. Army, are ordered before the Medical Board for an examination being reported for incompetency. The two first made a protest to the Surgeon General (He replies they must go before the Board rather sarcastically to Adolphus). Both are very much in a stew about it.

No demonstration on review. Very dull. The regulars seem to march very much as if on their own parade. General Burnside must feel keenly such a reception. How apparent is the lack of enthusiasm among the volunteers & regulars.

### **January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Very warm. Mr. Loosley brings my nitrate of soda from Philadelphia. 1 lb. \$0.50

### **January 10<sup>th</sup>**

Raining. My tent, being linen, wets through easily. The drops of rain shake right down. Wrote to Belle.

### **January 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

During [the] night [the weather] had cleared up. Rather warm today. My eyes badly puffed on getting up. [The] stove burns well with dry wood.

### **January 12<sup>th</sup>**

O'Connell, [Captain David P.] Hancock of the \_\_\_\_\_, [and] Wilkins of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, see their military friends going up around them.

Disappointment. Disgust of some [of the] old regular officer's (ect. ect.)

Fitz-John Porter - McClennan - Burnside

General McClennan is the finest military talent of the army. C. Bacon, Jr.

Also from January 12<sup>th</sup>, [I] began reading Druitt's surgery. Warm. Continually one can see the puff of the railroad engine.

### **January 14<sup>th</sup>**

Made [the] quarterly "return" to [the] Surgeon general. [On] January 14<sup>th</sup>, [send one to the] Medical Director. [On] January 13<sup>th</sup>, [I] forwarded to [the] Surgeon General, [a] duplicate copy.

### **January 15**

Rumors of moving. May the God of battles go with us.

### **January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Receive orders to move tomorrow at 1 p.m. [We have] 3 days rations. Very cold last night.

While there are many suppositions, no ones know where we are going. If we cross the river we shall be defeated, yet if a pitched battle [ensues, it] will be fearfully contested by our troops.

Among the volunteers, demoralization has already largely arisen. In Humphrey's [Gen, USA] Division, [there was a] threatened mutiny. [Alanson M.] Randall's, a regular Battery, has orders and is loaded with lead or iron to \_\_\_\_\_.

[Bacon failure to finish the last sentence is curious. He was aware of the threatened mutiny and of Randall's actions and orders. He may have found the idea of firing on the unit "en masse", rather than simply seperating the leaders, repugnant.]

### **January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Wrote to Belle [and] to Father & Mother. May the Lord be with them [and] be about me. O God, be my protection and my help amid the danger.

### **January 19<sup>th</sup>**

The orders to march had been daily extended 24 hours. [It is] bitter cold tonight. [I] wrote to Stephen. Wrote to Belle.

### **January 20, Tuesday**

Orders to March, do so at 11 A.M. [It is a] cold, disagreeable day. Go toward [the] river 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles. After a sort of heavy working, [we] get to our place on an open plateau, on the east side of the woods, where we bivouac. Early in the evening the rain begins to fall and now came up, too,

a wind storm and wind and rain [continues] the night through. [It] is a doleful night. I sleep with Dr. Jacquette in the ambulance. [We have] plenty of blankets, but by morning they were quite heavy with damp. One of my shoes had partly filled with water. [I] dried it as well as it could be before getting up. It was a cheerless view looking (out in the night through the driving storm) over the mass of soldiers hovering under their blankets. Such nights are the devastation of armies. They will lose us more men than a battle. [I] sent back 3, sick. [I received a] letter from Cousin Hattie Bellus.

### **January 21<sup>st</sup>**

Reveille at 5 a.m. [It is] still raining. At 7 a.m. [we] are moving. My wet shoe makes my foot cold but it is too muddy to walk. [We] march some 5 miles. I never saw men toil so on the march. The mud was deep (and too, a clayish soil that made the walking heavier) and then t'was cold and the rain [was] still continuing.

The men move along spiritless. Burnside cannot fight with troops out of heart. The artillery along would be down in the mud. Still all are toiling on. Rain all day. Sleep in the ambulance. To bed at 7 p.m. [We] had encamped in [the] edge of a pine forest, so all was comparative comfort. Men had to [put] up their shelter tents.

On going to bed it was said the roads were blocked entirely and that the pontoons could not get on.

The detail of Surgeons had been made in our division for a battle. This time I was assigned to a post of honor, being detailed in case of battle to the General Operating hospital at which the wounded from the field should be taken. But [only] two Surgeons were detailed from the Division. [We] proceed to near Bank's Ford, 4 or 6 miles above Fredericksburg.

### **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Rise at 7.45 am. No rain. 3 blank guns fired early in [the] morning (probably signals). A mist most of the day. Sit late by fire. Quite mild today. [A] detail made to construct corduroy roads, it is said, for the purpose of getting back our heavy trains of artillery and pontoons, and that the advance is abandoned. The army is largely gathered here. Sigel's corps is lying here. The point of the intended crossing is known as Bank's Ford.

### **January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

No rain. Quite mild. Ride out along the way to the river. I am surprised to find the roads in such fearfully muddy condition. I really am afraid to ride my horse in some places. He may miss on the heavy clay [and] may even break his legs should he fall or I ride fast. I despair of going as far as the river. Artillery and ammunition wagons are getting heavily back over the corduroy road and through the mud.

Caissons, Pontoons and wagons [are] fast in the mire. If this army is not demoralized, the roads are \_\_\_\_\_.

The enemy, of course, know our move. We are about 1 ½ miles to the river. Part of the army is well down to the river.

[We] have orders to return to camp tomorrow.

Chickens, Milk, items of civilization we have found out here.

### **January 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday**

Move on return to camp at 8 o'clock. Reserve artillery, 10 pounders, drawn by 10 horses. Infantry keep [to] the field, away from [the] corduroy. It [is] well we are out of the mud and I am glad. At camp by a little after, or about, noon.

### **January 25<sup>th</sup> [Sunday]**

Letter from Belle. I have now since moving, two letters from Belle and one too, I think, the night before marching.

The volunteers have my remembrance for demolishing the nice arrangements of my tent while [I was] away.

### **January 26<sup>th</sup>**

Quite warm. General Burnside resigned. We are in an apathetic condition and it creates no interest with us.

General Hooker "fighting Joe" is in command. With Hooker at the head if we meet the enemy we shall fight bitterly. Shall we meet them here - "Quien Saw be".

### **January 27<sup>th</sup>**

Rain. Get warm. Sent a letter to Belle. "My little Belle." Rain at night, cold. Have to cover my traps & bed with [my] rubber [blanket] in order to keep them dry.

### **January 28<sup>th</sup>**

On rising, found it was snowing. [It] Continues to snow during [the] day. A good deal melts as it falls. 3 inches by night. Have an active snow balling. Smedburg & I on one side, Sinclair on [the] other. We throw balls at others.

At 1 ½ o'clock at night [I] was routed by [the] adjutant saying I was wanted. Found officers were assembling in Captain O'Connell's tent. Had nice lunch. Items circulated, and some grew boisterous.

O'Connell had obtained leave of absence and was going in the morning. It was pretty well understood he would not come again into the field this year. Singing was loud. "Benny Havens, Oh." It is a grand thing when sung by a crowd. "O [?Joseph] Bacon, O".

Well the storm kept up. In the morning the snow had quite taken possession of my tent. [It is] over the bed, on the floor, everywhere. Dressed standing on the bed. My man swept all out as well as he could. Before long [the] tent was quite comfortable. Snow was 5 or 7 inches. A great deal has fallen in the last 24 hours.

### **January 29<sup>th</sup>**

I lent O'Connell my horse to go to [the] railroad. He is a man very choice in his language. He reproved at the table, Lieutenant McKibbin, for playing cards. Saying there was nothing in cards worth the time spent upon them and was sorry he played so much.

He said cards were only a game of cunning.

I presume the captain will be married in St. Louis, soon. Tonight we learn he is ordered on recruiting service at St. Louis. If known to him it certainly was not generally known in the command. The parade [ground] has the snow all shoveled away.

### **January 30<sup>th</sup>**

The snow still hangs. Roads very muddy. Continue our mess under Lieutenant Henton who now we join as he hires Berdard.

My tent (which is an A tent) warped by the wind, took fire from the stove during my absence. Right glad am I of the accident for the tent was very thin linen. Persons might be distinguished through it. Nor when the wind was blowing, could it be made warm as the air drove easily through the canvas.

I at once procured another of Lieutenant \_\_\_\_\_ Q.M. of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 12<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry. This is cotton duck and is quite close and warm. Now with my old tent slipped over, I pass largely out of the discomforts of the winter.

Finish my monthly report of sick and wounded.

Letter from Belle.

### **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863**

Sun comes out, warm. [I] have my tent door swung back. The first I have done so this year. This is pleasant, the air in fancy comes bearing pleasantness on it's mild breezes.

### **Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Attend sick call of [the] 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of [the] 12<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry.

### **Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Dr. Grant is absent on seven days leave. I continue the charge of his battalion 'til his return. Cold.

### **February 4<sup>th</sup>**

Very cold. Dr. Jacquette sick. I attend sick call of both battalions of [the] 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry [for] two mornings.

I loan for reading from the Hospital of the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry "Watson's Practice of Medicine", 1863.

[Ed. "Loan" here means "borrow".]

### **Feb 5<sup>th</sup>**

Snow nearly all day. At evening a little rain. Orders to be ready to move at a moments notice. Sigel, it is said, is on a reconaissance on the right. Our orders are for a support, if necessary. Letter from "My Belle".

Rained nearly all night and the forenoon following [is] very muddy. Wagons cannot load heavy, and our camp is, with difficulty, kept supplied with wood. Several choppers will seize a stick and wood is hardly down before it is away. A great change has been made in the country since I came here. (The camps had been placed at this point but some two weeks before I arrived.)

Then the country was heavily wooded and the camps were mainly indicated by the smoke arising. Now the hills are bare, only here & there is seen timber. That too is probably protected by some General. Now far over the country the camps can be discerned. It is perhaps 4 miles to General Hookers headquarters and [in view] towards there from this [point], the camps show thick.

Some of the Divisions have already moved in order to procure timber.

### **February 6<sup>th</sup>**

Man stabbed, [I] dress his wounds.

### **February 7<sup>th</sup>**

It has been so muddy, I have not mounted my horse for a day or two. This morning while the ground was still frozen, [I] took a ride. The country is now so open that, gaining a hill, the Potomac is seen and the camps come into view.

The scene would make a fine sketch.

I am not very well today. A little incautiousness.

Officers on leave return. Smedburg (Charlie) returns.

### **February 8 [Sunday]**

Quite warm, My diarrhea still continues. I think I should be better had I more exercise. As my horse's back is lame from an injury, I do not ride him, but [I] have walked a little.

We have no Sabbath exercises save those I have.

[I] have an unpleasant diarrhea.

### **February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Warm. Write to Belle.

### **February 10<sup>th</sup>**

I am still quite unwell. At Dr. Hall's invitation, [I] call on him to inspect the contents of his box from home. [We] find apples, cake, mince pie, & maple sugar. Down here in the army it is quite impossible to have these things and it is like civilization to obtain them.

### **February 11<sup>th</sup>**

Quite a quantity of rain today. Walk with Lieutenant [Robert H.] Porter up the hill to look over toward Aquia Creek [Virginia]. The hill is the highest of an out falling range of hills. On one of these hills is a soldiers burying ground. When I die, let me die at my home.

### **February 12**

With Dr. Jacquette, [I] accept an invitation to eat buckwheat pancakes and maple molasses with Dr. Hall. The Dr. has also some very nice roast beef, also further, potatoes, onions, pickles, coffee, butter, sugar, ad infinitum, as we proved after laboring faithfully for awhile.

I have not had a letter from Belle for more than a week, I think.

### **February 12, P.M.**

Mild spring like day. Dr. Grant returns. Attend his sick call today for [the] last time.

### **February 13**

Captain [Jonathan B.] Hager arrives. He is the ranking Captain and will command [the 14<sup>th</sup>] regiment. Lieutenant Loosley makes his resignation as Adjutant. Charlie Smedburg (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant) [is named] Acting Adjutant.

I am much better of my diarrhea. Pay 5 cents apiece for apples. Letter from Belle. The letter was delayed. It was written only three days after the last letter. I have very frequent letters from her. They are very dear. They are usually written as she talks and are very precious. Nearly twice a week, Belle writes. I love her! And may I be enabled to make her life happy.

### **February 14<sup>th</sup>**

Morning opens very pleasantly today. Write to Belle. A letter too from her, precious little darling.

Orders to go on picket in the morning.

### **February 15<sup>th</sup>**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade on picket.

I do not ride my horse out, but go out in [an] ambulance. As the ambulance train was not ordered [un]til late, I do not go out 'til noon. [I] order two ambulances to report to Dr. Grant who is on the right. Proceed myself to the left. The Doctor did not get out 'til late. Gave him no orders 'til the following day.

### **February 16<sup>th</sup>**

Quite pleasant today. Instruct the Doctor in his duty. [A] man [is] stabbed in the neck in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. [I] go to see him.

In the afternoon, [an] orderly came riding in speed from the right of the picket, saying Dr. Grant was about, and I was wanted at [his station] without delay. [I] mounted his horse and rode off. Found a man accidentally shot. [A] ball had passed through his face sweeping one half the teeth from the lower jaw and the inferior maxillary [was] broken twice in two. A double fracture of the upper jaw and teeth [were] also injured. Bullet had also removed the fore part of the tongue. Lieutenant [William Henry] Penrose had washed away the blood. It took long to sew [up] the arteries of the tongue, wire up [the] bone & c. [It was] nearly 2 hours or more before completing. Drs. Grant and Hall came up. [We] could not use chloroform, so [we] gave him morphine.

### **February 17<sup>th</sup>**

Snow had come up in the night and continued all day snowing so hard as to make it difficult to keep fires going. At Sinclair's and Walker's, [I] try to fix a shelter, [with] poor success. Sleep in the ambulance. My lie [is] quite wet all day, so [I] get under my blankets early and have my stockings dried.

### **February 18<sup>th</sup>**

On account of the storm, [I] lie late. Much snow has fallen. [The] picket is relieved early so that we are in camp about noon. Roads are very bad. [I] was amused at the team of the ambulance I rode in. The horses are very balky (one very bad). The clay road is heavy. Every little while the driver would jump out to urge up his horses. (The drive through among the snow of the trees recalled "Little Tom's drive in Harper's".)

A man in the 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry shot his great toe. Went over to assist Dr. Grant in amputating. Rain nearly all day. My rubber [blanket] is nice for the storm.

### **February 19<sup>th</sup>**

[I] go with Jacquette to see Dr. Colton (with the 17<sup>th</sup> [U.S.] Infantry) The Doctor is slightly affected with delirium tremors, and most excessively irritable.

My Hospital (acting) Steward (Linsley) went on sick excuse the day I went on picket. Proves to have Typhoid fever. I try to make him comfortable. He is a good boy, I hope he will get well

soon. The day is quite pleasant. At Dr. Hall's request, [I] went to assist him set a fracture of internal Malleolus of Tibia.

### **February 20<sup>th</sup>**

Receive a letter from Mrs. Elliot at Frederick accompanying a letter from Belle dated November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1862, and also an old letter from Herman J. Redfield.

### **February 21<sup>st</sup>**

Very pleasant. [I] sent a letter to Belle. In [the] afternoon have a run at football with Dr. Hall. Whereat I become so wearied that my limbs topple from under me. I had run 'til it so tired me that it was painful to get breath because my lungs would not supply oxygen sufficiently rapid for the circulation. After resting [I] came up to [the] camp. Here all the officers, with one or two exceptions, kicked the ball 'til dark. It became fine sport with so many playing.

### **February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday**

A snow storm had come on in the night and lay deep. [At] 9 a.m. [it is] still continuing to snow. [It] is cold, and [the] wind blows hard. Captain Keyes left on leave this morning. How excited he was when his leave [papers] returned last night approved. [The] officers had a lunch in his tent last night and sing (Benny Havens, O). When officers congregate this is sure to be one of the jollities. It is a grand thing [when sung] by heavy voices. The Captain has long been anxious to be away on leave so as to be married. [He] has been refused absence 'til the third time, and began to fear they would both get into the "Sere and yellow leaf" before they should see each other.

Toward the middle of the morning, the rapid boom of cannon was heard among the camps. What it all meant, suddenly some one mentioned, "'tis Washington's birthday."

The occasion is entitled to a full salute of guns. viz.

### **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Snow has fallen quite deep having continued nearly all of yesterday. [I] write to Belle. In [the] afternoon [the] officers turn out and have a time snowballing. [We] keep it up long, throwing snow balls, snow making charges, and tumbling in the snow. I tumble Lieutenant [Carlton] Peck, also Captain Smedburg, yet Smedburg turns me. Sinclair and I have a turn of snow.

Supper of buckwheat cakes & maple syrup with Dr. Hall. Very mild today.

### **February 24<sup>th</sup>**

The sun comes out pleasantly today and [the] snow is disappearing, the parade is opened of snow. Large details are now going out to construct entrenchments and rifle pits near [the] Potomac Creek R.R. Station. All this looks very much as if the army was going to evacuate after a time.

There is very much more satisfaction in the army now, The move on Bent's Ford broke up complaints, resulting through inactivity, besides the army is better paid, better clothed, [and] better fed than previously. Confidence in General Hooker is increasing. His known bravery, his care of the army, and his recent coolness at Fredericksburg has evidently fast won him the confidence of the army. At Fredericksburg when we were down amid the cannon and coming shells on the west of the town, Hooker was there in the midst directing the charge on the front.



While we stand near, General Sykes rides up and says to Hooker, "I have a division that can take those works." "I know you have General" says "fighting Joe" but t'would only be a sacrifice. Darkness came on and the result was the move was abandoned. I rode my horse through this cannon fight. Now it is said the artillery was one of the most splendid things in history (from such lines of guns as faced & occupied the enemy positions).

My last letter from Belle is dated February 8<sup>th</sup>. I wonder if I am not homesick. Sent a letter to H. J. Redfield.

[I] have a little headache.

### **February 25<sup>th</sup>**

[The] sun comes out very pleasantly, have Hospital chimney built over. Placed private Ferdinand Burg Hanssen on duty in [the] hospital. Obtain [a copy of the] New York Herald, [the] first that has been in camp for quite a time. We have had quite a dearth of newspapers for some time. I hope I shall have a letter from Belle today.

No letter comes.

Toward evening came orders for our department to be ready for work. Rumors flying about our pickets being driven in. One Cavalry man is killed. Two prisoners taken. No further orders during night. The work only concerns the cavalry evidently. Large bodies of it have gone out. And this I reckon is the end of it.

[I] Read Edwin Brothers (?text) in the course of 3 or 4 hours. It is racy. Yet lacks the polish of the finer works of the present style of literature. Isolate sentences on pages and one will not like it. As a whole it is original, spicy and blends a pleasant satisfaction with a dramatic manner.

### **February 26<sup>th</sup>**

The skirmish of yesterday proves to be a slight affair. [The] number wounded is small.

[It] began raining this morning [and] continues quite a part of the day. [I am] at work on Hospital muster rolls today. My assistant is a boy who has been nearly 5 years in South America, at Panama.

[He is] 22 years old [and] a druggist by profession. So at this early age he has become an inveterate rambler. Neither is he to drop it 'til age gathers fast upon him.

My letter, so long looked [for] from Belle, came tonight. She had been on a visit to father's [and] so had no opportunity to write. I am over my home sickness now. Precious little darling.

### **February 27<sup>th</sup>**

[The] Atmosphere is heavy and damp this morning. [I am] quite well again though not quite rid of my cold.

Report station for Surgeon General. (February 28<sup>th</sup>) The Chimney builder of the camp [is] erecting [a] chimney for [the] Hospital. [I] find he will not work except [when] I ply him for brandy.

Now that Loosley & O'Connell have gone, Captain [Sullivan Wayne] Burbank & Captain [George D.] Norton occupy the tent. So a [?talk] is kept up quite invariably 'til late. While I like Burbank, as yet, Norton is a stranger. The camp is now quite full of Officers. Having been ordered in to relieve officers long out. These have not gone yet, as Captain [William Harvey] Brown is yet to report.

### **February 28<sup>th</sup>**

Muster day. Hospital muster. Chimney finished. Our time is now regulated by a Sun Dial [which] Captain Locke has erected at Brigade Headquarters.

Two little darkies are in camp. [They] are spoiled by the officers who try to have them dance, juba, box, fight, enticing and urging them very much as if two monkeys.

Make my monthly sick report myself. (Letter from Belle, My Belle.)

### **March 1<sup>st</sup> 1863.**

Sunday

### **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Very pleasant. Have a kicking at football on the parade. Bellows comes back. Am called up toward midnight to see the sutler. Soon after retiring again, [it] begins to rain. A little previously the stars were bright. What a great broad hand. Captain Drake DeRay of the 14<sup>th</sup> (now at Washington on duty) writes as though painted with a brush. Captain Hazen says the hand is rather an indication of vigor than decay.

### **March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Very mild. Muster rolls inspected yesterday. A convalescent from [the] Hospital reports. Being near a group of officers, he advances to one, extends his hand saying, "How do you do Captain?." No hand meets him in return, though the Captain had enlisted him. Yet the Captain speaks kindly to him. Is this discipline? Kindness is worth [as] much to a soldier as it is to any other man. From Burbank's tent, an advance is made in a body on Miller's. Perhaps will stay to worry Miller and when he wishes to go to bed, keep him up.

Miller will go to retreat and on his way to report, get to talking and forget to report. Letter to Belle today. Captain Brown, second in command, arrives today. Doctor Ramsey, the acting Medical Director of [the] 5<sup>th</sup> Army Corps visited my Hospital and complimented me highly on it's comfort and neatness. Afterward he takes in the Medical Director of the Corps.

I have a nice fire place and the tent well wears the air of comfort. Go up to see the Second Brigade Guard mounting. What flourishes the Drum Major makes.

We learn O'Connell is breveted a Lieutenant Colonel, Lieutenant Sinclair a Captain. [At] 10 p.m. a sound of revelry proceeds from McKibbin's tent where in honor of the occasion is being taken a lunch & c &c. Penrose points to Captain Wilkins of the 3<sup>rd</sup> as a Brevet Lieutenant Colonel when he is [?hailed]. One toast is drank to the 5<sup>th</sup> New York as "The only Regular volunteer regiment in the service."

### **March 4<sup>th</sup>**

A stiff wind this morning and a little snow. A Court Martial sits in the next tent. Sent a letter to Sarah.

Not quite pleasant in [the] afternoon. Saw Lieutenant Clay of [the] ambulance Corps about my man Weaver.

### **March 5**

Go on picket. Fine morning. Should have liked a letter from Belle before going. [The] picket line is not more than three miles. The day is fine. I took ambulances out with me, distributing them. With Lieutenant (now Captain Brevet) Sinclair, went to see some children said to have typhoid fever. The mother had asked to have the Doctor come up.

On arriving at the house (at which was a Provost guard) [he] was told the children had “whooping cough.” This I have never had. I partly hesitated then determined to trust in God helping me. I am not the man to turn about when I can do good. Going in [I] found several children suffering from it. The eldest daughter, (Gabriel) 12 years old, is very low. The family are very good farmers, the lady is a woman of some cultivation. The little daughter is a very intelligent, pretty child.

I selected the best I could find from my medicines for them, promising to do better when again in camp.

Shall I have the whooping Cough from this exposure? We remained a long time in the room. (family is Mrs. Bloxton).

[An] ambulance being at Headquarters, I sleep in it, but mess with Sinclair & [Lt. John] McClintock on the right center.

The horses at ambulance keep some disturbance, otherwise I rest well. A little rain at night.

### **March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Morning pleasant, but cold.

Go to see the children. Two step brothers are in the Confederate army, [the] father dead. In the afternoon push clear beyond our picket lines with Sinclair to visit his rabbit traps. On the way [we] pass a ploughman ploughing with one horse. The man looks pale. If well, I suppose [he] would not be left here, as nearly every able bodied man in the country is away to the war. The conscription seems to take almost every one here.

It is singular what peculiar tastes the field gives in the selection of food. I seldom ate onions at home, here every one soon comes not only to relish, but [to] crave them without exception. (Sinclair on the march will carry them in his coat fold. He styles them “ground grapes.”) Onions are quite an equipment of themselves on the march. Beans too, are greatly eaten, and unboiled fat pork is quite a dish.

### **March 7<sup>th</sup>**

Go to Sinclair’s for breakfast. Ground grapes are offered. Amuse ourselves about the chopping begun by officers on a large pine tree. I guess the tree will remain as a monument of failure.

Letter from Belle.

Letter from James saying he is to [be] married on the 17<sup>th</sup> [of] March. Jennie will make him a good wife. I like her very much. Now brother, it is with you, make her happy!

Rain during [the] night.

### **March 8<sup>th</sup> [Sunday]**

Coffee in my bed in [the] ambulance. The previous [night] we had sat late over the camp fire listening to the stories told by Burbank and [Captain William C.] McCall [of New Jersey]. Are relieved toward noon, so I walked in. Coming up the hill by Warren’s [3<sup>rd</sup>] Brigade, how I puffed. And it was Sunday too. On arriving at camp [I] found the adjutant was having a log frame made to place my tent on. The sides are raised about three feet. The A tent on this makes a very commodious and comfortable quarters.

### **March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Dr. Jacquette has gone to inspect the convalescent Camp at Alexandria as an inspector from the corps for the purpose of ascertaining who are fit to return to their regiments. I have his sick call this morning.

Today the regiment in the field is consolidated giving a strength of \_\_\_\_\_ men and the regiment comes under my charge. Write Captain Smedburg's certificate for leave of absence saying permanent disability will be engendered.

With "Captain" Sinclair [we] ride to take some medicine to the children I visited while on picket. [A] volunteer officer on duty [was] very glad to accommodate us, being regulars. Finally, least we be suspected by picket for want of loyalty, especially as we were regulars, very greatly to my regret, we determined not to ask to go across, but send the medicine over.

Called on Dr. [Robert O.] Craig, the Medical Director of [the] Division, late in the evening.

Wrote to Belle. A letter from Belle on Sunday.

### **March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

This day [we] have the first consolidated sick call.

The camp is broken up, leveled, policed and reset by general order. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> were censured for filth.

Dr. Craig makes an inspection of my Hospitals. [He] compliments me on their neatness. Dr. Ramsey too, gives the police of the camp a compliment. [It] has been snowing this morning so we set the tents rapidly, intending the first dry day to air and cleanse the ground within them. Had quite a treat at breakfast, which was neither more nor less than this, "Codfish and potatoes". I rose from my bed last night to visit the hospital to ascertain who was greatly complaining. The steward was suffering.

Wrote [a] letter in Greek to sister Lydia.

### **March 10<sup>th</sup> 1862 [Ed. Obviously, 1863.]**

My God, I thank thee, "it is for good."

O God, in this present and in the future, keep me.

### **March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

One year ago the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan marched from it's camp to enter the active field. Winans has gone. Grosvenor was made to resign by his Commanding General for cowardice.

This day is mild and pleasant. My back is a little tender. I want more exercise. Had a long talk with Lieutenant Miller. Miller was an assistant on the Chicago \_\_\_\_\_. [He] has the most singularly retentive memory and is informed of quite every man of prominence in the country. He has traveled much and once seeing retains places and men and is full of their individualities. The tenderness of my back seems external.

### **March 12<sup>th</sup>**

[The] Medical Director came down today. [He] examined Captain Smedburg for his sick leave. My idea of the requisites of sick leave has materially changed.

O Father, give me wisdom to come in and to go out before this command: in Christ. Order the consolidation of Hospital kitchens. [The] steward takes charge of both Hospitals on account of a little jealousy in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion old Hospital. The pleasant day has ended very cold and raw. So truly March, anyplace. Storming, blustering March is on us. Letter from Belle.

### **March 13<sup>th</sup>**

[There is] snow on the ground, very cold. Write to Belle. Saw Mrs. General Sykes, yet not positive what a note to make. Yet seldom is a lady seen here. She was serenaded last evening. Suffer again. Some of the volunteers have their ladies. Yet the volunteers have more comforts in every way. We are circumscribed by regulations. They regulate themselves.

In the evening, red, white & blue rockets were thrown in the direction of General Headquarters. Quite likely in honor of the nuptials of a New Jersey officer. Of which, it is said, a party of ten came to attend. This should have been heeded March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Captain Burbank grows greatly excited in receiving his leave.

### **March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Captain Burbank goes this morning. He declares he will not return. His leave came unexpected to him.

Captain [George] Ryan, Major General Sykes' Acting Assistant Adjutant General, is very suave and attentive. Am putting up bunks in [the] hospital today. This last night was very cold.

### **March 15<sup>th</sup> [Sunday]**

The second thunder I have heard during the winter. Hail, cold. Major Smith inspects the camp. I am complimented on the neatness of my Hospital. Both hospitals now look snug & comfortable. Each has a big chimney in. Doctors Jacquette & Clark return.

### **March 16<sup>th</sup>**

Much milder. The steward, though getting very low, is now coming up. I have taken the steward of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

At midnight a gun was fired and drums were heard every little while, rolling on the right 'til toward morning.

### **March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

I have got it into my brain that this is St. Patrick's day. The "gun" opened the ball and the Irish regiments have formed at reveille at all hours of the night since. This morning, all through the camps beyond, comes up every little while, Cheers.

Captain [John J.] Coppinger, thorough[ly] Irish, has mounted and gone.

Sent a letter to Belle.

St. Patrick's day. Brother James is married today. Jennie, his wife, is an excellent woman.

Barbara Jane Wallis. So another branch tends into the family. I hope she will make him happy and hope he will strive to all to her heart wishes, and in all God's blessings with them I pray.

What devotion and love is requisite for a woman to say (going out from all that is dear to her and cleaving to him alone) "Thy people shall be my people, The God, my God."

They are married on a day of rejoicing. May life always be happy there. I think the senior of this firm has quite an admiration of the Irish as a nation.

Asking permission to be out of camp in the afternoon, I crossed the hill to the 9<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts camp. The Camp was given up to the officers elected from the men. These were dressed in comical dress (though quite a medley was kept up) (as calling company C for whiskey or rolling the drum for orderlies call. Calling the roll). It was amusing to see the deference to the officers and then a slap on the back with a jolly good humor.

The entrance of the camp was very prettily fronted with evergreens. A great crowd was collected at which mule racing seemed to be the principle sport. Occasional horse racing. I saw one horseman, against a wagon, breaking his leg. A race in progress each way and while on the run, two horses came together front to front, killing both horses [and] projecting the riders with a fearful throw. The life of one was nearly extinct. A pole fresh stripped of it's bark and thoroughly greased from top to bottom and some 30 or 40 feet in height was erected (A furlough placed in it's top to belong to whoever should be it's successful climber.) Many were the expedients devised for the purpose of climbing, such as forming a slip noose of a rope and by the weight of the foot forcing it around the pole. One takes sand in his pocket sanding as he goes, but I think no one got it. I did not remain to see the greased pig let loose. The pig was first shaved all but the head & neck. Blessings on St. Patrick.

### **March 18<sup>th</sup>**

This day is comparatively pleasant.

In the afternoon, a great body of cavalry come in. [They] have been on a march toward Warrenton. Though they number 7000 men, they did not cross and engage but some 2000 [of the enemy]. Also, of artillery, [they] succeeded in crossing the Rappahannock but two pieces. They advanced some four miles were met by the enemy's cavalry, and a cavalry fight continued nearly all day! At evening [they] recrossed the river. This occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We took a number of prisoners, and lost some 100 wounded. letter from Belle. Sent for Medical Journals.

### **March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Weaver changes his place on pay account. This morning begins his duty at ambulance train. Captain [Horace K.] Thatcher [is] sick.

### **March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

This is my twenty sixth birthday. How many thoughts crowd upon one on such a day. My mind reviews the past year, and so doing, it is one of peculiar mercies & of God's love to me. My father, I thank thee most humbly for thy love upon me. What I am, O God, is of thee. What I hope is also of thee, and now O Lord, I pray that thou will forgive me for all of my sins for all the year past, and remove from me, O God, any present sin. And let me be only righteous before thee.

I pray for the year to come, my Father. For thy grace in all things, and at all times for thy blessings, for thy love.

This is my Prayer "O God" that thou will give me wisdom to go in and to come out in my position in the army (in Jesus Christ, I pray all, O Lord).

[I] wait to see General Sykes today about my horse, asking [for] an order for exchange. The General [is] very condescending, but recommends me further. Begin form of sick report for officers.

I have had a slight cough for three or four days or longer. Going into Dr. Jacquette's tent, it occurred to me that my cough was probably the initiation of Whooping Cough. Can it be? It is now fifteen days since my first exposure.

How much Weaver is attached to me and dislikes to change. He is a faithful man.

### **March 21<sup>st</sup>**

Snow nearly all the night. Quite wintry this morning. Nearly all day a little rain [is] making it very disagreeable.

I made application to Colonel Ingalls, Chief Quarter Master of the army, for the exchange of my horse.

### **March 22<sup>nd</sup> [Sunday]**

Delightful spring day. How sudden [are] the changes of the air in this region. Letter from Belle. The band in the second Brigade play beautifully.

### **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Command, except one Company and a few additional, go on picket. I do not go out. Fine day.

### **March 24<sup>th</sup>**

[I] think of riding out on picket but finally do not go. (About time.) Letter from Pyrotechnist at Navy yard, Washington. (Received about this date.) I walk quite a while with Captain [Miles d.] McAlester. [The] Captain is anxious to get away to be married. About this time too, Lieutenant Porter returns from leave, married.

### **March 24<sup>th</sup>**

The morning [is] fine and pleasant. When the mail is in, the Adjutant (Charlie Smedburg) & I ride out to our pickets, [and] found them enjoying the fine weather. Returning, I told Charles I knew a short road home. I had been up & down the road previously and knew the road was free. Now we had hardly turned down the road ere we ran into one of General Sigel's outposts (Sigel's 11<sup>th</sup> Army Corps). His lines unite with ours, being [to] the right of our Corps. While at the outpost, the officer said we should have no difficulty in getting through to their grand reserve stationed right along the road. We, however, were refused passing here. Turning back a little way, we saw four officers dismounted [and] leading their horses. A burly Dutchman strode at their head. He addresses us, "Gentlemen, wither are ye bound?" We explained we were seeking our regiment, "you will have to dismount and do as these Gentlemen have done, accompany me." We accompanied him back to the Reserve. [We] tried to explain we had not been outside of the picket line at all, [that we] were visiting our own posts near. But every explanation was futile. (As the officers at first approached us crying you cannot pass.) So a guard was detailed and all were marched away to Captain [Carl] Schurtz Headquarters (Brigadier General Commanding [the] Division.) The other officers were officers of the 5<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Artillery. One, a Captain, had hailed me and I found him a officer who had charge of [the] Guard at Camp A Frederick, Maryland, then (Lieutenant Benton.)

I told him I was glad to see him but sorry to see him in such company. The Assistant Adjutant General wrote Charlie and I a pass. The others went directly [on] to Stafford Court House, near which they were. (We had footed it over a mile.) Now we turned back. We met three mounted officers of the 140<sup>th</sup> New York of our Division who wished to know the way out [to] home. [We] told them to follow us if they had a pass. Now again, the Reserve refused to let us pass and all our explanation that our pass was by Carl Shurtz was no use. Only Corps Commanders could give passes. Now either back again or a night in the woods, the others had only a pass by the Commander of their Brigade, so we were companions in misery. But we determined not to visit the Assistant Adjutant General, if possible, and no Guard was sent [this] time so we pushed for the road I had attempted, found it, and were shortly at home. "So good bye to Carl Shurtz." It

took his pickets as long to spell our passes as though they were doing it with a dictionary, syllable by syllable. All this time it was raining, not very well for my cough.

Probably some rascally picket placed a message on the [telegraph] line warning that a large force of Rebel cavalry had been seen near. Purporting to be signed by some volunteer Colonel, all were on the alert. For some reason the 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry were ordered out in the night and we were to go at the long roll [of the drums].

### **March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Orderly call at 4 a.m. Quiet. Rain. [The] 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry return. Letter from Belle, a dear letter too. Only "one kiss" would it be one had I now the opportunity, precious darling. Dr. Jacquette's leave returns refused. I report that I have probably the whooping cough to Dr. Ramsey. He says wait, but do not expose the command. Jacquette does my duties.

Dr. Ramsey says we may probably be ordered out of the field. Surgeons from Hospitals [are] coming in. I hear Dr. Fassard is coming up. Wedding invitation from Jennie Bacon. (Mrs.) Sergeants Browning & [G. R.] Vernon made Lieutenants.

### **March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Lieutenant Browning has an attack of gravel. Write him a sick leave. Picket[s] come in. It has been an unpleasant morning, a little snow. Rain. In [the] afternoon [it is] somewhat pleasant. With Lieutenant Henton, [I] attend [a] review by General Mead, of the 1<sup>st</sup> (Griffin's) Division, on the hill among the volunteers. Some of the regiments look very well. The 9<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts especially. The most intelligent was the 14<sup>th</sup> New York, I think. General Hooker was at the review but only as an observer. The General is an old bachelor. As the review was to begin General Mead rides up to Mrs. General Griffin and requests her to attend him. She did so as the regiments passed. Mrs. Griffin rode a very fine horse and sits the saddle well. She is small, rather pretty and very frail in form. [She] is a brilliant conversationalist. There was the smallest creature on a saddle attended by an officer but the lady was very pretty. Ladies also in ambulances. This is quite a fashionable conveyance here.

There is much form, [and] ceremony attending these reviews.

### **March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Very pleasant day. General Sykes (2<sup>nd</sup>) Division is reviewed today. They march splendidly. The review is much superior to the one of yesterday. I go to Falmouth to see Captain [Gilbert] Pierce, the Quarter Master, about the exchange of my horse. I find nothing that suits me among the turned in horses. Would they allow me to select among the cavalry horses, I think I could find a good one. Weaver leads the horse down and back. Going down, a hurdle race is in progress & great numbers of people are collected. A band is playing. A platform erected, I stopped but a little while. (It was said one Colonel was badly hurt.)

I rode down to the top of the bank hanging near to the river opposite Fredericksburg City. Entrenchments are here. Guns mounted. Artillery are encamped near. The sentinel said many women & children are seen in the town. I saw but few signs of life about it, and the town looks desolate enough. Once it must have been a very pretty place. "Such is war." I was fatigued when I reached home.

### **March 28<sup>th</sup>**



Rain this morning. I have had the worst cough for the last few weeks I ever remember having. It does not seem to be Whooping cough. Morning. Heavy thunder. McKibbin goes on a leave of absence.

Send additional copy of "Return" to Surgeon General. Write to Jennie Bacon.

My Father in Heaven, look upon me & all I love in thy mercy! Have us in thy forgiveness, in thy love & blessings. Be near us in this night, O God. By thy grace may we keep the morrow holy. Give [us] grace for duty & in duty sanctify & bless all near me! In Jesus Christ.

### **March 29<sup>th</sup>, Sunday**

Two military funerals (not in my regiment).

### **March 30<sup>th</sup>**

Pleasant. With Jacquette and Hall [I] go out to see the Battalions drill. While looking, a Zouave from the 5<sup>th</sup> New York Camp, comes bolting down on a mule riding with his face, Don Quixote like, towards the tail, his feet locked around the mules neck & [he] grasps the flank with [his] hands. How we laugh at the ridiculous sight.

### **March 31<sup>st</sup>**

At work on [the] monthly report of [the] sick & wounded consolidated for both battalions. I send it up to Medical Director (Dr. R. O. Craig) in the evening. Make [my] report of station to Surgeon General. Apply for leave of absence for (5) five days. I now have [the] quarterly return of Clothing, Camp, & Garrison Equipage to make to [the] Quartermaster General. In the night, [we have] orders to start should the long roll beat. Captain Hager serenaded, they then pitch a stick or two toward his tent. Quite a time around the camp.

Wrote for coat & pants.

### **April 1<sup>st</sup>**

All fools day. Sinclair asks me to visit [Thomas E.] Collins who is sick, [but] cannot see it. Peck was exhibiting a potatoe on splints & this morning it was in Hagers [tent]. Peck calls it, "The new Dictator Richard Murphy." Peck takes an oat grain and encloses it to Captain Norton writing, "Enclosed you will find an oat." A note. Previous to Lieutenant Miller's going out, he was looking [around] the camp for a sword. Pecks writes him, "I send you a sword", not the sword of Bunker Hill, but a sword fish, and sends him, wrapped up, a sardine.

[Our] regiment went on picket today. 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade also I think. Bright sun but cold wind. Some snow on the ground.

A letter from Belle.

### **April 3**

Pleasant day. Captain Hager & all officers around the camp, not on picket and unaccounted for, were ordered on picket duty. I obtain a horse from the Quartermaster and take a ride. The pontoons, as I pass, are just ready to move. [They] have 8 horses attached. In the night, hearing a sick man complain[ing] as I thought, I dressed and went to the Hospital.

I, about this hour, noticed this Whoop of my cough, whooping twice.

### **April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

I write a letter to Mr. Knox asking the consent of himself and [his] wife to my marriage with Arabella.

I love Arabelle fondly. May God make us very happy together.

[I] continue to whoop during [the] day, slight however. Picket returns. How I laugh at Lieutenant Miller about a sudden Tympanitis induced by debility, he having given up drinking so profusely. The wind blows very hard today. Sometimes this wind flaps and furls the tent fearfully. A very cold night. I go to see [the] Medical Director about my cough and [about] waiting from duty 'til my cough develops, if it does so.

How the wind rocks & fills the tent he is in. Returning, the wind is gathering the dust like a scavenger. Approaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> [camp, we] have to pass a hollow so [as] to get through the cloud of dust sweeping from the top of the hill. I dash through, eyes closed. Snow comes, - [it is an] awful night. I look to see if my tent [still] stands.

Two letters from Belle.

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>**

Dr. Jacqueline has my sick call. Quite an amount of snow has fallen & is packed close on [the] tent. [The] after part of [the] day [is] pleasanter. Sinclair says "Gabriel" died on March 28<sup>th</sup>, poor girl. She was a very interesting child. My cough [is] bad.

### **April 6<sup>th</sup> [Sunday]**

[The] day [is] quite pleasant. At a little after noon [I] hear a President's salute (21 guns) in [the] direction of General Headquarters. Then an order comes for a grand review tomorrow. It rains all night, so [the] order [is] rescinded, but the brigade will form for the reception of the President who will visit us.

Send a letter to Mr. Knox asking the consent of himself & Mrs. Knox to the marriage of his daughter and myself saying I had deferred seeking their approval as a justice to themselves for reasons of my health. With their consent & God's blessing we shall be very happy. Belle is [a] girl of warm affections and is [as] good and pure as the flowers of heaven's care. Most fervently I pray thy blessing upon us, O God.

April 7

[Our] Brigade forms near Major General Sykes early, then we see the General & staff ride off to attend the President on his visit to us. It was rather chilly after waiting a long time [while] chatting with [the] officers. Major Smith drew a design of the Maltese Cross to be worn by the Division. Sitting in Dr. [Edward Thomas] Whittingham's tent, the escort makes it's appearance. The Brigade had formed three sides of a square. His excellency rode around the square waving his hat. He rode a fine horse & splendid saddle [and] was in citizen's dress [with a] new black frock dress coat. His hair is grey [with] side whiskers.

How very care worn he looks, as though his shoulders could hardly carry so much responsibility & endure. All remark [on] it. No President had ever the responsibility he has.

I cannot resist the impression, in looking upon the intenseness of his face, that he is honest. A face does not belie such a look, it is indelibly stamped upon it. Honesty & integrity are his character, and at such a time as this in our national history, perhaps these are qualities more requisite than shrewd statesmanship or masterly diplomacy.

May the Lord give him wisdom.

He is homely as a peregrinating fence rail. General Hooker accompanied, [him with the] General's of [the] Corps, [and also,] some Division Commanders of our Corps. [Also] all the General's Staffs, their orderlies and a squadron of Rush's Lancers. Quite a body of troops. The regulars are usually taught not to cheer. So he was received in silence, presenting arms most respectfully. The Band played "Hail to the Chief." I think he was pleased with his reception. He respectfully returned the salute of uncovered heads of a body of men near who were without arms. After passing the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigades, the 5<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers (Zouaves) displayed their efficiency in the bayonet drill to him. I presume the whole reminded him of a "little joke." Being the regular army [is] probably a standing joke. As he passed to Humphrey's Division (Volunteers) it was said they cheered well.

### **April 8**

Order for [a] Grand Review of four corps by the President. Move at 8 a.m. Some 70 or 80 thousand troops were, [it] is said, to have been a grand spectacle. Mrs. Lincoln attended. It is said she is as handsome as her husband. Miss Carroll was there (of Washington) - (of the Carrolls) Returning, the long line of troops made a pretty show, extending from near our brigade, away upon the hill 1 ½ miles. Their flags, guns, & bayonets glisten. Humphrey's column file off to the left & and are seen on the hill top.

Write to Belle. My leave of absence for (5) five days returns. I think my cough is bronchial [and] involved, no doubt, also the Larynx. McKenzie & [John Hill] Brinton come into the field, both married not long back.

Lieutenant Bainbridge was recently at Detroit on leave and was married. How his heart is wrapped up in his wife. Says he would be willing to lose an arm to be with his wife. Says he will thank me to give him the whooping cough which he never had. Excellent dinner.

Leave of absence returns (5) days.

### **April 9**

See with Dr. [Thomas Henry] Helsbee, Lieutenant Miller. The Lieutenant has a severe & sudden attack of ascites. Much hepatic inflammation.

I shall learn much by God's blessings from this affair with Lieutenant Bellows. I do not believe in courtesy in duty such as I have granted to Dr. Jacquette - (Do your duty first, let consequences come afterward.)

(See diary) Little matters with Bellows.

Be very Cautious. Yet exact in making your diagnosis).

[A] letter from Sarah, [and one] from Belle.

### **April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

[I] go on leave at 11 am, take cars. Report to [the] Medical Director. Ride to cars on Captain Hager's [horse]. Dr. Freeman [S. A. of Southport, Pennsylvania, 13<sup>th</sup> Pa reserves, is] also on [the] way home. Leave Aquia Creek at 2 p.m. Boat loaded with officers & men. While [the] boat was loading, [I] was interested in watching the supervision of passes. One man's pass not being good, [he] was arrested. While waiting, a large body of men came off of [the] boat. I could not understand what they were 'til one cries out "Uncle Sam's Proclamation." So I see they are deserters returning under the President's pardon to all returning prior to the first of April.

The work at the landing is quite like a city. Docks are built, sheds & c. (The Quartermasters & Commissaries work of so great an army as this is immense and here is its basis of work.)

The [?mess] officers lowers his staump in the water, which is raked up with oyster tongs. [I] arrive at Washington at [the] Ebbitt House at 6 ½ pm. A great crowd [is] at [the] dock. Yet here a notice is posted and of course, men [are] stationed [and] directing discharged soldiers where to go & protecting them from rogues. Go into [the] city by cars. Order supper in [my] room. In the evening, call at Dr. Alvord's room, 415 D Street between 8 & 9<sup>th</sup>. Found Mrs. Alvord in, & some Michigan ladies of the Departments, I think.

### **April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Get [my] coat at the Doctors. [I] purchase some books for Belle; Tennyson's Poems, Lalla Rookh, No Name, Spare hours. [A] photographic Album for Lizzie, [and] some books for myself. [I] have an ambrotype taken for Belle. Precious Belle.

Very greatly to my surprise, the previous evening I had found at the Hotel Dr. Notson, USA Assistant Surgeon. He was in a pickle about his accounts of camp A at Frederick[town] as a great disparity was found to exist at his office & the Surgeon General's. McKee, the acting Medical Purveyor at Frederick, is in arrears some \$20,000. Receive [my] pay from Paymaster [Cary H.] Fry from January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1863.

(\$13.00 per month for [my] servant & for [a] 2<sup>nd</sup> year of clothing 2.78 cts.) Pay for [a] private servant for me is (12.00) for me. [I] pay Dr. Alvord [and] am now square with him. Have [my] watch repaired, [and] purchase pants [for] \$9.50.

While on the avenue [I] met Lieutenant [George H.] Henderson of [Lapeer and Company G of] the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteers. Met Captain Hancock. Going along [I] was hailed by Collam at the Surgeon General's office. He tells me Fred McNulty is dead. [He] died in Dixie (at Richmond). Poor Fred, he was one of my best friends. He had become dissipated and perhaps it is well he is dead. I wish I knew where his wife was. I would have done almost anything Fred would ask. Poor Fred, one of the few men to whom I am attached. I wish I knew where his wife was, I would go for to see her.

What crowds [are] on the avenue. The city promenades or drives the avenue after dinner. Dinner [is] usually at 3 ½ pm.

Yet one does not see much beauty here.

At evening [I] meet Watson & [W. S.] King from the Surgeon General's office. King has the inside track there. So it is well to know somebody at headquarters.

### **Sunday 12**

Watson goes down to the army. [I] write to Belle. At church in the morning at Dr. [John C.] Smith's on 9<sup>th</sup> street (just against my room at Mr. DeForrest's). My old windows are full of flowers. It does not look like home coming down the same streets again. [In the] afternoon [I] go to Dr. Sunderland's Church on 4 ½ street, [and] find a missionary meeting (city). (At Dr. [John C.] Smith's [I] go to Sunday school & a gentleman introduces me to his seat). After [the] missionary meeting is over [I] go to some ancient service, as I pass, on 6<sup>th</sup> st.

In the evening [I] attend Reverend Dr. Gurley's church on New York Avenue (Presbyterian) at which the President attends. The Reverend Doctor is eloquent in prayer otherwise does not appear to be brilliant. This is to me a great privilege to sit under the dispensation of Grace. It is pleasant to hear of Jesus and our life in Camp very nearly deprives us of the privilege of associating religiously with others. It is pleasant to hear the gospel for another reason, Viz., that at hours in Social life, is a pleasantness which amounts to sanctity and the Sanctuary seems to partially fill the void. It is this inner life every one must lead to be happy. The lady's bonnets

point in front [is] very high. [It has a] narrow front and the open space above the forehead is filled with flowers & leaves.

### **April 13<sup>th</sup>**

[I] go to [the] Surgeon General's office at about 11 a.m. [and] try to persuade A/C Smith to give me Medical books. [I] do not succeed. [He] says he wishes we had a superior rank to volunteer assistants but unfortunately no distinction thus is made. [I] see Collam [and] go into Dr. Brinton's room where is being collected the material which is to make the Surgical History of the war. (The collection is already very fine.)

I take a Locksmith, [and] call on Mr. Bloss at [the] Patent office who shows me to the room where my trunk is stored. [I] open & take out [my] books and boots. [I] lock & leave my trunk. Purchase Bennett on "Theory & Practice" [and] visit [the] Smithsonian. The National Museum collected here is very fine. Some fine paintings. There are Japanese [and] Siamese presents, all fine. A great many others rich & rare. Some fine statuary also. One female form is beautiful. So perfectly modeled & [in a] fine position.

The Stanley Gallery of Indian paintings is large & good. [There are] a great many portraits of Indian[s] (warriors & females) & Indian scenes. I weigh myself on the scales. 151 pounds. (151 pounds).

How apparent is the increase of lascivious tastes in the American people. Statuary in the choicest galleries develops all the nudity of the human form. Paintings of females must be partially nude or display parts of the breasts or exposing them with a careless grace, or worse wantonness of every description save the barest is exhibited. All such, I am proud to know, has not invaded society and it is singular [that] public tastes should be so vitiated as to require this for popularity, or even countenanced it.

Sanctity of the social circle only is happiness, without this there can be no happiness and the purity of home is the foundation of not only individual happiness but also of national greatness. A very pretty picture of Canova hangs in my room.

It seems quite fashionable to be in the saddle, for ladies in the streets of Washington. A lady rides a white horse very prettily.

I walk past [the] President's house. Sentinels are stationed.

### **April 14<sup>th</sup>**

Call at [the] Surgeon General's office to see if any letters are [there] for Watson, from King. At [the] Provost Marshall's [I go] to obtain [a] pass.

[I] insert in Tennyson a scrap of paper for Belle. Send away the box & letter. Send down at night to Hotel box - call on Mrs. Alvord. Visit [the] Patent office [and observe] Gas machines. Go to [the] Library at [the] Capitol to read about Gas [and] Flax Cotton. Congress made an appropriation under charge of [the] Superintendent of Agriculture of \$100,000. A good many people [are] in [the] rotunda. [I] get on cars & go to dinner. After dinner [I] accompany Lieutenant [Robert G.] Welles (on General [Silas] Casey's staff) to Mr. Jay's, Corner F & 11<sup>th</sup> St. North, then saunter on [the] street. A man at Varieties makes [a] show of walking [a] rope across [the] street. He disappoints the crowd the previous night, now performs it. A great crowd. [He] walks backward, lies down [and turns] evolutions [then] gets up easily. [I] make purchases for Adolphus. Captain Thatcher arrives at [the] hotel.

### **April 15<sup>th</sup>**

Up at 5 am. [and have] breakfast at 6 am. preparatory to returning by morning boat to [the] army. [My leave] time expires this evening. Bus to Boat. Leave dock at 7 ½ am. [The] boat [is] loaded. No citizens [are] allowed to come on board as the army is moving. Mrs. Alvord had said so, but it was not in the papers. [I] query, how did she know it? Her husband is behind the scenes. No doubt much of the information gets out in this way.

On Sunday, 20,000 men left Washington, it was said, some with 7 days rations. This morning, [while] passing Alexandria, troops were [seen] coming down to [the] transports. Something is doing.

It rains. Some disappointed faces evidently about getting on [the] boat. [The] boat arrives at Aquia Creek too late for [connecting with the] cars. Wait 'til 3 pm. See [the] Medical officer of [the] 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan who says Landon, [Henry B. of Monroe], is pretty well [and] is studying medicine (Adjutant Landon). [He] tells me of Miss Line's marriage. Quite a jam in the car of officers. With Thatcher [I] arrive at camp a little after 4:30 pm. [I am] in on time. Thatcher, being one day over his leave, is arrested. I thank the Lord for his mercies to me in letting me go. The Lord has cared for & blessed me while away, and has returned me speedily & safely. I thank thee, O God, for thy blessings with me away & and in returning. O My Father, give me wisdom to go in & out in my position in this command, in my position in the U.S. army, for Jesus sake. [I have a] letter from Belle.

Now for giving up feather beds and choice dinners.

### **April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Go to see Dr. [Clinton] Wagner, Medical Director [2<sup>nd</sup> Division], Dr. Craig having been obliged to resign, not having passed his examination for the captaincy. Dr. [Benjamin] Howard call[ed] on me last night. [We had] quite a pleasant chat.

Quite a hard rain has checked, evidently, the move through [of] great bodies of cavalry & artillery. [They] have gone, no one knows where. The northerly wind is driving away the water fast. I go to the Medical Directors [and] meet Dr. Ramsey then who imagines Dr. Jacquette is my ranking officer which proves true as he was assigned to the 14<sup>th</sup> infantry. [I send a] letter to Belle.

While in Washington, I went to [the] Surgeon General's office to ask for Medical books, [but] could not obtain them. Dr. Smith said he could not do for me what he could not do for others. He wished our rank was better than others, never-the-less it was not the case.

### **April 17<sup>th</sup>**

[I] witness [the] Hospital pay rolls [and] attend sick call this morning for the first [time] since returning from leave. [It is a] very pleasant day. In the afternoon [I] borrow Adolphus' horse for the purpose of going to General Headquarters to take Assistant Surgeon Watson's letter [to him and] find he has gone. General Stoneman, in the 6<sup>th</sup> cavalry, [is] now said to be a little away near the river waiting for [the] advance. [I] visit [the] Michigan 7<sup>th</sup> Volunteers in houses in Falmouth. Lieutenant Colonel [Henry] Baxter, [was cited] for bravery in crossing the river at Fredericksburg [in December of 1862, and now] is recently promoted to be a Brigadier General of [the] Volunteers.

The Colonel, Strokes, has [a] beard and feels very jolly about it. ([Lt. Robert C.] Knaggs is Adjutant.)

These are some excellent promotions in the regiment. Falmouth is in a picturesque spot along the river. [A] military burial [is performed and] several officers go out. I hurt myself coughing while on horse back. Felt the strain.

### **April 18<sup>th</sup>**

Dr. Jacquette [is] ordered to [the] Division Hospital. Dr. [Samuel Appleton] Storrow Assistant Surgeon, USA is ordered to his place, [and] arrives today. Dinner him. Fix up the Dr's tent, snug for him. A division review takes place today, [so I] go out. [It is] very warm.

I still cough very hard, whooping. Yesterday, coughing. I strained my chest severely. [It was] tender at the time, today [it] is quite painful to move. [Received a] letter from Belle. It is a sad war but why should we mourn? Let us be happy ourselves and in His own good time, God will again smile upon us as a nation. [A] letter from Dr. Bugbee. Marian Bugbee is of age.

### **April 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday**

General [Gabriel Rene] Paul Commanding [the 3<sup>rd</sup>] Brigade, inspects [our] Hospital. Tells me (as I lift the tent cover for him to pass in ahead) to go in before, it is proper. His staff are with him. An order comes to send away the sick who are to be sent to [a] General Hospital at Washington. As Dr. Storrow is absent, I send it around to the other Brigade. Dr. [Boliver] Knickerbocker somehow gets it into his head that he is my Superior & orders me to report to him, which I do not do. An order by [the] Division Commander comes [telling me] to accompany [the] sick of [the] Brigade to Aquia Creek, which I do. [We] have (15) sick. Dr. Ramsey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, Surgeon [Thomas MaComb] Flandreau of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brig (of the 146 New York). It is very warm and [the] day is oppressive.

My sick are on [the] cars first. Arrive at the Creek at 3 p.m. Load [them] at once on the Steamboat "Mary Washington." Meet Dr. Holcombe of the Corps. Go on Dr. [Thomas Jefferson] McMillen's boat (the Medical Purveyor) a little while. The medicines of the port are loaded here & [at] a moments notice he can swing into the stream. The Dr. has very nice quarters. See some fine shad & eels. Return by 6 p.m. train [and] walk from Stoneman's Switch to Camp. In the morning [I] had ridden Dr. Storrow's horse to [the] cars, [but] did not get my coat [before returning]. [I] sent [the] next day, by Krause, for it.

### **April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Received [an] answer to [my] letter to Mrs. Knox on matrimonial affairs. They give us their entire approbation & good wishes. Arabelle is a pure and lovely woman and now by God's blessing I trust to prove to her that her happiness is ever the first thought of, as it shall be the greatest happiness of my life.

Our Father in Heaven, thou hast heard my prayer before thee considering our union. Bless us, O God, with thy love and rich blessings in Jesus Christ always.

Wrote to my parents about the profit of the Tobacco crop.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, while riding toward Headquarters, I was seized with a severe fit of coughing when I strained my chest. Feeling it at once, this pain has continued to become more severe, giving me very great pain on coughing. Having my chest examined, nothing is apparent but what is external, [it is] probably an "Intercortal Rheumatism".

20<sup>th</sup> Rain during the night.

While at Aquia Creek on Sunday the President, Secretary of War, & General [Henry Wagner] Halleck went further down on their boat, the "Carrie Nation", in the direction of Fortress

Monroe. They had arrived at the Creek this day [and] were met by General Hooker. (The boat left the dock as it came, quietly.) Russell calls upon me.

### **April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Wrote to Belle, precious Belle. I hope and pray we shall be happy. Apply a mustard plaster to my chest.

General Paul has left. General [Romeyn Beck] Ayers (is Captain Ayers of the artillery) now assumes command of the [3<sup>rd</sup>] Brigade.

Colton and Hall are in difficulty for not taking care of a sick man (who died in quarters). They will be court martialed and deserve to be too. Such neglect should be punished.

### **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Wrote to Belle. Had a letter from Belle [regarding] her visit to Aunt Caroline. [I] find my cough being relieved by the mustard plasters I am applying to my chest. This is the worst cough I ever had. Hitherto, I have been extremely careless about taking cold. Dr. Storrow attends the morning work.

### **April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Raining nearly all day. Lieutenant Miller [is] ordered to appear before a Medical examining board. He had asked to be sent to [the] General Hospital at Washington for treatment. He is a brilliant fellow but whiskey has ruined his physical powers and injured his intellect. Speaking of Churches in Washington, he knows the character of the ministers quite (i.e. "general")

Lieutenant Miller has a remarkable memory of persons and all connected with them. My german nurse, Burg Hanssen, had been in South America before coming to this country. Miller can talk of the places at which he has been, Panama, Guayaquil, [Ecuador], Rio De Janeiro, [Brazil].

[I] apply cups to my chest.

A boy 16 years old in company E, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry was recently brought into my hospital with pneumonia, (slight). Examining, I found a malformation of [his] chest by which [the] right lung is badly compressed. An imperfect physical development of [his] chest, also of [his] entire frame. The boy is from the guard house, having been tried by Court Martial for the offense of "Sleeping on post", and is now waiting sentences. I, in consideration of his physical unfitness for service, wrote a letter recommending the mitigation or entire remission of any punishment that may have been awarded him. This the commanding officer forwarded. I think it will save the boy and I feel bad to see a delicate boy like him punished because he was not able to endure fatigue. The boy should be discharged from the service. His offence is a grave one. In time of war the punishment, except the mercy of the court is declared by some mitigation, is death.

I am reading considerable medicine now. Last night & again tonight, officers in Captain [Guido] Ilges' tent near me kept the night din with songs & racket. Now Captain Hager arrest[s] them all, among them one "major".

[I] return Lieutenant Bainbridge to duty because he does not deport himself as a sick man should, having got up the previous night 'til 2 a.m. I am told by Captain Thatcher, my horse is of too light [a] character for the field, I shall try and exchange him.

(I have paid McKibbin my entire board bill).

### **April 24<sup>th</sup>**

Bainbridge leaves.



Rain again today. Certainly this will defer any speedy movement of the army. Go to see Krause [and] pay him for my coat, \$3.14. Pay [my] board bill to Bainbridge to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month, \$20.00. Still due to the 18<sup>th</sup> of April [is] \$5.84. From the 18<sup>th</sup>, at which time Dr. Storrow joined in mess, the bill is for each of us, including Bendard's pay to the end of the month \$6.75 (i.e. for the four of us).

Corporal O'Connell, Company B, fixes my pants, coat & c.

I learn Bainbridge will probably be arrested for his conduct while representing himself sick, and thus accepting a sick absence.

### **Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

[Ed. Battle of Chancellorsville]

I had yesterday made some preparation for a move which was rumored to take place today - and after being up in the morning, orders came to march at 8 a.m. The General call to sound at 8 a.m., [and the] march at 10 a.m. when tents were struck. I wrote a letter for Belle but, as the mail had gone early, [I] had no opportunity to send it. I made out the report of [the] sick to send to [the] hospital, and also sent them away. We secured, in accordance with "order", our Regimental Hospital wagon.

My horse's back had been sore for some time and now, though better, I preferred leaving him in the rear and sent him with the wagon train, obtaining permission to leave Stagg, a musician, with him. I therefore went out on the March on foot. This was a good deal [of hardship] for me as I had not been accustomed to walking, and also I had for some time been suffering from a slight attack of Pleuro-pneumonia induced by my severe coughing. It pains me much to cough or take a long breath. There is some effusion on my right lung. I could not ride in the ambulance as this broke down and was loaded. Coppinger & [Captain William H.] Lawrence [of New York], who were under arrest, had prevailed on the Dr. to ride. The Doctor & I had some banter prior to marching. We march to Hartwood Church, 8 miles [Where we bivouac].

I get a lift by [the] politeness of Dr. Storrow of 1 ½ miles (on his horse). General Sykes was absent, but while we rested on the road [he] came up. Storrow & I sleep in the ambulance.

Before going to bed, I go down to the creek to wash (during the day I borrowed Lieutenant [William H.] Mills testament & read it while at rest. Three mules for packing are supplied to the regiment. Lieutenant [Joseph A.] McCool of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry commands such trains of [the] Division.

### **Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

[I] rise early [and] go down to the run & wash, then go out into the woods to pray. Before leaving camp yesterday I had tried to commit myself to God's keeping. I do not know what may be before me. O My Father, be near unto & bless me and all I love.

Breakfast. We did not march very early this morning. Rain a little. I go to see Dr. Wagner at Sykes' Headquarters. While lying, Hooker came up. All the morning nearly, troops had been filing down the road in front of us.

(The scene on the night previous, as I ascended a rise of ground to look over the camp fires of so many troops near us, was grand. The many fires came up like the lights of a city and then in the fog & smoke the fires looked singular, fading away in the near distance.)

I got in the ambulance out of the rain, [and] read some. Finally we moved at 3:20 p.m. on [the] Warrenton road [and] turn from this near Deep Run. ([A] Mill [is] here.) I ride some today, [we] march 'til late. [The] troops [are] getting impatient to stop, [we] encamp at 10 p.m. [at

Crittenden's Mill]. I hear Gibson Smedburg's boy goes back in the morning, accordingly, I write to Belle & send my letter at camp away. Supper. Dry my stockings and [go] to bed at 11:45 p.m. Sleep in [the] ambulance. A march of 11 miles.

### **Wednesday, April 29, 1863**

March at 7:30 a.m. After going a little way the ambulance is ordered to fall back. We were nearing the river, yet knew nothing of affairs there nor how near we might be to the enemy. On the march I fall back [and] walk with Adolphus a little way. [We] pass [the] Mt. Holly Church [and] cross the river at 10:15 a.m. Great numbers of cavalry were on this side of the river and were grouped along the side of the hill making an interesting spectacle.

The crossing [of the Rappahannock] is at Kelly's Ford by a pontoon bridge. Kelly's residence is near here. He [is] said to be immensely wealthy. Dr. Storrow says we are now in the neighborhood of his youth. Crossing, we halt on the sandy plain, the 11<sup>th</sup> corps and the 12<sup>th</sup> [corps] here file off to the right; we keep to the left. At the top of the hill turning to the south, just before crossing the river, I shake hands with Dr. [John] Moore. Pass Sathright's house, 18 miles to Culpepper, 15 to Fredericksburg. Camp for a supper, then push down to the Rapidan, crossing at Ely's Mills.

The river is high and men go nearly to their waists in the water. Now I am in a fix, no horse; how shall I cross the river? I go down to the ford, it is laughable to see the men strip their breeches and pull their stockings. The men joke of their nakedness. One calls it "Frank Leslie illustrated." I was in a real dilemma; how should I cross? The river is nearly as wide as [the St. Joseph] river at Niles in Michigan, and with my chest in the condition it was, I began to think I should have to wade & take [the] consequences afterward. Our camp would be immediately on the opposite hillside. No march when over the river to dry my clothes. Could we have marched beyond it, I should not have feared it so greatly. It was [a] brilliant scene across the river where the fires of the army were lit, making resplendent the night.

I could do no more than place myself in God's care. I thought I never was better taken care of than when God took care of me. While I stood just meditating the plunge in the water, Captain Ryan (the Assistant Adjutant General of the Division) rode up and inquired, "had I no way to pass?" I told him I had not, [and] he immediately gave me his horse. Now I was dry shod, and when over, I sent it back to him. We encamped near on the hill as the ground was wet. I made my bed on a heap of stones & slept like a top. The men lay right down with but little fires. [The] distance marched [was] 20 miles. [It] rain[ed] most of [the] night.

### **Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup>**

Breakfast. March early, our Division in the advance. I walk. Dr. Storrow carries my overcoat nearly all day on his horse. This is a wonderful help.

We cross quite a stream near an old mill. I contrive to cross nearly dry on the dam. I was amused to see Lieutenant Vernon mount on the shoulders of a man and be carried across. Whereat [seeing this] the officers complain. Captain Hager says it must not be done again. It does not look well. An officer should share discomforts with the men.

(We, yesterday, marched very fast, and the distance was great. We had even to cheer up an officer. Others were nearly done up. (Men dropped out.) I kept up walking almost entirely, doing as well as the best, though I confess the stirrups of the near officers was a great assistance. This being the first march [the] officer's & men's feet were sore.)

We are now getting into the enemy's lines. [We] pass in the vicinity of the Chancellor House. General Sykes, riding ahead was fired upon by a body of rebels and the horse of an orderly [was] killed right near him. We push on to [the] United States Ford [in] order to drive away a Brigade of the enemy and [get] our supplies & let over the other corps which had been threatening other points on the river thus leaving the enemy in the dark as to our movements. We found the rebels had flown. At once we returned to Chancellorsville. Here was [our] Corps' Headquarters. General Slocum, with the 12<sup>th</sup> corps, was here also. The 11<sup>th</sup> corps had also arrived. Thus the three corps had arrived at nearly the same time. Thus far the movement is really pretty. We have surprised the enemy and are concentrated in their country. [We] encamp near Headquarters. A march of 10 miles. [We] are now on the Fredricksburg road, 9 miles to Fredricksburg. I had ridden a little in Dr. Howard's ambulance. I go & wash in [a] pond near the camp. [It was] quite refreshing after being so dirty. Especially, that I had found of Captain Norton, a clean collar. Supper. Go up to see Dr. Moore about a horse, Sleep with Lieutenant Henton. I have endured the march remarkably. My feet are not sore. Truly, God has blessed me since I left the old camp. Besides, I am very much better of my chest. The mules came up tonight. The enemy is reported massed near here. (No straggling here yesterday. The men did not wish to be taken prisoners. They [had] done all this hard marching, without complaint, for they have great faith in General Hooker.)

### **Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863**

Fine day, warm. After breakfast I go into the woods to pray. An inspection of arms takes place, and ammunition. The regulars never load 'til about the time we go into fight. A fight is expected this day. General Hooker has issued an order to the troops congratulating the army on it's success and [is] hoping much of them, saying we have the enemy on our own chosen ground and they must fight us thus. The troops cheer. On Wednesday, an order had been read regarding our long march, saying it would be expected of us. I commit myself to God. I know he will care for me.

At 11 a.m. the Division marched along the Fredericksburg road, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in front. Scarcely had we started when firing began in front, double quick. I have to run hanging to Smedburg's horse to keep up. We pass the first frame house on the left of the road [and] file off into the field to the left. Now the shells are play around us. Line of battle. When the shells come thick [and] as they whip near[by] the impulse is irresistible to duck and the whole line bow very frequently. I confess I make frequent bows to the rebels. No shell burst nearer me than to throw the dirt around me. Now I am called to see a man struck with a piece of a shell. It is lodged in his abdomen. The piece is nearly as large as my hand. I remove him to the edge of the woods so that he might in some measure be protected.

Whittingham of the 3<sup>rd</sup> [Regiment, Sykes Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Corps] now sent for me saying we had a Hospital back. (In the meantime the 14<sup>th</sup> [regiment] had advanced up the line towards the woods).

I left a man with Corporal Diamond [Co.] G [of the] 1<sup>st</sup>. Went back to the house where [there] was the [2<sup>nd</sup>] Division Hospital as [it was] previous to the movement of the army.

I had been detailed to assist Dr. [John S.] Billings in operating.

The operating staff was Billings & [B.] Howard. I & [Dr. Alexander] Hitchburn, Acting Assistant Surgeon of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry, were the assistants of Billings.

I am also detailed with Dr. Hitchburn to remain with the wounded in case of a retreat.

When I reached the house they were already at work and we worked hard for a while. Captain [Giles B.] Overton, of the 14<sup>th</sup> on General Sykes staffs, was brought in with shot on [his] leg. Bad.

For something like an hour the Division had fought, driving the enemy on neither the right by the 12<sup>th</sup> corps, nor on the left were we sustained, so a retreat was ordered. Ambulances came to remove [the] wounded. I saw the last ambulance loaded then rode off with the train. On the floor of the house I had found an opera (field) glass some one had left. I now came in about on a line with the rear of our troops, [and] passed through the line of cannon pointed up the road. [We] took the wounded to the brick (Chancellor) House. Here we worked 'til in the evening, operating. There was a fine library of books here. Some valuable medical books towards which my eyes looked but would not be permitted to take for I felt it was not right. I even set a man to picking the books from the floor and piling them carefully. I placed a guard to protect them. In the evening I went into the parlor near, as other places seemed occupied. I got on top of the piano and slept like the servants of Radamanthus, though not on flowers, yet on music. Billings had volunteered to sit up with the wounded. In the night there was some work among the forces but I slept too soundly to hear it. Dr. Hitchburn had gotten under the piano. Hooker's own staff here; Dr. Letterman's [also].

### **Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863.**

Up early, not very early though.

General Hooker and staff had made their Headquarters at this house. One of the staff, though the exploding of a shell was near, was a ludicrous thing. The Swiss General Frigardio was here with his glass looking on. He came into our room [and] took a glass of Brandy. He is a thick, not tall man. Sociable. [He] seemed much interested in the progress of the battle.

The artillery planted around the house was large. Seemingly covering largely the plateau, save to the front on the plank road. At times the artillery fire was tremendous. On morning the enemy attempted to pass the center front here but, of course, could not stand shot & shell. Two confederates were brought in with legs badly torn, which we amputated. The women of the house asked permission to care for one, which I granted & sent them also the other.

It is growing near noon and General Hooker & staff still remain here. The Assistant Adjutant General of General Hooker brings a lunch of tea & bread & c (nice) into the room which is quite refreshing. We this morning take from the Medicine (Autenrieth) wagon a large supply of medicines, dressings & preparatory to remaining as we learn a retrograde movement is to be made and if wounded are left Dr. Hitchburn & I will perhaps remain. [I] have determined to remain if we receive no different orders.

Orders now come for the removal of such wounded as could bear [the] transportation well. We loaded all save the Major operations. When nearly loaded, I was ordered by Dr. Moore to proceed with them, (to go [back] to the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps Hospital near Brooke's Station). [I] start a little after noon, (2 p.m.). Take instruments and all with me. A train of 20 ambulances. (Frigardio, [a] Swiss General, takes a glass of brandy with Hitchburn.) I drive direct to U.S. Ford. Immediately on the opposite bank is a Sanitary feeding room where our wounded are fed.

I have to proceed and return with as little delays as may be. [I] drive all night [in] bright moonlight. What an amount of fortitude Captain Overton displays. His wound is very bad and [he] suffers terribly from the rough road, yet he is laughing and scarcely complains. Lieutenant Wells of the 17<sup>th</sup> is brave no doubt on the field, but here his courage has forsaken him and he frets & complains sillily.

[We] arrive at [the] Hospital at 3 O'clock in the morning.

### **Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1863**

Am ready to take a sleep at 5 a.m., which I do [after] going up to Jacquette's tent. I do not ever remember being more exhausted than I was on this morning. I could hardly more than fall on the bed when my care of duty was off my hands. Still I thought God is good. Perhaps it is for the best. Nay, I think I was sure of this. I had gotten wearied by the march then [by] the work of the battle and add [to] this, [the] nights ride. I was tired.

I slept longer than I meant to. Quite 8 O'clock when I awoke [and] ordered my ambulance. Got breakfast. Lieutenant Miller was very attentive to me. [Dr.] Clark gave me some coffee extract to carry with me, some to Dr. [John] Moore.

Leave at 8:45 a.m. Arrive at United States Ford at noon. On the way [we] pass through the Gold region. Here is a little town; a crushing mill still remains, of course no work is done now. I secure a specimen.

No ambulances are allowed to cross the river. [I] find a Sergeant of the Ambulance Corps (2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Corps, 14<sup>th</sup>) who gives me his horse to ride. A great many troops are [?pressing/passing] up, but how many are coming down to cross the river wounded slightly. The road too is full of detachments of returning troops. [I] work my way vigorously among them, and report to Dr. Wagner. Find the Division Hospital is now far within the lines in the woods. Had done a little work at the table here this morning. It is very warm & dry.

I am told Seigel's, the XI corps commanded by Major General [Oliver Otis] Howard on the right, had run disgracefully on Saturday night, and the enemy slaughtered them terribly. Captain Brown [acting field officer] throws his pickets over the road to stop the panic.

On this morning our lines [are] still the same. On the right the enemy attack. The flight of the 11<sup>th</sup> [Corps] has exposed the flank of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, who are thus in a wedge between the confederate lines and are forced to retire.

Dr. Hitchburn had, according to orders, remained now that our lines around the brick (Chancellor) House are withdrawn. The enemy's shells had set the house on fire. Hitchburn & the women, Dr. [Mathias L.] Lord of the 140<sup>th</sup> New York had remained. By the direction of Dr. Letterman, Dr. [Warren] Webster, Acting Inspector of the Army of the Potomac, had remained & now could not get away. I suppose the danger from the burning building became great and Hitchburn, in the attempt to run, was shot by the advancing enemy. A volley being fired at him, he lived some half hour. After, his Hospital Steward took his effects. All of the wounded were gotten out of the burning building in safety.

Webster, USA., Lord 140<sup>th</sup> New York & Hutchins were taken prisoners.

All is quiet at our place in the woods. The chaplin of the 140<sup>th</sup> New York lent me a blanket & I slept (but cold).

### **Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Rise early, fine sun. Only occasional firing. It is said General Sedgwick with the 2<sup>nd</sup> army corps is at work at Fredericksburg. [The] day is quiet. The 5<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers (Duryea's Zouaves) go home today preparing to being mustered out of service. By the hands of Dr. [Frank W.] Doolittle, Surgeon 5<sup>th</sup> New York, I send a letter to Belle. Very warm, no work. Learn at 5 p.m. a Brigade of [Brigadier General Charles] Griffin's Division of the 5<sup>th</sup> corps is to feel the enemy as firing is heard in the direction of the Rapidan. A brisk fight takes place for a minute and then they fall back having accomplished the purpose, finding the enemy in force.

What a burst of musketry here on the right. Near us it seems to amount to nothing however. I try to place myself continually in God's care. O My Father, vouchsafe me a realizing sense of thy presence.

Firing is heard in [the] direction of Bank's Ford, (Sedgwick) [is there] with a force of 20,000 or 25,000 men).

8 miles to Fredericksburg from this [place]. Slept with Storrow in a new "A tent." Slept well.

### **Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Rose after sunrise, breakfast, prayer & read my usual chapter in the bible. Very little doing. A guard is stationed near to prevent running to the rear. Occasionally a cavalry man rides through the woods to drive out stragglers.

An order comes for the removal of the wounded from the hospital, which is carefully kept up all day.

The Brigade Hospital wagons were yesterday, [the] (4<sup>th</sup>), brought up and unloaded. Our stores were taken and put up under a shelter erected for the purpose. We have a shelter made of boards for an operating house. Shelters of boards [and] tents for [the] wounded [are] put up. An additional long shelter of boughs [is put up] for [the] wounded.

I am one of Billings assistants at the operating table, indeed am the only one now [that] Hitchburn is shot.

Billings is a very fine operator. Still his chief point is his judgment, [and his] power of diagnosis. He forms rapid conclusions of a case and is quite invariably correct. He is so too, in business matters. [He] seems most at home when directing several things at once. And all is done accurate & rapid. He is sociable too. Cultivated.

I think Billings, Assistant Surgeon USA, is one of the finest men for his position I ever met.

It begins to rain and now we call out from our places of retreat while the sun was hot to protect ourselves. Before, we had just dropped around leading a very lazy life.

The Chaplain of the 140<sup>th</sup> [N.Y.] gets under the table for protection from the showers and [Dr.] Howard tips over a basin of water that runs off around him. [Dr.] Wagner [is] asleep on the operating table. We cover him up with a blanket & he gets nicely wet.

We have no wounded now but [for] some confederates. We can not keep them dry, yet do as well as may be.

Dr. Letterman, Medical Director of the army, pays us quite a compliment, saying our hospital is the nicest he had seen on the field.

Word comes that the army is to fall back, for which preparation had been made all day. Dr. Moore, the Medical Director of our Corps, says though there are no wounded other than the confederates, of whom there are (6) six, I must remain. I write a letter for Belle, as I do not know but [that] I may be long kept in the enemy's lines, for we have many wounded. It still rains. A little drummer boy of the 17<sup>th</sup> sings with a clear beautiful voice at the fire.

If I remain, may God be with me, watching over & caring for me, for Christ Jesus sake.

Russell & Storrow sleep with me. [I] dry my feet. Hearing a bustle, I turn out, [and] find only a fire and men trying to keep up their circulation, evidently. [I again] retire.

I sleep sound. Late[r] find they are preparing to move. Get up [at] half past two or three.

### **Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

3 O'clock a.m. [We] are in the bustle of moving. I give to Billings my letter for Belle. Soon they leave. The larger part of the army is already gone. I am alone, only my Hospital Steward \_\_\_\_\_ Gleisner & two attendants remain. I cannot avoid the feeling of loneliness, a little.

Go to bed. Take a cup of coffee [and] order the fires kept bright. [I] lay a good while. [Do] my morning exercises. [I] get up late. No appearance of the enemy. A good many stragglers [are] in the woods. I thought I had gotten a prize in Dawson, a musician of the 11<sup>th</sup> [Corps], who had gotten behind his regiment. Drive one straggler from the fire. Dawson gets away a little from me & is carried off.

I am just taking a couple [cups] of coffee at the fire. It's late, perhaps 7 O'clock, when the skirmishers of the enemy come down through the woods. I put myself on my dignity with the privates who approach. They look around very quietly asking if this is a hospital. I inquire for their officers. They call their Major. I tell him who & what I am and ask a guard of him. The Major (of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tennessee) is very courteous, gives me a guard of two men, [and] then he pushes on.

It is astonishing to see how the woods are filled with stragglers from our army. The Confederates bring them in from every side. [They are] bringing up prisoners by great squads. Many of these have slept away from their commands and were found asleep. Many too, have straggled for the purpose of being taken prisoner & to be paroled, thinking they will have an easy time of it.

A man taken prisoner under such circumstances as these should have his pay stopped 'til he is exchanged because he is taken prisoner of his own will.

I afterward told the Confederates they were perfectly welcome to such men as these. They were worthless to us.

I obtain a number of the prisoners and remove the wounded to the old Saw Mill (Steam Mill) near[by] for the purpose of having the men more comfortable. At the mill too, or near, were the two other divisions of our Corps. Dr. [Thomas B.] Reed, 155<sup>th</sup> New York of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, Dr. Gardnier of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, alike left with stores. [I] also get [my] stores over. My stores are large in quantity, being medicines & rations of great value.

Dr. Gardnier goes to see General [William Dorsey] Pender who promises much & performs little. They take the wounded away at near evening. Dr. Holt [CSA] is very ungentlemanly about our stores yet does it all under courtesy. He finally seizes the boxes against our will or rather forces Dr. Reed to it, & I can do no better than follow suit; indeed I find it useless to resist. Medical officers all around are pocketing what ever they can lay their hands on (without the least ceremony). I check Dr. Young, a surgeon of a North Carolina Regiment, but find I can do nothing. The affairs around us remind me of Shakespear's lines of "Cursed be who first cries hold enough".

Really I am getting demoralized fast. I took nothing from the house at Chancellor's, here I find these irresponsible Confederates taking everything. Still there is this excuse for them. As one of them said to me; "It is very evident, you have no blockade."

In the morning some of the soldiers had stolen my haversack and all it contained. They even stole my soap. This however, I did not begrudge them, for soap they certainly need badly enough. But they might have left me a pair of clean stockings.

Dr. Holt is the Medical Director of A[brose] P. Hills Division. Dr. McQueen claims first discovery. This gives some difficulty to Dr. Holt, and I am sorry to say Dr. McQueen of D. H. Hill's Division gets most beastly drunk & the following morning presents himself the worse for wear, wanting whiskey. I am sorry to have aided in his intoxication.

Dr. Young proposes in his cup that he will be pleased to meet me, after the war is over, at his place in N. Carolina, and hopes I may take a Southern wife.

I cannot see any value attached to the last clause.

I had lost my haversack. In looking on over the boxes, [I] find a private box (of clothing & c). Quite a supply for a life away from home. This is good fortune for already my underclothes need renewing.

In the morning I had cached a box of whiskey. I had also the money of some of the officers with me, which they had entrusted me with, before the fight, to keep concealed. I secured a quantity of coffee & tea seeing how it was to be absorbed by the confederates.

Slept on the floor of the Mill. The Inspector General of General Jackson's Corps paroles the two other surgeons but does not me. Some artillerymen who are stuck in [the] mud come in to stay over the night.

"All quiet on the Rappahannock".

I fall to sleep without my prayers. May God forgive and grant I may not repeat the offence.

### **Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Do not rise very early. Dr. Holt's wagons come early for the remainder of our stores.

The ambulance system of the confederates is different from ours. An Assistant Surgeon of the army is in charge of the ambulance train instead of a line officer. Their ambulances are a conglomerate mixture. Some are good and [it is] likely [that] have some of them [had] been ours, or a sutler's wagon of us. The doctor in charge of the train is courteous. I ride in one of the wagons.

Early I had some words with one of their surgeons who called me a prisoner which title I refuted. They however seized a couple of old instrument cases. The s—ts. When we arrived at Dr. Holt's, the doctor was very angry that they should do so. I must say [that] I think under all the circumstances Dr. Holt is exceedingly gentlemanly & courteous toward us.

One of their surgeons tells a good story of General [Jeb] Stuart. Near this is the "Wilderness." While writing a dispatch he was singing (to himself probably) "Old Joe Hooker get out of the wilderness".

I ask Dr. Holt to take charge of a box of individual property for me and [I] return in the direction of the battlefield. [I] pass a 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps Hospital on the road [and] find the men very needy. Stop a little, [then] go on, intending to have them looked after at Dr. [George H.] Oliver's Hospital, near the road where was Dr. Lord. There were (3) three Doctors here so I went on to Dr. Webster's Hospital a little across the fields where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps lay on Sunday morning, at or near General Slocum's Headquarters.

I find Webster in the midst of work. He puts me to work among a large number that had not been dressed at all, perhaps (60) or (65) men.

Dr. [George] Suckley, the Medical Director of the 11<sup>th</sup> A[rmy] Corps is here. [He] also was taken prisoner, having had a narrow escape of being shot, tearing his coat sleeve & shirt by a bullet. The doctor is trying to get across the river to a flag of truce which General Hooker would not receive. Neither could his own surgeon be permitted to go to him.

Suckley works hard at this yet accomplishes little. Word is got to General Headquarters of the necessity and [that] is all so far.

Our wounded need dressings & food & shelter. The recent rains have soaked them and when their blankets are raised, they will steam fairly.



The men under my care were mostly injured on Saturday or Sunday previous. The wounds are, many of them, very severe. The character of the wounds in this battle is generally severe, from the fight being so largely with artillery.

I attend to some 48 men this first day and was tired at night.

The old Chancellor House is entirely in ruins from the fire. I have one relic of it given me by Rice, a carpenter's tape.

I lend Webster a couple of blankets. Send one up to a wounded man who is complaining. Find a shelter, luckily, to sleep in. Under a shelter tent just opened.

### **Friday, May the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Begin work early. I find coffee for Webster. A little time back it was difficult for them to get anything to eat. One of the doctors had lived two days on one cracker.

The supply for the men is small, and nearly as bad, is not palatable being a little pilot bread, bacon & flour.

[From] the flour we make a lot of gruel of that is, at least, warming.

We cheer up the men with the prospect of soon being in the land of plenty. How anxiously they ask "Dr. When are the ambulances coming?" Still our flag of truce is not received although it, quite awhile ago, had General Lee's consent & order.

The nice weather is drying out their blankets and the men become more cheerful with the sun's appearance. In Maryland our people brought the wounded an abundance gratuitously. Here 50 cents is asked for a single biscuit & piece of ham for the wounded.

I do not get time for all my exercises early. Send for my box with Dr. Holt. Find it opened. The fellows have made a very fair division this time leaving part. Still they display their attachment for soap. I think our government should allow this article to pass the blockade.

### **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

General Hooker has ordered rations to be sent [to] us either at U.S. Ford or at Bank's Ford. The latter is not in this military district.

Dr. Suckley returned late from his attempt to get across the river. We sat and talked late. He is a quizzical [comical] fellow.

### **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Dr. Suckley's foot is sore from walking in his boots. He turns out to the edge of his tent and calls an orderly sergeant near him. "Orderly, see here I want a stocking & a shoe, can't you get a shoe from a dead man?" (Then the comical strikes him & [it] being Sunday) he adds, "I suppose the stores are not open this morning." The shoes fit the doctor well.

It is a very busy day. How very tired I was at night. I bed & butter Dr. Webster & Suckley.

Suckley is made, by order [of the] commanding officer here (Brigadier General R. E. Colston, CSA), the Medical Director of our Hospitals on this side [of] the river at this point. (The Adjutant General [is] Captain Hall, a Marylander).

I regret I have not seized more time for prayer today.

### **Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Work hard, Captain Hall sits 'til nearly midnight. [He] is sociable with a little whiskey on board. He says General Jackson is dead. [He] claims, or attempts to, that he died of pneumonia. No doubt of pneumonia supervening on his injury which lost him the left arm. [He] had also, a shot

in the hand, (center of [the] hand) and [a] flesh wound of [the] right arm. He was shot on Saturday night, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Afterward General Stuart took command. The men do not like his fighting [style] as he pushed them into battle formed as he would form cavalry.

General Jackson was shot by a North Carolina Regiment. [He] died at Guiney's Station.

So we were to bed late.

On Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Dr. M[orris] J[oseph] Asch, USA, [Darwin] DuBois [of Lake Mills, Wisconsin] & others came by orders of Dr. Letterman to assist in the care of the wounded, Asch with orders to assume charge by Letterman. As however, Dr. Suckley was already in charge by the Confederate authorities, and Dr. Letterman not being recognized by this side, he still retains command of our Hospitals here. Dr. Webster USA, ranking Asch, is also sore about it. Asch finally has to yield.

Dr. Asch & Dubois are ordered up with supplies. By some incorrection these go to Bank's Ford and do not arrive 'til on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

Dr. Asch's stores were sent by order of Medical Director Letterman. Yet were principally

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One of the most horrible things connected with the recent battle is this: The woods were dry, being as yet [too] early for the trees to be in their freshness. Our troops (on both sides) had fallen and many were where they could not be gotten, remaining in the woods which, with the dead undergrowth, was set on fire by the exploding shells of the two armies and it is quite certain that some of the wounded soldiers perished in the burning woods. It may never be ascertained who or how many thus perished in the burning woods, but it is said their screams were heard. Many must have had their cartridge boxes on [themselves] and the consequences under such circumstances would be horrible.

When I returned to the army on Sunday, the fire had burned the ground almost as it would a dry prairie and still the heavier objects were burning and still the fire continued 'til the rains of Tuesday extinguished it.

Captain [Henry Kyd] Douglas, the Inspector General of Jackson's corps, is at the Hospital today and paroles myself, Steward & two men, not to give information prejudicial to their interests when we return to our own lines. I claim that the attendants came in very much the same manner as [I], under a flag of truce, ([they] being ordered to remain.)

Additional Surgeons also arrive by orders of Dr. Letterman. Some of the surgeons recross the river for some purpose and by bad working of the flag of truce are not permitted by Colonel Brown (Commanding on this side) to return.

Dr. [David C.] Chamberlain, Surgeon 94<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers, 1<sup>st</sup> Corps.

Fowler Prentice, Surgeon 73<sup>rd</sup> New York or 4<sup>th</sup> Excelsior, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps, 2 Division.

J.C. Wilson, Assistant Surgeon 68<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers, 3<sup>rd</sup> corps, 1<sup>st</sup> Division.

Previous at our Hospital, Dr. Wilson & Dr. [Fred H.] Leet, Assistant Surgeon, [of Greenville] 57<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps.

Dr. Warren Webster, Medical Inspector, acting, Army of Potomac.

Dr. George Suckley, USV Medical Director 11<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, by order [of] General Colston commanding, [is the] Department Medical Director of [the] Federal Hospitals here. All the latter were prisoners.

Also previously, C. Bacon, Jr., Assistant Surgeon USA, 5<sup>th</sup> corps, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division.

Musician James McMurty was of much assistance, laboring faithfully.

**Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

Prentice sleeps with Wilson & I. [He] lies with his boots out of doors, and in the morning says his opinion of the hotel is not exalted as his boots were out and not blacked.

[I] do a good deal of work. Amputate a thigh at [it's] center; [He] dies as mortification had already supervened.

Dr. L[afayette] Guild, the Medical Director of General Lee's army, and his Medical Inspector visit our Hospital. [They] spend quite a part of the day witnessing an amputation of the shoulder joint by Dr. Suckley.

General Hooker sends a note to General Lee saying he will remunerate them for any expense they may go to for our wounded. This was previous to the present.

Dr. Suckley, who was taken prisoner, has his horse taken. Dr. Leet loses his also. Leet says to Dr. Guild, "He will remunerate him for any trouble he may take to obtain his horse for him." Dr. Guild returns, "Sir, I am not susceptible of a bribe."

Only a couple of pontoon boats & [ships] are sent. [We are] crossing two ambulances at a time which is slow work.

Dr. Suckley says, as our hospital is in the best condition of any and our men best capable of remaining, we will be the last to be removed. He begins with Dr. Oliver's place.

Ambulances are to cross at daylight.

From our stores we have Beef stock. With the whiskey & condensed milk, we make milk punch which we give freely around to all the men. [Thereby] taking some kettlesfull for all.

Coffee is sometimes given also, or tea. Our men, with pleasant weather which has continued from the day I reported for duty here, and with good living & [a] prospect of going home, begin to look quite bright. Gangrene seems arrested. [It] is very hot. [It was] hot yesterday too.

The woods are very pleasant. The green foliage, the grass & violets make it pleasant.

Hill (our) Hospital is near to the wood, and a nice run & spring [are] near. A little wash basin is hollowed out of the rock where I go through my daily ablutions.

The place was right in the [middle of the] battle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> corps on Sunday morning. The barn is riddled with bullets.

Asch is talented, witty & cultivated and is an exquisite \_\_\_\_.

### **Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

Asch & DuBois go to Dr. Hewitt's Hospital to look over his cases & assist Dr. [Sanford B.] Hunt's care of the thigh. I direct it opened. To bed late.

### **Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

The clouds which have threatened for the last day & this day disappear, & [it] is warm. Asch & DuBois go to the river to superintend the crossing. The pontoon bridge was yesterday laid by order of General Hooker.

[The] bridge was down May 13<sup>th</sup>, rather late in [the] day. I had yesterday concluded to disobey instructions in a degree & send the sick away & wounded (failure in train).

Am up early. [The] ambulance train [is] here. Have breakfast for [the] men.

Yesterday, I and all had worked putting up men preparatory to transportation.

The ambulance train is not ready to take all. Some have to wait. Dr. Wilson accompanies [the] train on Dr. Leet's horse. Dr. Chamberlain is most grievously drunk. He intends to go with [the] Captain but misses his calculation. I secure a piece of shell & grape shot which I afterward give to Lieutenant Sinclair as he is starting for home.

A sufficient number of ambulances should have been here to have taken all. Suckley gives some crackers to the Chancellors as they had so much destroyed.

The ambulance Captain is arrested for not having all taken. This he should having seen to it. We are loaded late in the day. Orders come to hurry up as the bridge will shortly be taken up. When [the] train arrives at the river (Lt. Clay is along with [the] train) and [we] find the pontoons already up. They are just going up the hill. Seem stuck above and Captain Douglas says they will have to send over a detachment of Stuart's Cavalry & capture it.

The pontoons are under the charge of Colonel \_\_\_\_\_ a sort of Director at Headquarters. [We] are soon able to ferry the river by two rafts made of pontoons & ships which pushes the train over rapidly. I give the men all around some whiskey.

Dr. Taylor orders me to proceed with the train to the different Corps' Hospitals. Men are fed on top of the hill at Dr. Moore's place. I attend to the[m], & morphine the men.

Sleep in Dr. Johnson's room. Dr. Johnson offers a sick woman some morphine when she asks; "Will it put her to sleep?" She seems to think this suspicious & will not take it.

### **Friday May 15.**

Up a little after daylight, [and the] men are fed. [I] have my breakfast [and am] on the move at 5 ½ O'clock. The men have had a very comfortable night, and ride very comfortably today. There is but little complaint among them. The road is a little rough, but generally good. On the road I give them whiskey around the bad cases, also all morphine, nearly. The little pain with which they came was remarkable.

About noon, arrived at [the] Hospital. Rode up to the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps Hospital [then] went to Clark's tent and took a wash. Then went down to dinner.

Alas my pants. There is a frightful tear in the seat of my pants. Ugh, I have too, a decided sensation of dirt. When I get to my camp (which I do late in the afternoon by an ambulance fortunately going to my regiment) I take a thorough wash and dress myself. Now I feel as though the barbarian had disappeared. I discovered Dr. Suckley yesterday morning, before we left camp, tucking a towel into the seat of his pants to cancel an enormous rent in his pants.

I am glad to get to camp. It is pleasant too on returning. Our camp is still in the old place. I am in a wall tent with Storrow. Report to Dr. Wagner. Return to duty.

### **Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

Hear preaching at [the] corps Hospital. I ride my horse now as his back is quite well. This is the first day I have been on him for a long time. Billings comes in to see me.

### **May 17<sup>th</sup> [Sunday]**

Ramsey comes to see me. [He] stays a long time.

These & the following days are very warm. Have written to Belle & my parents.

### **May 18<sup>th</sup>**

Review of the Corps by General Meade in honor of Captain Ellinber of the Scott Fusilier Guards. Hot & [a] long march. Some men have to fall from the ranks.

### **May 20<sup>th</sup>**

Toward evening, [I] ride over to [the] corps Hospital.

## May 21<sup>st</sup>

Continues warm, intensely so.

Major [Grotius Reed] Giddings is now in command of the regiment, having joined [May 3<sup>rd</sup>] at Chancellorsville.

Leaves of absence are again granted. Adolphus yesterday went on (5) days leave of absence.

I am now fairly settled again in my duties. I therefore desire to make a resume of God's care of me & his blessings since we left camp the last move.

I started upon my march with a slight pleuritis. I have passed this. Through the mercy & goodness of God I was preserved in the midst of Battle and of danger.

When great danger came near me at the brick house, He cared for me. I was preserved from exposure to the weather. I was assisted in the performance of my duties on the field of battle, and all the time were God's blessings with me.

I had the opportunity to minister to our wounded and to care for the wounded of our enemy after the battle.

God sustained, & was with me in all.

In thee, O God, is my hope. The Lord reigneth. Let the earth be glad.

As I write this, after all is past and [I am] again in the quiet of my camp, I bless God for his goodness to me. Both for body and soul, God has cared for me. "O my soul, Bless the Lord."

I consider war as a dire calamity, and a visitation from the almighty and especially such in this national war. But shall we sit down and quietly permit it to overrun us without using every means to dispel it? God forbid. No more should we do this than permit the Cholera to scourge the land without using every exertion in our power to drive it from among us. Without any just cause, the South have attempted to dissever our national power, to dismember our government. And shall we sit tamely by? No. Rather the Lord being our "Shield and Buckler", we will crush the evil and restore peace and happiness to the land.

The character of the wounds, among those remaining behind the army, was more usually severe perhaps from the fact that the slighter wounded were able to get themselves away.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Corps left a good many. It is singular that a great many of these were shot from the back. I suppose they ran.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps left a great many wounded on the field when they were driven in on Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There are a great many artillery wounds. One man [was] lying down [when] struck with a shot on the hip, rolling over the hip (right), and crushing & continuing terrible [to] the limb. I first had my attention called to him by Dr. Leet. Found the hip greatly swollen [and] recommended opening [it.] At night the man complained so greatly I went & called Dr. Hunt whose patient he was. [We] punctured the hip, where full to touch, it was like a bladder filled with fluid. Blood & puss was freely discharged. [We had] difficulty in having him take whiskey & morphine. Had, on the removal, the limb put up in splints straight with canvas so rolled as to support the limb. Thus, in this manner many of our cases were put up and they rode very comfortably. This case rode very nicely.

A wound of [a] minie bullet passing through both buttocks, making (4) holes (from right to left). It's exit bore [has] the character of a contusion by a shell but [the] boy says it was not. He thinks the muscles of the left hip are infiltrated with blood & puss. The skin is largely destroyed nearby. [He] is in very good spirits. Corporal Diamond 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry. [A] piece of shell, as large as half the hand, [had] lodged in [the] abdomen fastening his clothes, coat, shirt & drawers in the wound. Contusion severe and [thus] tearing the intestine across, yet lived 'til I left to [the] brick

house on Sunday. Opiates heavy. [I applied] chloroform when the shell was extracted under which he quieted with a very little of the anesthetic.

Abdomen torn across, tearing muscles terribly, died shortly, complaining greatly of pain. In some cases gangrene supervened on extensive injuries and evidently, to a great extent, caused by want of sufficient stimulus & nourishment whereby the restorative powers of the system were exhausted.

Injury of upper portion of Tibia of right limb. Secondary Hemorrhage arrested by tourniquet. Was, ere long, enabled to wear it only preparatory (occurred (Hemorrhage). In the night Dr. Webster called, next day [the] limb [was] tense & shining painful. Dr. Suckley absent, amputation deferred.

The following day gangrene [was] present. I, by Dr. Suckley's & Dr. Warren Webster's advice, amputated. Man died within an hour afterward not withstanding [a] great amount of stimulus.

### **Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> 1863.**

For some days [it] has been extremely warm. So much so that I avoid riding in the hot sun and at best my horse sweats much under the saddle.

I attend to the sick of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry as Billings is on duty at Corps Hospital for a little while. Dr. Moore visits the camp.

### **May 24<sup>th</sup> [Sunday]**

Ride up to Corps Headquarters to see Dr. Moore (Medical Director) before he leaves, as he is ordered to the army of the Mississippi to be Medical Director of General Grant's army. Ride up to look for the Christian Commission. Am disappointed in not finding them (for it deprives me of the Church service I hoped to attend.)

### **May 25 1863**

Last night, by telegram to General Sykes, [we learned that] General Grant has captured Vicksburg & many guns.

[The] brass band [was] ordered to play around to different regiments of the brigade. Our officers have a jubilee over it. They waltz and Hi Ho & sing 'til late. They, in mock fight, defend the road to U.S. Ford (The Sutlers) then rally on the glasses. It is laughable to see Captain Hager swing. Dr. Storrow enjoys it hugely.

The day has been so warm that drawers are the undress uniform. Charlie Smedburg waltzes in "whites".

Colton [was] sick again yesterday. Dr. Whittingham of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry [2<sup>nd</sup> division, is] seized with convulsion. Too much "corn juice." A little mist this morning & colder. A fire in front. Ramsey comes in.

### **May 26**

Night rather cold.

### **May 27<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

Dr. Adolphus comes in, tells me of his wife's rejoining him. They have been married 9 years and separate 3 years. His wife is somewhat an unbeliever in divine faith.

The Doctor can go to [the] Corps Hospital if I will consent to take his place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry so that Jacquette can return to the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

Dr. Jacquette will give his place in Hospital provided he can come to the 14<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Adolphus wishes to take his wife to be with him, which he can do at [the] Hospital.

I finally consent. May the Lord guide me in the matter. O Father, let me not go except thou goest with me.

I ride over to [the] Hospital [to] get my field glasses which I found at the field Hospital on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, while the Division was falling back after having fought.

I was about the last to leave the house, (white frame), being the last ambulance [was] loaded, and [I] found this glass left. It is a very nice one. The 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and, I guess, some of the 11<sup>th</sup> Corps had been there, so I have no idea where it belongs. Ride back by [the supply] depot (Potomac Creek).

Mr. Bellows, of the Sanitary Commission, is here with supplies (at Potomac Creek station).

I am quite unwell. A bilious diarrhea and bad headache. I find I have not got over my work and all and it's consequences on the opposite side of the river.

### **May 28**

Very warm. [I] receive Adolphus' papers. Am some better today.

Receive orders to report to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry for duty with the picket support which was this afternoon. Ordered out suddenly. The 14<sup>th</sup> goes.

I do not go out 'til morning, having permission to remain.

Captain Locke is a thorough gentleman, a fine engineer. Has a place on the Canada R.R. Road of \$60,000 a year which he says they will not permit him to resign. He lacks in discipline and cannot take a joke and thinks he is not appreciated.

I think he is hardly treated with the deference he should be. Wrote to Belle. No letters from her arriving after my return from "Dixie".

### **May 29, 1863**

Report at 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry for duty.

Obeys my orders to go on picket.

Soda water is nice [in] this weather. Yesterday Mr. Fountain, Sutler [of the] 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry, cashed my pay roll until the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 1863.

Payroll cashed 'til 31<sup>st</sup>. May, by Sutler [of the] 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

Oranges 12 ½ cents each. Eggs, 60 cents a dozen at [the] Sutlers.

Quite a Gymnasium the officers of the 14<sup>th</sup> have erected. McKibbin jumps well. Dr. Moore visits us and tries it the other day.

### **May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

I report at [the] Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Infantry [regiment] for duty. Having orders From Colonel [Sidney] Burbank, Brigade Commander to go on picket. I do so early, [thus I] do not disturb the Commanding officers. Make my report through the Adjutant.

I think this change is for the better. I have not so much work to do. (In the 14<sup>th</sup>, I did nearly all the work with a Command of some 600. Here I am Chief in Command of \_\_\_\_\_ men.) Dr.

Storrow has no idea of [the] order, thus far, which is not quite agreeable in an inferior.

Yet I think the change is good for me. I had become much attached to the 14<sup>th</sup>.

This is my only hope, that God will be with me. O my Father in Heaven, do thou care for me here in this regiment and be my God. I pray of thee wisdom and knowledge, O God, that I may go in and come out before this command wisely & good.

My Father, keep me righteous. Let all thy salvation be upon and with me, for Jesus Christ's sake. The regiment is side by side with the 14<sup>th</sup>. [It] is one of the best regiments in the service. Proceeded on picket. I had been up before reveille. Got breakfast and arrived early out [where I] found Captain [Hiram] Dryer of the 4<sup>th</sup> [U.S.] asleep (trying to). Reported. [It is] very warm. Headquarters [are] at the house. I am reading "No Name." [I] admire Captain Wragge for the richness of the character. Sit [up reading in] to the night, a little more, a little more, steady. I do not admire the book as a whole except for the plot of the story. Had my soda water. Made [my] bed on the floor [and] slept well. Lieutenant [Frank B.] Hamilton [was] on a streak of fun and nonsense.

### **May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Very mild & pleasant. [I] rise early, wash, [and] pray. [It is] very warm [again]. Ride with Captain Dryer along the left. Later I go and get a letter from Belle, the first I have had for a couple of weeks. I am lonely without them. [I] sit on the bench and read. What an indolent life picket is. Berdard brings out my meals today. Finish "No Name" in a little more than two days.

### **May 31<sup>st</sup> [Sunday]**

Still remarkably warm. "Relief" came out early. Ride in with the staff [and am] in at 11 a.m. How very dusty it is in camp. From the picket we could see perfect clouds of dust around the camps. It is certainly disagreeable to be here in the midst of it. Even the boughs around the camp are no protection. It comes into the tent. It gets into the nostrils, like the lice of Egypt, in abundance.

Charlie Smedburg has erysipelas in the face [and] is very sick and delirious. [He] was out to the picket the day before yesterday. Go to [the] 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. Hospital attendant Wynn takes care of my tent and traps and horse. I mean in no manner to interfere with his duty as a Hospital attendant. For my work, I pay \_\_\_\_ [Pvt. Peter] Wynn extra.

### **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863.**

I take a bath early. Attend sick call in the 2<sup>nd</sup> [Infantry] for the first time.

Breakfast with the Adjutant & Quartermaster. Am to mess with them.

Charlie Smedburg of the 14<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant & Adjutant, died this morning. A general gloom is cast over the regiment. It hardly seems possible. Only a day or two ago he was jolly, now dead. Not all die in battle.

He was engaged to a young lady in Chicago. Lieutenant Vernon tonight shewed me her pictures. Poor girl, how badly she will feel. The body is embalmed. At 8 a.m. tomorrow, Lieutenant Vernon accompanies the corpse home to New York. I send an errand by him for purchases. Colton comes into my tent and imbibes.

I ride to Corps Hospital with Adolphus [and] return late. The Dr. is much changed since his wife's return to him.

Very warm & dusty. Lieutenant Miller of [the] 14<sup>th</sup> [is] drunk. He thinks he will not live long and so is reckless.

I must read & study much now [that] I have a wall tent to myself.



[I] am invited to attend Charlie's escort tomorrow. Made [my] monthly sick report today. Dr. Billings was taking chloroform or ether today, he suffers from angina pectoris, [and] will probably die early. He is some of the finest talent in the army. Poor fellow.

I hope [for] a letter from Belle tomorrow. [I] write to my parents.

=Camp near Falmouth, Virginia.

June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1863

TO:

My dear Parents.

In God's providence I may fall. Should I fall I desire to assure you of my most devoted love to you all.

Father, Mother, in such the case will you for my sake do this that I wish.

I have long been engaged to Arabella Knox. Take her as your child and love her as you would love me. Give to her all my share of the property (all that you would give to me) for she is to me as though the forms of law had made her my wife. May God care for and bless you all. May the Lord be with you all. May the Lord be with me.

Very affectionately

Your Son,

Cyrus Bacon, Jr.

To:

Hon. Cyrus Bacon

Edwardsburg

Cass County

Michigan

To my Father and Mother.

### **June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863.**

Charlie Smedburg's body is to be taken home today by Lieutenant Vernon. Vernon does a commission for me in New York.

Nearly all of the officers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry attend the funeral which is in military style. First the band [is] playing a solemn air. An escort of some 50 men [are] marching with reversed arms. Then [follows] the ambulance bearing the body and drawn by six horses (gray & white). Each horse [is] led.

Immediately following the coffin, is led his horse, saddled & bridled. The spurred boots [are] confined in the stirrup, then the procession in reverse order, [with] the lowest rank in front. Officers follow, walking four abreast. Mounted officers then, and followed by General Sykes & General Ayres, & [the] staff [comes] last.

[We] proceed to the railroad depot. A hollow square is formed. The coffin [is] placed in the center. The minister proceeds, then with our heads [bowed], the body passes us. The line then forms, a quick step is played and mourning is ended. [There] is [a] mourning dove elsewhere, no others will love his memory as we [do], and they will be permitted to remember him in mourning.

The march was dusty. Not belonging to the Regiment, I must walk to [the] Depot. But my horse [a]waits me and I ride back.

[I] Ride home with Adolphus, [and] have lemonade. Ride home late. No, this was the last night.

**June 2, 1863**

Adolphus is very anxious. He has no letter from his wife since he came from New York. He is all unstrung on account of it.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

My second letter from Belle. I guess I am glad. She is dear, so pure and beautiful and good. How greatly I love her. My Belle. A letter from James.

Threatens rain. I ride to General Hookers Headquarters, to Dr. Webster, USA, acting Medical Inspector of the army, who was with me in the confederate lines. He is absent, sick. [He] has been unwell since his being over the river. He is stout.

I have not given up what is the deduction. Yes, I have been quite used up. Well, I sat down a[nd] penned a note to him running thus: Dr. Bacon of Dixie [hereby sends] compliments to Dr. Webster and regrets his absence. Dr. Bacon hopes Dr. Webster's health will soon be regained and recommends for [his] diet, "flour soup".

To sleep, none too early.

About midnight, the Sergeant Major comes & says, "orders to march." Reveille at 1 a.m. March at 3 a.m. Dress at once, all bustle, pack. Order hospitals packed. Send away [the] sick. Breakfast very early. Get some eggs, meat & c for my rations.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1863

March. No opportunity to write to Belle. [It] is very warm. [We] take the up river road. [The] 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade goes toward Bank's Ford of the Rappahannock. [The] 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade [is] on the Hartwood Church road. We (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade) proceed to Benson's Mills between [them]. As we arrive near our intended camping place, Lieutenant Abraham Grafius, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry [U.S.M.A, 1861], falls in the road in convulsion. I was having my horse led in front of me but came up at once. [His] convulsions [are] severe. [His] respiration [was] nearly ceasing. I took him by the side of the road on a blanket. Put a bower over him to protect him from the sun. Again and again his convulsions occurred. I had to work Marshall Hall on his breathing twice. Toward evening, I had him taken to his tent. I had sat right over him the whole day, scarcely being away from his side. It is the result of drinking. He drinks hard. If he wants to live, he had better sign the pledge. My tent is put up for me. The adjutant has boughs placed in the bottom.

**June 4<sup>th</sup>**

Grafius [is] better. [He had] slight convulsions, two during the day. [He] is irrational. [It is] hot [so I] have a shade erected over his tent. 6 or 7 miles to camp (old camp).

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Hot. Grafius better. [I] write to Belle and to my parents. [I] have an opportunity to send letters to Washington by a discharged sergeant. Wynn brings me some strawberries.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**

Grafius is delirious. [He] is controlled with some difficulty. I never saw a man come so near death and not die.

Wynn [again] brings me in some strawberries.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>**

[I] make a recommendation to send Lieutenant Grafius to [the] General Hospital at Washington. [It] is warm. I ride out a ways, [and] find plenty of strawberries. [Make my] weekly report. Sent my report of station to the Surgeon General by the Sergeant. It has rained at last. It is a month today since more than a few drops of rain have fallen. This shower is very refreshing. Yesterday morning [there] was very heavy artillery in the direction of Fredericksburg. [I] hear we have a small body over the river.

### **June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Received an order detailing me as one of the Surgical operators of the division. But two are detailed from this division, so this is a great honor to me.

Dr. Billings is the other operator.

May God help me to do my duty wisely and\_\_\_\_\_.

The detail, of course, is but for this battle next. O Father, give me wisdom & knowledge to go in and come out in this detail. If thou helpst me, O God, it is well with me. I pray of thee, help in all the duties of my detail, and assistance in all that is required in it.

[I] visit Ramsey.

See Lieutenant Farnsworth of the old 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan.

Yesterday, the deserters were to be shot. A parade was ordered. Just previous however, the order was countermanded. The execution being deferred.

Camp in a qui vive of excitement about moving.

### **June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1863. [Sunday]**

Grafius grows worse. [A] picket goes out with three days rations in their haversacks and receive orders that, in case the army moves, they must remain and keep up an appearance and at the last moment, rejoin the army (if they can). Orders yesterday to be ready to move at a moments notice. Today [we] pack up. [I] nearly fill my saddle bags with rations. Lieutenant Grafius must go to [the] Corps Hospital. As it will not do to send him alone, I go with him [and] ride in the ambulance. [We] pass [our] old picket lines. Picketing by [the] 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps. [We have] supper at [the] Hospital. About dark [I] turn back. (6 or 7 miles.) Near midnight, at 11 p.m. perhaps, [I] reach camp. Find them still in the old place. [It is a] very cold night. (I bathe in the run near, before going early.)

### **June 6, 1863**

An order, by Corps Headquarters, came detailing the Medical staff in case of a battle. Dr. Billings is Chief Operator of the Division. He is my senior by rank. I am the other operator. But two operators are detailed from the Division, so I consider this a great honor, when there are several Medical officers in the Division who rank me. Dr. Billings is one of the finest operators in the army. May God help me to do my duty wisely and well. Truly honors are heaped upon me. May I always remember to whom I owe them.

### **June 8<sup>th</sup>.**

The day is hot. In the morning, I go over to the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry. No letters from Belle. Their camp is not as pleasant as ours. Some artillery is parked near them. [I] keep indoors much, it is so warm. After dinner (at 6 p.m.) [I] ride out with all the staff; Captain [Samuel A.] McKee, Lieutenant Bronlenger, Adjutant, Lieutenant [George Hogg] McLoughlin, quartermaster.

My horse is a very fast walker and is childish when with other horses. Getting a little away from them, he throws himself on the bit. When along with the others, [he] is very quiet. [I] ride through bars and fences for strawberries. Return to a farm house where are three ladies ignorant and homely. Sit a while and then home at breakneck speed. My horse [is] better than the rest. He runs I reckon.

### **June 9, 1863.**

We have breakfast from 8 to 9 a.m. With Ramsey & Billings, [I] sit on a Medical Board to examine Captain [Gurden] Chapin [of the U.S.] 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry who has applied for a sick leave.

Report he will not be fit for duty in the field within a less period than sixty days.

General Sykes does not like it. Says he has knowledge that he is a shirk. An order comes that no one shall leave camp except by a pass signed by Brigade, Division and Corps Commanders. It is a silly order. Except by this [procedure], one cannot go into the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry whose line is immediately back of us.

I obtain an order for Wynn from Division Headquarters. He being an enlisted man, not so much is required, to go to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade (14<sup>th</sup> Infantry) for letters & c. A letter from Belle. I write to Belle. Send it by [a] discharged man to Washington.

Heavy cannonading [is] heard up the river this morning.

A picket goes out with the orders to hold themselves as previously. I suppose General Hooker fears a crossing by the rebels and wishes to be prepared to fall back or perhaps to make for the defenses of Washington.

### **June 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Very warm. The nights back have been cold.

A cavalry crossing at, or near, Kelly's Ford. We lost some [and] took some prisoners (yesterday). We lost Colonel [Benjamin Franklin] Davis, [?..sed] in the afternoon.

### **June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Obtained permission from Brigade & Division Headquarters to go to [the] 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade. Go to Bank's Ford. See Vernon. Our soldiers [are] down at the bank of the river on one side, the confederates on the other. The river is narrow. Our men bathe in the river. Lieutenant Vernon has ensconced himself close to the bank in the shade and the 14<sup>th</sup> is encamped just above. Have a letter from Belle. My Belle darling. God, grant we may always be as happy in each other as we are now, & we shall be very happy.

I turn over to Lieutenant Burns, my A tent.

Turn over to [the] Quartermaster, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, the Hospital stove for which I am to take receipts. Enclosed receipts for Surgeon General (of Adolphus).

### **June 10, 1863**

Mrs. Grafius.

[I have] an order to proceed to [the] Corps Hospital for [the] purpose of convening the Board of examination in his case. (Of Lieutenant Miller of [the] 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry). It is hot, so we ride in [an] ambulance.

[The] board assembled at 3 p.m. We previously had dinner. Lieutenant Miller is very bad. We determine he cannot be fit for duty in the field, if indeed, ever.

I took with me the order to send Lieutenant Grafius to [a] General Hospital at Washington. (Received last evening. So much "red tape." It had been to General Hooker.) Arriving at the hospital, [I] find that he died yesterday morning. His family had been telegraphed of his sickness, and almost immediately his mother had come on, arriving this morning. Poor woman, how terribly she felt. For he was almost the entire support of herself and family and says she has none but God to look to now.

(She is a widow, one son sick,) another delicate, and one daughter Ellen Grafius. I told her of her son, and coming away, she clung to my hand as though her heart was breaking. She sobbed. She wished me to say her gratitude to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry for their care of her son.

Her daughter had knit a smoking cape for Abe [Grafius], & [another for] Captain McKee. One was sent to the Captain, the other was pressed on me. I told her I should prize it as a memento of her son.

She has all nearly, or rather Ellen has, of the pictures of the officers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, and wishes me to send mine which I promised. Address: Miss Ellen Grafius, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

### **June 12<sup>th</sup>.**

[Glory Road, the March to Gettysburg]

Send [to the] Surgeon General [the] receipts of Adolphus' Hospital property. I think Dr. Storrow's receipts was sent in by accident. [I] shall take no further notice of it except by order from the office, save to square my accounts.

Yesterday, marching orders were repeated. [We are] ordered to turn in surplus baggage, and should not be surprised to move at a moments notice.

I mailed up a box of books and clothing which I left in the hospital property prepared for transportation.

I wrote very late last night, and prepared a letter for Belle which I, this morning, sent to Washington by a discharged soldier. [It was] hot this morning, and [I] am ashamed to say, I rose late. I have my tent very nicely fixed.

George Pike, [Company] E. 14<sup>th</sup> (See April 23<sup>rd</sup>) papers are returned. Remitting sentence entirely if he is a case for discharge. So much good I have done. Left his papers with Dr. Adolphus to attend to on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant.

Beginning of Campaign towards Pennsylvania in pursuit of General Lee's army.

### **June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Inspection of arms, orders to move finally came. Now our uncertainty is over and we are to march up the river. Dinner at 4 p.m. Tents down. Wynn permits my horse to escape, [but] after quite a hunt, regains him. Quartermaster wagons [are] away. A very heavy rain comes up and continues. As many as possible huddle under Captain McKee's shelter tent. Poor old Colonel [Hannibal] Day, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry, is exposed to the rain and stands quietly taking it.

[We] march at 8:15 p.m. [It] is dark as Isis and the rain pours incessantly. It is so dark & the mud is so heavy & slippery that the men straggle badly and no field officer [is detailed] behind so I have to push the men up.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Captain Hancock, follows. It is so [dark] I have to guide the Captain. At one time getting a little behind, I was in a good deal of difficulty to find the column in front. [We] march to Hartwood Church, 8 miles [and] camp near midnight. [The] rain had ceased, [there

was] only a little mist on lying down. Make my bed in the open ground with [a] bag of oats & saddle cloths under me.

[The] brigades of the division all concentrate here from their various posts of duty. (A guard is still left at the different fords to keep up appearances.)

Two or three days after, these guards joined after some very hard marching to come up with the command.

### **June 14<sup>th</sup>, Sunday.**

Slept well.

Hartwood Church walls are covered with sketches. Prayer in [the] woods. At 10 a.m. [we] leave camp on the Warrenton road. Up to this time we had been uncertain whether we were to go north or cross the river near. I think a great deal of anxiety is relieved when we know the troops are passing the junction of the river road toward Warrenton. Now we are probably bound for Washington. [We have a] capital breakfast of pickles, onions, crackers & coffee. The day is very hot. Getting a little ways, little or no rain had fallen and [it was] very dusty. We are now beginning to ascend from the flats of Falmouth and have great difficulty in finding water. My horse is needing it greatly. Rapid march. Rest at 4 p.m. [It] is [the] first real rest. How the men crowd the wells (in great crowds). They suffer so greatly for water. The soil is very poor. Some good houses along. The crops seem to me very dilatory for the season. The heat & rapid march cause men to begin to fall out. [I] let my horse eat grass when we rest. He is so delicate skinned, that his back swells from the saddle. While resting [I] remove the saddle & bathe his back. Continue [the] march 'til 9 p.m. [We] ford Cedar Run. I carry several of the officers over on my horse. [We] camp near (Weaversville), 1 ½ miles from Warrenton Junction. [I have a] cup of tea [and] bed on [the] ground.

### **June 15<sup>th</sup>**

Reveille at 3 a.m. As we file out, [I] water my horse in the "run." After breakfast & before starting, I read a chapter in the testament. [We] march at 5:30 a.m. Halting, [I] go in [the] woods to pray.

Hot, Hot. The men fall out badly and especially [now] that the march is rapid. March long. How the men toil in the sun. I tell General Syke's Adjutant General [that] it is hard. Right in the hot sun. Rest at 10 a.m.

Men fall down with sunstroke in the road. I can give them brandy & leave them, for [there is] no ambulance to put them in. I have issued a good many permits to men to fall out. It is the best I can do. [We] reach Manassas Junction at 1 p.m. [and] rest. A little further march [follows] on to the plain of Manassas, near [the] old line of rebel earthworks. There are Swift's "bug-a-boos." The Bull Run ridge is away to the west and beyond is the Blue Ridge, To the west near is Thoroughfare Gap. A great cloud of dust arises away to the west in [the] direction of [the] Gap. We watch this with much curiosity, wondering will the rebels attack us here on the old battle ground. The Army of the Potomac have made an annual summer tour to the Bull Run. Shall the enemy try us again here this year? Camps are set in lines of battle, artillery is in position, inside of [the] entrenchments & out.

Write to Belle. Picket sent out. Go to Division Headquarters. Billings [is] sick. To bed about 10 p.m.

### **June 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Slept well, rise late, go up on [the] earthworks. Joined by Colton, [I] pray. I try always to keep up my worship to the lord. Send away sick in [an] ambulance.

My labors with the Medical Director last night have secured an ambulance for my command and helped bring the ambulance trains to the rear of the Division on the march.

Orders to be ready to move at a moments notice. We yesterday passed the 1<sup>st</sup> [and] several [other] Corps moving up. Much of the army at least is moving up with us. And Aquia Creek is to be relieved of much protection by land.

I take care of the 7<sup>th</sup> as Billings is in the ambulance.

Read some, but unfortunately, the Steward had packed up the most of my books. I had left Ray on the road with a man with sunstroke. He comes up.

My hospital cook was yesterday captured by the bushwhackers but succeeds in [being] released. He was only a little out from the wagon train.

Late supper, mutton & c. Bed in [an] ambulance.

### **June 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Orders to march at 3 a.m. Up, cup of tea. [It] is not very dark, reach Centerville at 6:30 a.m. (6 miles) March right in front. Cross the Bull Run. Rest at Centerville. A great deal of the army seems collected here. Watered my horse in the Bull Run.

Dr. Milhau joins here as Medical Director of [the 5<sup>th</sup>] Corps. [I am] glad to see him. Billings says he would like to see, pointing near, the armies of both sides set down in battle. [He] expresses a wish to see an immense cannon ball fly near. It is said [that] Lee's army is advanced [to] Leesburg (or toward). We wait for [the] 11<sup>th</sup> Corps wagons to pass.

Here we turn from the Washington road (Bull Run, 2 miles from Centerville.)

The march is through a fine country, [the] road shady, yet the march is rapid. [It] is hot [and the] road [is] filled with stragglers. Some men [are] sunstruck.

At Centerville, I took the ambulances around through the line of entrenchments. [We] march to Gum Springs Camp at 3:30 p.m. [where we] have a grand bath. Hear heavy guns to the west.

Wagons come up. [We] have marched 14 miles. [I] go to [the] Quartermasters train to have supper. Bed in [an] ambulance [and] sleep well.

### **June 18.**

Rise late. Go to [the] wagon train & obtain fresh clothes. Dr. Adolphus returns to the Division.

The Corps Hospital at Brooke's Station having [been] broken up, he returns, and too, without having his wife with him. [I] lie under the shade reading Dickens' "Notes on America." Go out to pray [and] find a fine spring of water. With a couple of others of the officers, [we] go and fill [our] canteens. Some volunteer had placed a guard over it. [I] have a precious letter from Belle. Did she get my letters of the battle of Chancellorsville? I inquire.

Toward evening, [there is] much rain. Fine supper. Adolphus sleeps with me. By a lantern in the ambulance, [I] begin a letter for Belle.

### **June 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Battle of Middleburg, Va.

Letters to Belle, &, to my Parents. Send [them] by a man of H Company. This morning is pleasant. All nature is refreshed in the shower. Orders to be ready to move. Adolphus goes to the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Nothing definite yet of Lee. An order from Hooker says we will wait 'til the enemy

develops his intentions. Dinner with a quartermaster. Orders to march [from Gum Springs] for Aldie Gap. Do so at 5:30 p.m. [The] 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry [acts] as wagon guard.

The Division wagon train is some 2 or 3 miles long. A wagon should occupy some 7 yards in length.

Rain comes on. [The] commanding officer causes the men to “parole” the captured turkey. [It] grows very dark. The rain drives so as to oblige a horse, when stopping, to turn his face from the storm. Square with the wind.

It is cold. Wagons tip over [on] the turnpike and we are much delayed. The cattle, I believe, give some trouble.

Reaching the troops very late. [We] do not find our position, so [we] bivouac near the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade. My Hospital lantern is now very convenient to this dark nights work.

[Leutenant Adolph W.] Kroutingier, McKee & I turn in under a shelter tent together. Now we can laugh at the rain outside.

Had one of the most glorious sleeps I ever had.

My rubber blanket kept me comparatively dry while riding. 8 miles march. The lights of the camp fires looked pretty along the mountain as we were in the distance.

### **June 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Rise late. Breakfast. Go to our brigade which is near, but in the dark we had avoided it. Some rain today.

Hospital wagons [are] turned over to [the] Brigade. Dinner with [the] Quartermaster.

### **[Sunday] June 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Orders to be ready to move at a moments notice after 4 a.m. But [we] do not move. [I] read [a] testament and found Disciple. [The] 1<sup>st</sup> Division, or part of it, goes to the front. Cavalry go out. Heavy firing in [the] Loudon Valley. Firing continues.

This was the Upperville Cavalry fight. Go in [the] woods to pray. [It] is sunday. [The light rain] has cleared off, a little cool.

### **June 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Rise late, fine day. Visit [the] 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Captain Brown had gone toward the rendezvous of Mosby, the Guerilla Chief, who inhabits this range of mountains to the dread of all Union men. However, the Mosby fever was so great that when they met him & his party they did them no apparent harm. Walk down to Aldie. Ride with the Captain beyond Dover. [A] great body of Cavalry & trains [are] coming back from the front. [We] stop at a secesh gentleman's. He tries to deny that citizens are a part of Mosby's ready force.

Lee [is] at Ashby's Gap. Riding through the Gap, the Mountain scenery is fine. [The] Loudon Valley is very rich.

### **June 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

Pickets yesterday fell back to near Dover. Rode with Captain McKee out [to] the front of cavalry pickets. [The] enemy's pickets [are] just beyond. Large bodies of cavalry [are] encamped along the road to the rear. See Dr. Watson going with his regiment on a cavalry escort (6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry). Obtain of Lieutenant Vernon, my things. Get my Botany from [the] Wagon. Address some envelopes. Put up my own tent for better comfort, bathe. Cavalry in front, firing. Sounds like



picket firing, all quiet. A little out from camp, some men [are] trying to milk cows. Read Medical journals some. Write for Belle. At evening, [I] had a pleasant talk with Milhau (Dr.)

### **June 24<sup>th</sup>**

Warm. A great many of the small Blackberry grow around here. Learn of the capture of Harpers Ferry from General [Robert Huston] Milroy. Milroy is little else than a gas bag, at all events. Change camp across the road to a better site. Pioneers put up my tent. Grade it & put dried grass in it. Warm. Ride out with the Adjutant. Write for Belle.

### **June 25<sup>th</sup>.**

[I] rise early [for] sick call. The first mail goes out. Write for Belle. When shall we have a mail? I wish so much for a letter from loved ones. My darling.  
[I] have a shade put over my tent, [and] read in Lectures On Asthma. [The] rain continues.

### **June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

Letter for Belle.

Reveille at 2 a.m. [We] march at 4 a.m. There is a thick mist that wets one through fast. [Our] troops ford Goose Creek, deep to the hips. [We] make Leesburg at 11 a.m. No demonstration either way by the people. [We] rest north of town. [We] turn back through town toward "Edward's Ferry" (Potomac river). This is the old position of General Stone's army at Ball's Bluff, farther below.

We cross the river by two pontoon bridges. [My] horse frightens in walking the bridge. All the troops of our army are now over but the 6<sup>th</sup> Corps & the Cavalry. [We] cross [the] river at 4 p.m. Have marched 16 miles. [We] pass the old camp of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan when in General Stone's Corps of Observation.

I rode over my old camping ground (of the regiment.) I thank God on my knees for all his mercies to me since I came out with the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan. But especially, I remember God's goodness to me in being with me, from the time of my connection with the Regiment, to the present time.

Dr. Barnum's tent & my own [are] here.

We pass Poolesville to the right (leave it to right) [and] push on rapidly. A mist [falls] nearly all day. A little before dark [we] camp (6 miles from the Potomac). [It] is 6 or 7 miles to Point of Rocks.

Tea, bed on straw in Kroutingier's tent. So I get out of the wet. [I am] just nicely to sleep when [an] orderly announces [the] time to march. Slept well.

### **June 27<sup>th</sup>.**

[We] march a little after daylight. The 12<sup>th</sup> Corps files across Monocacy Viaduct while our Corps ascend the river & ford it. The water is high & rapid. [The] river is nearly up to [our] hips. As the men strip their pants, some fine anatomy of limb is displayed.

Men make coffee. No rain. Train follows. Make out [our] weekly Report of [the] sick. Steward in ambulances.

Camp within 3 miles of Frederick City, Maryland. [We] camp in [the] woods. Through a field, wheat is being harvested and seems riper here than immediately on the opposite side of the Potomac. Some corn will stretch to the knee. [I] applied to Colonel Burbank for permission to go to Frederick in the morning. Certainly.

### **June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

In the morning, with Adolphus, [I] ride to the city. [We] visit Mrs. Elliott's, our former landlady. Aggie has really grown beautiful. Have a nice luncheon, with wine. Amelia Mann calls. Have our laugh about, and inquiries about, "Lina" & Maggie. Purchase, at an Israelite's, some articles I needed.

On the way back, [we] learn of General Meade's taking command of the Army. The reserves join us here. [The] rebels rear guard [is] said to be at Hagerstown, [Pennsylvania].

Dr. Letterman is to be married to the heiress, Miss Lee. Inspection of troops.

The mail. I am glad. Three letters from Belle. Official collections too.

### **June 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Reveille early. [We have] a little rain. Have some trouble with Holden, who is drunk. Clear him away from [the] sick report. [At] nearly 12, we march. [We] are in the advance [and] do not enter Frederick, but file around to the right of [the] city, at which, the men are greatly disappointed. [We] get across the fields & by road to the Baltimore Pike. Cross the Monocacy bridge, [it] is a fine structure, and then keep up the valley on the east side of the river, along the range of hills. Spread out by our side is the Monocacy Valley. [It has the] most fertile soil, wealthy farm houses, [and] rich fields of grain & grass. In the central southern portion lies the City of Frederick, and bounding the western slope is the South Mountain range. The valley is perhaps 8 miles wide and is truly magnificent.

I think it is the finest spot I ever laid eyes on.

[We] are told we go in [the] direction of Little York, Pennsylvania.

[We] camp 3 miles from Liberty, Maryland.

Captain McKee skirmishes for something to eat. [We] have a supper of chickens & c. I eat heartily. [It] is late, 10 p.m., and [I] lie down and slept sound as a top.

### **June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

[I] did not hear reveille. Billings comes & tells me the General [alarm] has sounded. As he is sick, I take charge of the 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Rise, attend to [the] sick, [have] breakfast, & [am] on the road at a little after 4 a.m. At Middleburg, [Maryland, we] file off after passing Johnsville toward Union Bridge.

Rain. Captain McKee sees a pretty girl who bows to him. Says he does not want to look at another girl 'til he sees one prettier. Being so, I asked him what the name of so pretty a girl should be. He answered, "Belle".

Along the way we return salutes from ladies as we were a little behind, I having stopped to get the shoes of my horse tightened.

Captain McKee & I obtain permission of the Major to skirmish for our dinner. The wheat here is fine. Since the farmers have nearby very large old cherry trees (these are loaded), the soldiers, whenever they can get an opportunity, pull the cherries, breaking off the branches. They would soon ruin a tree in this way. I should think the men would get sick, they eat so continually of cherries.

McKee & myself go down to a brick house, ask for dinner, have a real sound dinner. They would accept no pay.

Name: John Jordan, Union Town, Maryland.

In the meantime, our horses had eaten grass.

By this time, our command was some distance ahead. We were obliged to take a circuit as the picket would not let us pass by the road. Quite a town is here.

[We] pass [the] division's wagons.

An order is issued saying we are approaching the rebels. By a fast ride we overtake the line. In the meantime, a very hard rain had come up. [We] have had, frequent showers much of the day. [The] road is heavy, [we] are marching very fast. The men complain very much.

It is more than unwise to push men so. 6 miles beyond Union Town, [we] encamp on the side of a high hill. Major [Arthur T.] Lee goes on picket. I had but little for supper. ([This is] one of the frequent occurrences of a march.) In consequence, I think [I] did not sleep well.

Rebels left here this morning about 8 ½. [It is] still rain[ing]. Tent up. Sick Call.

### **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863.**

Reveille late, coffee. One is soon exhausted on [the] low diet, and a breakfast is greatly refreshing. It is here one learns the value of a "ration" of comfort. I remember, once particularly, I could have little for an early breakfast, and I was weak. I got a lunch of chicken and the change was almost equivalent to a glass of whiskey in warming the system. [We] march to Hannover, [Pennsylvania] 6 miles.

We had encamped last night near the state line. The Rebs have taken what they wished through here. [They] unhitched horses from wagons. [I] saw a reaper destroyed, plundered. A huckster thought to save from them his money (\$20.00) so [he] invested it in a basket of eggs. The fellow took eggs & with it, of course, the money.

They seemed to have a special liking to horses.

[We] hear firing in the direction of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Bathe. Toward evening, [we] march toward the front. We learn of the fighting of Reynold's Corps. Rain comes on. [We] pass through McSherrystown toward Gettysburg.

How excited the old gentleman by the way is, and how he shouts & exults over our coming. At about midnight, [we] bivouac in the streets of \_\_\_\_\_.

5 miles from Gettysburg. I lie on a veranda.

Get up at reveille at 3 a.m.

### **July 2, 1863.**

Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.

(5) five miles distant, in [the] morning.

Reveille at 3 a.m. Orders to [go] forward rapidly. So [I] do not get coffee for most of the men. After going a little distance, we cross the field and take up a position near or at the extreme right of our line of battle. [The] 12<sup>th</sup> Corps [are] here. [I] pray. Get cup of coffee about 10 a.m. After pushing forward skirmishers, [we] finally recross the Baltimore turnpike. The Corps come out in solid columns side by side, considerably.

Adolphus says he is entirely willing to trust in God in any event. May the Lord give me trust in him. Pay to McLoughlin \$17.00 as board bill.

In the afternoon, very heavy artillery [is heard] to the west. We had marched to near the road to Taney Town [Md.] and upon the top of a rocky hill lay 'til cannonading commenced heavily at 3 p.m.

Orders to move. Do so right in front, having gone [on the] wrong road, [we] reverse line. Our position on the hill is near the Baltimore Pike, some 1 ½ miles back of [the] cemetery.

[We] march down through the field and toward the wood where we have heard the musketry firing which is near.

Along [the] road "to Taney Town" [our] column files off to the front. Dr. Wagner near here informs me where the Division's Hospital is to be & orders me to direct Choisy to it. The Hospital is at the Stone House at the left of the line and near the "Knobb." The house is the Weikert House. At about 5 p.m. the regiment goes into action. Soon the wounded begin to pour in upon us and now all are very busy. I had early ransacked the house & secured operating tables. Clothes for dressing & c. The men had brought down a strange supply of these. Among other things a neatly worked lady's chemise. One young lady's discovering it, I would not permit it 'til something should be to take the place of it, as some of my instruments were already upon it. She gladly supplied its place. The men found some dough prepared for bread which was, some of it, seized & baked by them. I had a lunch off it. [It] is nearly midnight before retiring, when with Dr. [Edward T.] Whittingham, I go and lie under an apple tree [to] get a little sleep. [Francis E.] Lacey is wounded.

### **July 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Up early, [have] coffee [and] fix my table. Operations, amputations & c. Orders to remove [the] Hospital as there is danger at this point from the enemy's shells. They are shelling a battery a few hundred yards to the front of us.

We get shelled frequently during the day. It is amusing to see how all the loose men around have disappeared from the Hospital. During one of the shellings, Ramsey & I go out & gather the men under shelters from house, yard & c.

Shells explode near. Horses killed around by the shell or shot. I am engaged in carrying on the operation I began before the shell were falling and now of course the man must be taken care of. [I am] at work too, in the shelling, in dressing. By evening, the hospital is cleared and I, with the last, mount in an ambulance & proceed to [the new] Hospital. Find it some 2 ½ miles distant. Thus far the day, and too the previous days, had been fine. Now toward the night a storm comes up, continuing much of the night.

Not being able, in the dark, to find my men, I slept with Dr. [Edward De W.] Breneman.

### **July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

Independence day. We celebrate by the retiring of Lee's army. They have gone. General Mead follows them early.

At the hospital, we are early at work. Good day. Colton & Breneman assist me at the operating table. Colton is "tiffed".

Rain in afternoon and we doctors shewed the men that we were exposed to it as well as they. We have only the shelter tents, many picked up from. Men too, lie on the ground and the rain soaks all, nearly without exception.

The second Infantry [is] collected in one place so that I can better care for them. At night, having no tent, I sleep on this bed of the operating table. Soon it rains. I crawl into the ambulance, find room to sit at it's foot, but up so as to be backed. [It] rains in a perfect torrent, hard all night.

### **July 5<sup>th</sup>.**

[The] Second Infantry [is] brought all up. I dress also the [wounds of the] 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

Officers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry,

killed: Lieutenant Frank [C.] Goodrich.

Wounded: Major Lee, heel & leg.

Lieutenant McLoughlin, Left thigh bad, Lieutenant [Daniel W.] Burke, did no[t] see, wound of [the] foot, Lieutenant Lacey, in back, slight.

Majors Lee, McLoughlin, & Lacey leave [the] hospital. [I] fell heir to "Macs" shelter tent. Now I am provided for.

[A] bundle [is] brought from [a] mule. Dr. Wagner leaves for the purpose of going with the command. Dr. Milhau goes also.

Wynn today picks up a wounded horse. [He] gets too, some oats for my horse.

I have been so busy today, I almost question whether it is Sunday or no.

### **July 6<sup>th</sup>.**

At work at [the] table [a] good day. [I] have a large number of operations.

At work on [the] register of 2<sup>nd</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry of camp. Write a letter for Belle. Pleasant day. A rain comes up in the night very hard. Gave, during the day, one of my tents to Sergeant Hyde.

I regret to be required to make animadversions on the action of any people recognizing the union, yet it is my deliberate opinion that this part of Pennsylvania is not in the union for no other union place will fraternize it.

Thousands visited the battle, yet for [a] day I did not see the first act of charity from this people.

Finally Secretary [Simon] Cameron did bring & distribute (6) six lemons to the men of the Hospital, and carries an officer away in his carriage. The people seem to consider us lawful prizes and are not only extortionate, but give to us little real sympathy. A man comes after a bill for a few bundles of straw. \$1.00 for a loaf of bread. Such items makes one indignant for the honor of his country.

However, the people of the city of Gettysburg, in some measure, redeem this character of the country residents. They take the wounded into their houses and care for them.

### **July 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Send [a] letter to Belle.

[The] rain [is] still continuing. It is interesting to observe how heavy rains follow great battles. In this battle the rain began toward the evening of the third day after the fight began, and continued almost incessantly to this time. The men are much better protected than at first, but they have scarcely been able to avoid being wet. The straw of their tents is very damp underneath and [there is] no opportunity to dry them fully as it should be 'til nearly the present time.

The rain has enlarged the little river below which is usually quiet. It is now swollen and angry, rushes foaming and fretting among the stones & along it's banks.

I wonder, can General Lee cross his army over the Potomac, so swollen as it must be by these storms.

### **July 8.**

The camp is quite a scene. People now begin to come in with supplies for the wounded.

I work hard at dressing today. This has been continuous from [the] first. The surgeon's work is after a battle.

Vicksburg is ours.

Glorious now. This is the most fatal blow to the rebellion. It severs all west [of the] Mississippi [and] destroys an army when armies are precious to them.

### **July 9<sup>th</sup>.**

At work early. Assist at [the] operating table.

My blankets [are] well dried today.

Yesterday night they were very damp from the hard rain of the 7<sup>th</sup>. I amputate at knee.

This hospital now receives abundant supplies. It seems to be from people & societies at a distance. Here they would ask \$2.00 to carry a wounded man to town in a farm wagon.

### **July 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Usual routine of work.

### **July 11<sup>th</sup>.**

A day or two of clear weather. Letter to Father's. Ride out in the country to pick blackberries.

[The] blackberries are very abundant and are fine. Raspberries too. This is my very first [time] out of camp except swiftly to go down to [the] stream for bathing.

### **July 12<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday. After getting on with [the] morning work, I go, by Dr. Billing's request, to Gettysburg.

The city evidently has had an existence [for many years] but it's houses are dying, with an ancient look and but for the various societies at work it would have no life. [It] has 8,000 inhabitants, (nearer 5,000), I guess. A college, [and] Female Seminary [are here]. On my ride I [see] the hospitals of other corps are near to us and the [Baltimore] Pike is full of goers & comers to [the] Hospitals. Soldiers too, [are] hobbling away to the Depot. [I] pass a column of secession wounded on their way to town, and what was very absurd in the scene, the poor fellows scarcely able to help them selves, with little exception, were guarded by nearly as many soldiers as their own number.

[I] call at Dr. [Henry] Janes, the Medical Director.

[I] go to Adams Express for ice, obtain some books at the Christian Commission and get some charpie at the Sanitary Commission.

The people of Baltimore are doing immensely. No other word will express their bestowal of gifts for the wounded. Their gifts come in large quantity, and are wisely selected. Not the least among the laborers is [the] Adams Express Co. The Sanitary Commission is a "big thing." They bring in large quantities. If anything is required, they turn it over in boxes full, if wished.

While other societies give in vexatious driblets, when as we have over 600 wounded to look for.

We obtained brandies, wines, jellies & c from the Sanitary Commission. Clothes too and bandages. Whatever the wounded need they have in quantity. We get from them mutton, eggs, chickens [and] butter.

Two gentlemen of the Christian Commission come & put their hands in and help when we need help so much. [We have] but (6) six surgeons to operate & dress the wounds of the men. These gentlemen, one is president of a Pennsylvania college, the other a college professor. It is the first time I have ever seen these agents dirty their fingers.

I take tea with & no I don't.

A severe rain, wait 'til it is over and ride horse.

While at [the] rooms of Adams Express, Miss Dix comes in. She looks even more severely complacent than I remember. She is told that in going to the train she had better go early, and, [there] being no seats in the railroad train she will have to sit on a coffin. How terribly calm she looks as though the situation was harsh to her, no, this I think from her to others.

Finally a chair is carried to [the] train for her.  
Dr. [Augustus M.] Clark, USV, is in charge of the [5<sup>th</sup>] Corps Hospital.

### **July 13<sup>th</sup>**

[It] rains, [I] work hard. Ramsey goes into town with some 130 wounded. I help Dr. Breakey put a limb in Smith's anterior splint. While we had the man uncovered a women's rights woman (perhaps) rushed up to the tent an[d] in an over confident tone, asks how are all the boys here, but her confidence is arrested speedily when she sees the man we are dressing. I laughed to see her stop so short, then she caps the whole by casting glances at a distance and finally sending him a fan. This man's wife is with him, she is evidently a Mexican woman. [She] is very smart, and attends him well.

The wife of Lieutenant [Mathew] Elder, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry, is with him. I think all the officers will marry when they see what a wife is at such a time. At least they should.  
It rained last night, heavily, so this morning I gave the men brandy & whiskey ([those] wounded).

### **July 14<sup>th</sup>**

Pleasant. Dress hard in Hospitals. Toward evening I ride out a little way. Blackberries & raspberries.  
Advise [Major Theophilus] Gaines to call his first boy after General Meade.

### **July 15<sup>th</sup>**

Send Wynn to town with [my] horse. [The] horse has [a] sore back. Police my camp, yet the leaves are damp & do not burn well.

Lieutenant [Thomas] Byrne goes to town to see Dr. Vollum.

Look after my own men & too, dress [others] in [the] hospital tents. Rain in the afternoon. Send [a] letter to Dr. Bugbee in the morning.

The days following have each the normal routine of work & rain.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Billings, who has been sick frequently, is ordered to Washington for treatment. [I] have two regiments to look after, [the] 2<sup>nd</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Dr. Whittingham gets poisoned by puss & I, [for] one day, dress his officers. [I] am assisting Dr. Ramsey in tents No. 2, 4, & 5.

### **July 18<sup>th</sup>**

As I get much of the work, I take of my own choice Dr. Ramsey's tents in my own hands.

[I] complete a letter in pencil to Belle while in the city as in the afternoon I ride into town.

Saw Mrs. Lieutenant [Malbone F.] Watson of the artillery [Battery I, 5<sup>th</sup> U.S.] in town looking for a room for her husband who has lost a limb. Arrive at home a little before dark.

Mrs. Dr. Reed is on a visit to see her husband. The first night she slept on a floor of a farm house.

Lieutenant [Michael C.] Boyce of the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry, has idiopathic Erysipelas of [his] left arm. [He] (has a muscular wound of [the] abdomen). I dress him today.

### **July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Dress Lieutenant Boyce. Also Elder & [2<sup>nd</sup>]. Lieutenant Amariah J.] Barber, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Dress then Colter's hereafter. [A] pleasant breeze [blows] today.

Yesterday, all the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade wounded & sick out of the Hospital tents were placed under my charge, except the 10<sup>th</sup>. In place of the 10<sup>th</sup>, I take the 14<sup>th</sup> of [the] 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade.

Today I move their various camps of the brigade on ground of my own selection. [I] have a double line of tents. My own tent & cook tent [are] at [the] left flank. I am very busy getting [the] ground policed, tents up, straw in them, [and] bringing in the wounded. By night [I] have the camp in quite ship-shape.

Reliefs & watches [are] all set. The Drum Corps have been very faithful, they certainly deserve much praise.

Lieutenant Boyce is very low. He will die from Hectic [Fever] through the great amount of suppuration from his arm.

Late in the evening, Ramsey comes around looking for a man who has stolen money. Ramsey is always busy. I think he never sleeps.

My left ankle is sore & troubling me much. I am afraid I have poisoned myself by my fingers in scratching it, it is very troublesome. [My] ankles [are] swollen and considerably inflamed. My tent is raised nearly or quite two feet from the ground. How the wind blows through and my bed is right on the ground. I have Major Lee's Mexican blanket which keeps me warm enough for these nights.

[I] think I hear a man in trouble. Get up and look around among the men.

### **July 21<sup>st</sup>**

Up early. Men are policing. We police [a] large ground [and] complete the covering of tents with a shade of brush.

Dr. Flandreau of the 146<sup>th</sup> New York brings on the table Old Smith, the original genuine razor strop, in and looks after a ball thought to be in his knee. [We] do not succeed in finding anything. [It] has struck the tibia.

My camp is really nice. I pride myself in it when I have it up entirely. I [will] sink a well near the spring below for the purpose of [finding] pure water.

### **July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

I am sorry the men suffer so from Pyemia. It is almost surely fatal and nearly all the ball wounds terminate in it, or in gangrene. A complete [apathy] reigns among the men to see their comrades in the tent carried out, but they are cheerful (many) an[d] full of hope too, but the wounded die so rapidly it seems like "eating & drinking and be merry today, for tomorrow we die".

### **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

### **July 24<sup>th</sup>**

Still sending men away 'til my brigade is quite small. I apply to Lieutenant Elder's stump a solution of muriatic acid.

In the afternoon, his leg bleeds. [I] called to him, I filled the pocket of [his] stump with tannin. He rapidly sinks.

Ramsey & I stay with him pretty continually 'til he died. During the evening his wife hangs over him, pressing her face to his, caresses, kisses & fondles him. But all her love cannot rouse him and a little before 2 a.m. he dies. Mrs. Elder says she had hope 'til just a minute ago.

While she is fondling him, dreading his death, she in her anguish breaks out, "and this is war." What a commentary. And this is war.

I have had a severe diarrhea for a day or two.



## July 26.

I.N. Baker, Lansing Michigan, with his daughter, Mrs. Elder, remove the remains of Lieutenant Elder to the city to have them embalmed in cider to take to their own home.

Lieutenant Barber, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry, has [his] brother-in-law with him, who goes to town. [He] gets drunk & does not return, leaving his brother to die by himself as he now will die.

Mrs. Norton & Mrs. Barnard of the Michigan Relief Association visit the Hospital, [and] send a woman to take care of Barber.

Rain toward evening. [I] partly complete a letter for Belle. I have had no letter from her since being at Frederick Md. - four weeks since. How dearly I should love to hear from her or only for one hour [to be] with her. Very, very much happiness it would bring. My precious Belle.

After tea [I] go down to the dispensary [and] find Dr. Clark & wife there. The Dr. has returned with her from New York. [He] came to the Hospital for tea and now the storm keeps coming & they must return in it.

The storm has driven clouds of flies to the under side of the tent fly. The puss around the Hospital causes a great many flies. They are almost a plague.

[It] rains when I go to bed. My diarrhea is still bad.

## July 27

My diarrhea is not the pleasantest thing for I am early & late with it. [I] write to Pa & Ma. I should like to be at home with all [of them] today, [to] lay on the front porch or in the old fashion of feet against the door post & elevated, or in the yards looking at the cattle, horses, [and] chickens. My bump of inhabitiveness is very large.

My Brigade Camp is broken up. All the wounded being transferred to the tents, and I am assigned in charge of tent[s] 9, 11, 13, 15, [and] 17.

[I am] busy at cleaning my camp. [I] have an excellent man (Stanton, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry) as chief [of the] police [detail]. He is very efficient.

## July 28<sup>th</sup>

I am trying the effects of porter & ale in my condition. The site of the hospital is changed. A new position will certainly be more healthy. [It] is warm.

[I] get through with dressings early.

Whittingham helps me put a thigh in Smith's anterior splint, at which he is an adept, having been a pupil of Nathan R. Smith, the inventor of the splint.

As my horse has a sore back, I borrow a horse from Dr. Flandreau of the 146<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers for the purpose of visiting the Battle ground.

The day is sultry. [I] start a little after noon. The clouds, which had shown possible rain, suddenly opened upon us a shower, yet the sun was shining brightly.

[As] the shower [was] continuing, we took refuge under a shed. When the rain had nearly ceased, [we] pushed on toward the field of the battle. I was surprised to find that our line of march from the right to the left on the day of the battle was so close to the line of battle, [it] being on the left scarcely 200 yards distant. Gettysburg cemetery [is] near the right center. Stony point.

Ascending the ridge to the occupation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, a high point presents [itself] covered with massive rocks. Behind these our troops had secreted themselves, [and] perchance slept in the crevices of the rocks.

The position is the most complete fortress I have ever seen. Impregnable. The front of the hill is almost precipitous while upon the very verge of the front as well as the whole top are immense

rocks. Along the edge of the descent, where the opening of the stones admit a view toward the enemy, we had erected stone walls as a breast work. Large bodies of infantry could lie behind these stones. Batteries also [were] thoroughly protected from direct fire.

Heavy batteries are erected here. Now this point (Stoney Point) is covered with timber beyond and to the front of our entire center. Terminating near [where] the city is, lies a large open plain. The left of this plain is flanked by our division. On Thursday evening we advance over a wing of this level only to fall back by being flanked on both sides and so terribly destroyed as to leave a regiment scarcely entire of them all. The men of the two armies struggled together, it is said. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Division of the 5<sup>th</sup> corps (ours), the Pennsylvania Reserves, General [Samuel W.] Crawford [commanding] at once occupied the ground we were leaving, and successfully, our artillery did terrible execution here. In one of the charges of the enemy on this point General Barksdale of Mississippi was shot. Afterward in his delirium he said, "It seems like death to lead my men against those rocks, but when General Lee orders, I obey. Forward!"

A peculiarity of the ridge held by our troops is that at numerous points along the line batteries will sweep nearly the entire front (much of it) and almost the entire plain. The right at the cemetery, the left at Stoney Point. Batteries here enfilade the entire plain.

Along this plain on Friday morning the charge was made by Longstreet's entire Corps, 45,000 men. It must have been a grand sight to have seen that army pressing [on] our center amid the hail of iron missiles that came from our line of batteries. Safely behind the rocks, our division witnessed it.

Shell & shot from the front of all that plain swept the confederate ranks. My God, how they must have melted in the storm. They had massed their troops bringing by columns in order to press the point columns on. Thus, in mass the front was pushed so far into our line as to make it preferable to throw down their arms & surrender rather than go back through that storm of death.

Standing on the plain in front of our lines one wonders at the boldness that threw them against our center. No forces in the world could have taken that [ridge] except [that] they had been as [numerous as] the leaves of the trees.

In our artillery consisted our strength in this battle. General Meade certainly showed brilliantly of execution in the placing of his artillery, and it was our artillery [that] gave us the victory.

I am glad to see that the President has ordered a day of thanksgiving & prayer in remembrance of our success & needs, for to the God of nations we owe our success. Let us humbly acknowledge it and invoke alway[s] his aid & presence with us as a people. I would rather have the Lord God on my side than the armies of England.

I pulled some blackberries on the field of battle. Riding around [I] observe well the trees much marked by bullets & heavy guns.

A great many graves cover the field. Let a nations gratitude hold them ever dear, [those] who fought in our cause.

Riding toward the city, [I] saw where our men had pieces of fence laid on the ground behind the ridge (low shelf).

Have tea, at tea, at the Eagle Hotel. In the cool of the evening, [I] ride home.

### **July 29<sup>th</sup>.**

At work very early to dress men to be sent to [the] General Hospital. Then breakfast. My men are first loaded. All my work, but 9 men, [are] now gone.

### **July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Rise at 5 a.m. Call my men for dressing, only [the] bad cases [are] now left in [the] ward.

### **July 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Dr. Flandreau leaves for his regiment. The 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry music boys who have been in the guard house for a number of days [are] sent to the provost marshal's to be transferred to their regiment.

### **July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

All the men [are] taken away in ambulances. Of mine, but one, who is removed toward evening on a stretcher. [They] are taken to [the] General Hospital at Gettysburg. (A camp Hospital just north of town.)

In the afternoon [I] go with Ramsey into town. [I] see [the] quartermaster about the sale of my horse. The day has been very close & warm. Riding back in the cool of the evening, it is pleasant. Supper, to bed late.

Every patient is now out of [the] wards of [the] hospital and all will soon be ready to rejoin the army, except Byrne.

### **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863.**

The morning air is very pleasant these warm days. [I] send a letter to Belle. I shall be glad when I reach her letters. [There is] nothing to do today except to have the camp stragglers collected and camp them near the Hospital.

[I] write [my] report of station to [the] Surgeon General.

Dr. Whittingham has one of his attacks this afternoon. Today is so close [stifling] as not to give a whiff of air. Hot sleeping. The mosquitoes here are quite perfect. [I] Write [a] letter for [my sister] Sarah.

Yesterday & this, is [our] first day of rest.

How dearly I should love a letter from Arabelle tonight.

### **Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

[The] day [is] very hot. [In the] afternoon [I] ride into Gettysburg [to] obtain Lieutenant Byrne's pass from the Medical Director. [I have] supper with Byrne at the hotel. He then livres. I ride back with him, leading my horse. [I] sent a letter to Belle, also [one] to Sarah.

### **Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Reveille at 4 a.m. Appel has breakfast ready shortly. During eating is Wynn is packing up.

Early [I] ride my horse into the city.

Wynn takes back my horse, he goes tomorrow with the horses, hospital knapsack, instruments & c. [He is] accompanying a wagon train (or ambulances) across by way of Frederick City.

Dinner at [the] Eagle Hotel.

At 1:30 p.m. [we] take the cars for Baltimore on the way to rejoin the army. A part of the way [we] ride in the box of the car. At Hanover Junction [we are] too late for the [connecting] train.

[We] supper here first. In time for a special train, on the way we ride in the cars with the men.

One musical genius sang to Dr. Brown, the embalmer, the song Dr. Brown. And then asks the Dr. to excuse him as it is an old favorite of his [at] home. The men sound the bugle calls of the halt, advance, & c. The citizens think it a load of wounded at Baltimore. [The] train stops in [the] outskirts of [the] city. Dr. Brown conducts us to the Fountain Hotel. [I] sleep sound.

**Aug 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Up pretty early, [I] make purchases in the city. Arrive at 2 p.m. In the market I invest in tomatoes. Rubber coat, \$11.00, Photographs, 1 Dozen.

At Pollock's, 155 Baltimore Street.

Yesterday it was pleasant as the evening came, sitting looking out in the moonlight from the side of the cars.

The scenery of the country is prettily diversified.

At Hanover Junction [there] was a woman going from Gettysburg who had been there to be permitted to nurse to [the] secession wounded which of course was not granted. Some of them did escape by being dressed up in citizen's clothes.

**Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>.**

The day is very warm. After my work is done I saunter down to the wharfs. [A] Schooner (vessel) [is] loaded evidently with melons [is] unloading. Every body [is] out of town now. Yet I can't but see that as many ladies & gentlemen promenade Baltimore street as always could well. Coming from camp to civilization makes me always to wish I might be with those I love. How much would I give were Belle here today. It is very pleasant to think of her. I know too, she is worthy of all the love I give her. To me she is very precious

**Aug 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Left Baltimore at 8 [O'clock]. At 10 a.m., arriving in Washington, [I] stop at [the] Elliot House. Draw pay for July from Major \_\_\_\_\_.

Colonel [Daniel H.] Rucker [a Quartermaster from Michigan] will not exchange my horse.

I obtain my usual pair of shoes from Jabez Jay Co. F & 11<sup>th</sup> streets north.

Ramsey arrives at evening. See Dr. Taylor acting Medical Inspector, Army of Potomac, in the morning.

**Aug 6<sup>th</sup>.**

The day is very warm.

This day is set apart by the President as a day of Thanksgiving & prayer by the President.

I attend services at Dr. Gurley's Church, where the President attends. (No[t] at the Foundry Church I [normally] attend)

Write to Belle. In the evening the Doctors all go to Canterbury Hall. I accompany them to the door then return by way of Gautier's and a plate of ice cream.

It is wearisome in the city with nothing to do.

**Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>**

[I] rise late, go down to [the] avenue with Breneman, then post Belle's letter at [the] Post Office.

[I] call on Lieutenant Morton & Crosby at the Kirkwood [House]. Then we go to Dr. Basil Morris' office.

The Dr. thinks I do not look well. I have gotten full of a poisonous atmosphere at Gettysburg and other things make my diarrhea very unpleasant. I think all spirits have a bad effect on me.

Thence we go to the Provost Marshall's, then to General Halleck's office. I obtain permission to prolong my stay in Washington, then call on Dr. Alvord.

[I] write to Belle. [It] is very warm today. [I see] Dr. Clark at Tea. In the evening [I] went to see Professor Anderson's slight of hand performances. Humbug.

Dr. Whittingham joins us. Since leaving him at Baltimore he has been seized with a partial paralysis.

My thoughts are with dear ones often. Good night, darling, I love you dearly. God, be near to us always.

### **Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

This day is excessively hot. With Clark & Breneman [I] go to [the] Surgeon General's office.

[We] do not see Dr. Hammond. Call on [Dr.] Brinton. Then on Dr. [Joseph Janvier] Woodward [13<sup>th</sup> N.Y.]. He has some very fine pathological plates. I then call on

Mrs. Dr. Alvord.

41 La. Avenue.

Call on the Dr. Visit the Commissioner's of Agriculture's room, [the] (Honorable Isaac Newton).

Obtain some specimens of flax cotton.

The commissioner gives me some raw Wild Flax.

Call on Mrs. Sears,

at 388 H St. Between 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>.

[I] write to Belle, she is very dear.

Obtained a pass from [the] Provost Marshall's office. Tonight is close. I demolished "home" tomatoes at dinner.

Purchase some fans to take down to the army.

### **Aug. 9 Sunday.**

At Dr. Gurley's Church in the morning with Chaplain Clark of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers. It is pleasant to be in sabbath School.

Breneman was well drunk last night. He hesitates, he says, whether to go to Grace Church or Church of Repentance. And being told of being drunk last night, [he] acknowledged he had fallen some.

[I] write to Belle as usual. In the evening, [I] go to [the] Foundry Church. The morning sermon was able. The evening sermon had some impressive grace in it. But the sermon was largely bombast.

Had [my] pass renewed at [the] Provost Marshall's. Found Breneman near [the] office, gloriously drunk.

### **Aug 10, 1863.**

[I] go to the army today, rise early, [and] write to Belle. I have written her every day since I have been in Washington. She is precious. Breakfast. Ramsey & I take a carriage for the boat to Alexandria. The wharves of Alexandria are barricaded. At 11 a.m. [we] are steaming in a very comfortable car toward the army. Before reaching Fairfax [Virginia we] hear a pistol shot near the train. We are now running through the guerilla country. [We] pass the plains of the Manassas Junction.

At Warrenton Junction [there] are large quantities of government stores. [We] continue [the] ride to Rappahannock Station, the terminus of the military railroad. With but little difficulty [we] find the brigade some (2) two miles from the station. The heat of the day is very great. I urged

Ramsey to rest a little but he said he should be in a great perspiration if he did so, and we pushed on. My eyes were a little unsteady before I reached camp. I got to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry [and] found the staff in one tent, received their welcome [and] took a glass of whiskey. [I] got permission to lie down and managed to get into Captain McKee's tent and fell on the bed with an attack of "sunstroke." I went off into fidgets [and] succeeded in getting the camp alarmed about me. [I] soon was better, however, and [more so on] the following morning.

### **August 11<sup>th</sup>.**

I only felt weak from my sickness. What a pile of letters from Belle, precious darling. Other letters [were] in abundance. Belle's letters are treasures to me. From the time I left Frederick City in Md. [in] June, I have had no word from her, and now all these messages await me. I am glad, and I do love you, darling.

Mess with [the] staff. Adolphus is using my tent, so I permit him still to do so & [I] tent with him.

Report to Dr. Baily, the Division Medical Director. He permits me a day or two for getting up my papers before going to duty. [It is] very warm.

### **Aug 12<sup>th</sup>**

Begin a letter for Belle. I am deep in the mystery of papers. (A letter from Belle. A precious one too.)

### **Aug 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Mrs. Dr. Adolphus arrives. Adolphus is unfortunate. He has had difficulty with Captain [William] Clinton, commanding the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and is sent away from their help.

### **Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 1863. Friday**

In bed at a late hour last night.

A little after midnight [I was] awakened and told that reveille will sound at 2 a.m. with orders to move. [I] got up at once [and] proceeded to pack up. As Adolphus had gone from [the] camp to keep his wife in a house, I had his traps to have packed. He has no one but me who would care to take any trouble to inform him of the move. Not knowing where he stays, I get out in search. When I find him (some 2 miles from camp) he is so much excited he cannot tell me what he wishes, [and] is inclined to abuse me. He & I could not get along together at all. Better apart, for I do not want to dislike him. My least of like for him is this, that he is a "jew".

He was at [the] Headquarters of [the] 1<sup>st</sup> Division who were not moving. I got an ambulance for him and got himself & wife off. I had his traps also put up for him.

I am ordered to take charge of the sick of the Division.

[I] find we are ordered to Alexandria, Virginia. Thence probably to New York City. [We] march to Bealton Station where we take the cars (5 or 6 miles from our old camp). Part of [the] 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade go first. [I] feed the sick with warm beef stock, [and] late in the afternoon the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade is on board. Not being able to obtain cars for the use of the sick, separate [from the others], I get them in as best I can & get near those most sick. [It is a] long train. The roofs of [the] cars are so loaded with troops that some of the timbers of [the] roof crack & break. It grows dark early. The road is a single track and the trains on the road are very numerous, only the finest management could run so many trains without accident. Yet we stop frequently. The amount of transportation to supply a large army is immense. [It] grows dark early. Toward

midnight [we] reach Alexandria. [I] turn the sick [who are] with me over to the Sanitary Commission, then ride down to [the] lower end of [the] city where is the regiment. [We] sleep 8 in a bed on a platform car with my rubber coat over me. Sleep well.

**Aug 15<sup>th</sup>. [Ed. Alexandria, Virginia]**

Breakfast at [a] restaurant. Today is very hot. Change bivouac to a little above the City Hotel, near the McVeigh House, now used as a Hospital, in [the] charge of Dr. [A. P.] Crafts. The Dr. is very polite to us. [He] gives us beds in the Hospital. Supper in a restaurant. [I] take cold sleeping in a bed.

As yet, but a part of [the] first Brigade has embarked. [I] have an attack from mosquitos, otherwise the night passes without an alarm.

**Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

Up early, breakfast at [the] Marshall House.

Go to Christ's Church [and] find a quiet place in the yard of [the] church to make my morning worship. This Church is the church that Washington attended. I sat in Washington's pew. This to me is one of the pleasantest incidents of the war, to worship in the spot in which Washington worshipped. [It is an] Episcopal Service.

The Bands play much today. Supper at [the] City Hotel.

At night [I] slept in the old Braddock House, now enclosed by the Mansion (Hotel) House. Here is where General Braddock met the Governors before going on his war. (The building is used as a Hospital now.) Slept with Adolphus. General Washington had his headquarters here. I began this day of events by breakfasting in the Marshall House where [Union] Colonel [Elmer] Ellsworth was shot.

My horse is in such condition I concluded not to sell him as I should get so little for him. [I] met Captain [A. H.] Freeman of [the] 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry.

Breakfast at [the] City Hotel. [I] lose [my] coat at breakfast. Dinner at [the] Hotel. Soon after dinner the general [alarm] sounds. The men shout, all [are] elated with the idea of going to New York. We embark on the Daniel Webster. Much time [is] occupied in loading. Finally the 11<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> regiments have to disembark, [there] not being room for them.

The me[n] are steamed with liquor and are insolent. The officers have trouble with them.

**Aug. 18, 1863.**

It is after daylight when we get under weigh, in the night the points of the compass have come around right to me. Washington is north of us, which with it's capitol, Georgetown & Alexandria Heights, makes a magnificent view.

Breakfast on [the] Boat. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry man hurt on [the] head in [a] drunken frolic (severely). [I] sit a long time viewing the river scenery on the upper deck. We strike a Schooner so squarely that she sinks almost immediately. A black on board rushes below (probably to secure [his manumission] papers), [it] appearing the boat is going [down]. It was a narrow escape for him. (Only a little of the boat appears.) [I] see Gun boats along the river. They keep up a continuous patrol of the river. [We are] stopped by one and an officer from her comes on board. The day is pleasant and warm.

The distance to Fortress Monroe from Washington is 180 miles. We do not get out of the Chesapeake 'til after midnight. Two tables are required to be set, and 'tis the man most able to look after himself who is at first table. Perhaps luck. I am lucky in this respect.

[I] am a little sick on the voyage but [in] the morning we enter New York harbor. [I] attack the codfish bravely.

We take the line outside of the coasters putting into the Chesapeake or Delaware bays, and running pretty well in the line of the West India trade. [We] are out of sight of land. To the east we see great numbers of vessels along the line of the coast. The 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry band plays a good deal. The petrels follow & fly around the vessel. Looking off into the track of the boat, the water is dark, fearfully so. One thinks it looks treacherous. Near the boat, as the bubbles of air burst in the water, the sea has a rich sky blue.

Pretty quiet sea on the voyage.

### **Aug 20, 1863.**

[We] are in sight of land early [and] are making New York Harbor (it is the Jersey coast). See Dolphins. While we near the harbor [we] have breakfast and then ascend [to] the floating deck for the purpose of seeing the run up the harbor. Some fine buildings along the line. We enter the \_\_\_\_\_. Fort \_\_\_\_\_ is on the left. Fort Hamilton [is] on the right. Immediately under this, and a water battery, is the Bastille of America, Fort Lafayette. Pushing up the bay the masts begin to appear at the wharfs. Bedloe's island at the left well into the harbor, then we round to at Governor's island.

[We] receive orders to land at New York. A French Man-of-War lies in [the] harbor. Ferry boats fly continually between New York & Brooklyn. First we pull up to near the Battery then after cruising around the harbor, up the river & down, we land at the foot of Canal street. ([I] saw near [the] battery, a boat of cotton unloading.) Captain McKee & I go around to our camp which is to be at [the] Corner of 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, by way of Broadway. Lunch at Taylor's. I sleep at [the] New York Hotel [and] take cold sleeping in a bed.

### **Aug 21<sup>st</sup>.**

The days are very hot. It is a long ride down to [the] City, especially down the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue cars. I cannot get any proper idea of the magnitude of the city.

Baltimore or Chicago I can understand, but this City I cannot comprehend.

### **Aug 23.**

With Lacey [I] go over to Brooklyn to see Lieutenant McLoughlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, who was wounded at Gettysburg. [We] cross [the] East river by way of [the] Fulton Ferry then up Myrtle Avenue to the intersection of Broadway.

Find McLoughlin doing well [then] come back by way of Roosevelt Ferry with Robinson of the 10<sup>th</sup> in his carriage, thence up through the Bowery & 5 points to the Metropolitan Hotel, through Houston Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (home).

### **Aug 25 [Sunday]**

[I] go to the Church near. In [the] afternoon [we] find no services.

I frequently go down into the city, this ride is so long it occupied a long time. [I] busy myself in bringing up my Diary.

One day [I] go [to] uncle Spear's residence [in] Brooklyn [and] find the grass grown up around the door, blinds closed. The family have not yet returned from the country, then go around by his



church [and] find the insides torn up for the purpose of repairs. [I] return, it has occupied a greater portion of a day.

With Captain [James W.] Long [I] ride over to see McLoughlin on horse back. The ride is interminable on the pavements. Afraid of [our] horse slipping, [we] have to ride slow. It is a frequent thing for horse[s] to slip on the pavement. Lieutenant Lacey was badly hurt in this way.

**Aug 2\_\_, 1863.**

With Lieutenant [Robert] Davis in town, at Tiffany's [I] get Belles opal ring.

**Aug 2\_\_, 1863**

Not finding at Tiffany's such a ring as I desire for our wedding ring, I order one made with the lettering thus - Fid AKB. "Fid" - fides - is confidence, trust.

Belle is very precious. I think I know much of the wealth of her affection, and my very soul loves her.

May God grant to be with us alway[s], making us alway[s] happy & prosperous. For Jesus sake, I pray it. My Father, I pray I may always make her happy, for she is worthy of such a life. One so pure and good and true is worthy [of] all happiness a life can bestow. My Belle. My precious, precious darling Belle. My very life loves you. My own Belle wife. Such a life as yours is worthy [of] all love.

**Aug 31, 1863.**

Go down town with Captain McKee. At Devlin's & Co. [I] purchase some clothes.

**Aug 29.**

My first letter from Belle direct, but [for the] one at Rappahannock Station, since being at Frederick, Maryland, in June. From that time to this I have been well on the move where letters did not reach. [A] letter from Sarah.

**Aug \_\_\_\_, 1863.**

Received from Major Pratt, Paymaster USA,  
63 Bleecker St., New York,  
pay for the months of June and August, 1863  
Amount for June = \$.  
" " August = \$.

I board at William Clark's,  
No 2. Corner 50<sup>th</sup> st. at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863. [Sunday]**

Am in the city for the purpose of having my surgical instruments exchanged. [I] am obliged to defer it 'til tomorrow. Meeting Colton, [we] go in to Stewart's [and] also to Goupil's paintings. [An] anatomical Museum, I visit.

A letter from Belle says Mrs. Knox & Lizzie [will] come into the city today. They are stopping at 237 Pearl St. Brooklyn

Dr. Spear's No. 28 Harrison St. Brooklyn.

Willie Spear is at,  
327 Broadway with  
Hyde, Coe & McCollum.  
September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

[I] obtain a Pocket case of Instruments at the Medical Directors, Dr. [Charles] McDougal.  
Surgeon Richard [Smith] Satterlee's  
George W. Wright  
Medical Storekeeper  
[466] Broome Street [New York, N.Y.]  
September 2, 1863.

At Tiffany's I obtain Belles wedding ring. It is an emblem very precious to me. May it be indeed, by God's blessing, an emblem of trust and love always between us. She is "very, very" precious to me and I pray I may always make her life happy. My Belle, I do love you fondly, always.

### **September 2**

I obtain [a] Pocket case of surgical instruments at the Medical Purveyors. Toward evening [I] ride with Lieutenant Lacey to Central Park. This is my second visit to the Park. It's scenery is very fine. The grounds are so far quite prettily arranged. [It] has some fine slopes. The city must have laid out great sums here. When it is complete, say 20 or 30 years hence, if the city is prosperous, the park will truly be grand.

### **September 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

[I] write to Belle. The day is warm. Toward evening [I] ride my horse for [the] first for [a] long time. [I] go down to [the] East river near Blackwell's Island (near [the] foot of 49<sup>th</sup> street.) [I] see what appears to be one of the "Slop Milk House[s]", [there is a] horrid odor around. [I] then ride down to Bellevue Hospital. (This is a great building). All along these river streets the houses seem thronged with people of the poorer class. Every window & nook is full. Swarms of children fill the streets, saucy & dirty as the very coters. I wonder if these are the "tenement Houses." Well they might be, at least they swarm like bee hives. [I] return by way of Madison Avenue.

Dr. Woodhull calls on me in the evening.

My trunk arrives from Washington, by Harnden's Express.

### **September 4<sup>th</sup>**

[I] ride my horse over to [the] North river. The distance from river to river at this point is perhaps no more than one & a half (1 ½) miles. The city here is not as old as along the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue by [the] East river. The houses do not swarm so with children. The avenue by [the] North river is 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, I think. The Gas works here at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street are large. A great Carpet factory is near. City cars run all along these various avenues.

Near us here at [the] Corner of 49<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue is Steinman's Piano Factory, covering an entire square.

The Catholic Church have begun (on the Corner of 50<sup>th</sup> St. & 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue) an immense Cathedral. As yet little more than the foundation is done, with an outlay of \$100,000 dollars.

### **September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

The nights are very cold, one wants plenty of covering, yet the day is very warm. [I] go down [to] the city along [the] North river near [the] foot of Chambers street, then to the Treasury. [I] have my checks cashed, [and] am home before dinner. Saturday afternoon there is music in the Park and all 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue [residents] turn out in carriages. Some of the carriages & horses are very fine. A little after the noon [hour] the drives for the Park begin and as this is the thoroughfare to it, the street is crowded. Toward [evening I] counted the carriages returning from [the] Park and also passing up [the] street, and in ten (10) minutes counted some 100 carriages & diverse wagons. And at this time [they] were not coming as rapidly as at some other times.

How Broadway is crowded, particularly near & below the Astor House. The sidewalk is absolutely packed with just [barely the] ability to move. And the street, [is] so crowded with carts, Express Wagons, Stages, Carriages, as to require dexterous driving to prevent being interlaced.

A mighty city is this. I am beginning to understand it better than at first. Behind the scenes, I conclude, ignorance is bliss.

My clothes arrive from Baltimore. [They] were by "Hopkins & Eichman", \_\_\_\_\_ Baltimore Street, corner of \_\_\_\_ Street, Baltimore, Maryland. The lot is cheap. The coat, remarkable so. My diarrhea is much better today.

I am going over to see Mrs. Knox & Lizzie, if [they are] in Brooklyn on Monday. [I] have a paper from Belle. My Belle. Father [Thomas J.] Mooney, a jolly Catholic Priest [of St. Bridget's Church on Avenue B and 8<sup>th</sup>], calls upon us.

### **Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Attended church at Christ's Church, corner 35<sup>th</sup> St. & 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. [A Protestant] Episcopal Service. They were to have communion but no invitation was extended to others. The "Te Deum" was very fine. I had hoped to attend Dr. [Gardiner] Spring's Church, corner of 37<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, but [the] house was not open. [I] exercise in reading the bible. I flatter [myself] that I were more holy. In [the] afternoon [I] read [the] life of Major Vandeleus. This is an exceedingly interesting life. It is the story of a Christian in the army.

The band play toward evening. As usual, a crowd [gathers] around and our chairs [are] occupied. I presume "upper tendom" churches mostly do not open 'til a little after this, while the wealthy are vassalizing the poor must go without religion.

I was quite lost at the Episcopal service & today I do not like the form. Too much time is occupied in getting up and setting down.

The day is quite warm. After returning from tea I place Belle's pictures all side by side. They are a pretty collection. Yet, I like best, the one of the fall of 1861 in which the hair is dressed back of the ears. She has a luxurious form. What a pure, true, precious girl she is. She is pure as the "lily." I do love her. "My Belle, my own." How much happiness there is in those words.

The time is approaching when I hope to be at home. I trust my leave will be approved, and then to be with her I love, and she all to me! How great the happiness.

Vouchsafe, O God of heaven and earth, to watch over her I love. Keep her as the apple of thine eye, and preserve her from all that might harm or grieve her. And, O Father, that she might be thine in the richness of thy spirit. I love her.

My Belle. I should like to see her tonight with her "little Sack" coat and her hair dressed as I love it. She is beautiful, my darling, and I do love her.

### **Monday September 7, 1863.**

In the morning [I] went over to Brooklyn to see Mrs. Knox & Lizzie at 237 Pearl Street. At Mrs. Crane's, Lizzie gave me a joyous welcome. Mrs. Knox was out. I had a great many questions to ask Lizzie about, somebody too that is very dear to me. I wish Lizzie were better. She is not near so well as last summer and evidently by her cough her lungs are far diseased. I dare not write here what I think of her prospect for recovery, but poor girl, I wish so much she were better. She was always one of my favorites, and she is a lovely girl. I wish for Arabelle's sake too, [that] she were better.

Mrs. Knox came in after a little. I met the young ladies of the family and at the dinner table [were] Mrs. Crane & Mrs. Crane's sister & her husband.

Zillah Crane from Red Hook was also there.

[I] wrote part of a letter to Belle.

### **September 8.**

[I] went early to Brooklyn to accompany Lizzie & Mrs. Knox to see the Great Eastern. Zillah Crane also accompanied us. As it was the passage day of the Steamship, we only caught a dissolving view of it.

[We] were not as much disappointed as a lady who was going with her and whose baggage was on board. There was no means for our getting out earlier as we could not go out by the boats of the passage office. I regretted the disappointment on the part of Lizzie. We continued the ride to Flushing, Long Island where Lizzie & I had dinner and were back just in time to catch the boat. A nice ride down. (Saw today the great "Iron plates" going on a vessel of war as we passed along the docks. The vessel was only partially plated [and] that gave us an excellent view.)

Returning, I called at Dr. Satterlee's, finally finding him at home. Also, [I] informed myself of Dr. Clark's "reputation".

Calling upon Dr. Clark in the evening, [I] told him Lizzie's condition and [of] Mrs. Knox's anxiety concerning her and requested a very careful examination of her.

I was much pleased with the Doctor.

He is an eminent man and a physician of very high standing in this city. I should have the highest confidence in him. He stands very high indeed, and more, is a practical man. He is professor of Pathology & Physiology in the 23<sup>rd</sup> street College of Physicians & Surgeons.

Dr. Alonzo Clark, No. 30. East 21<sup>st</sup> St.

### **September 9.**

Sent Wynn over to Brooklyn early.

Early [I] proceeded to State Street to take the boat to David's Island some 25 miles out in the Sound from the city. Having received orders last night to proceed there this morning to inspect some property for Dr. Simmons. The ride is a magnificent one. [I] passed Fort Schuyler. Having completed my inspection, [I] came over to land with Dr. Simmons in his row boat, thence by New Rochelle on the Harlem Road home where I arrived in the evening.

David's Island is now occupied by Rebel wounded & sick almost entirely or entirely so. It is the choice Hospital of the United States for at least the summer.

[I] returned by way of New Rochelle on the Harlem Railroad. [After] crossing the Sound from the island in Dr. Simmons row boat. New Rochelle is quite a pretty place. Residents from New York seem to have places here, [and] also at various points along the line, making the country very prettily dotted with residences.

### **September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Called on Mrs. Knox & Lizzie at 274 west 18<sup>th</sup> Street, New York at Arthur Cholwell's. They had gone out to see Dr. Alonzo Clark. Returning when Lizzie had rested some, we went down to Appleton's bookstore. Lizzie is pleased with the Album. Then we finally worked up to the "Gallery of Paintings." This visit well repaid us. One magnificent painting of Mount Vernon (it's social life), an emigrant scene by Moon light [we] admired much. Lizzie thought the paintings of flowers fine, but I think she particularly admired the Mount Vernon scene. We talked of Belle, how pleasant it would be to have her [here] with us, indeed, it would be happiness. Were Belle here it would be happy. Placing my hand on Lizzie's shoulder, I was surprised to discover her extreme emaciation.

At 3 p.m. [I] called and took Lizzie & Mrs. Knox out to Central Park. [We] called at [the] Arsenal for Mr. Elsifier. A fine drive. [We] visit the cave [and] Terrace Bridge. Lizzie has done a hard days work. [We] visit my camp on [the] way back. Send a letter to Belle. Make an application for [a] leave of absence.

### **September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1863**

Busied in packing trunks. In the afternoon [I] call on McLoughlin. He is doing finely. Then have tea at Mrs. Crane's with Mrs. Knox & Lizzie. Lizzie is looking finely in the last few days, nor is she wearied from her yesterdays hard work.

[I] left with her a book for Belle and a letter in [the] book in case I should not obtain my leave now.

Just as [I was] going away, Mrs. Knox asks me what Dr. Clark said about Lizzie.

I had, at the Dr's request (having previously told him I should do so) called on him to know Lizzies's condition. I had told him, however, I did not desire he should refrain [from] stating the case to Mrs. Knox for the purpose of stating it to me.

I asked him fully about Lizzie, but I can't talk of it here. Dear girl, I wish she were better. I told Mrs. Knox of the cavity in Lizzie's right lung (apex), the dullness in the left lung. I had intended deferring talking of Lizzie to Mrs. Knox 'til tomorrow. I tried to make it well for her. I wish Lizzie were better. My visits since she has been here have been my pleasantest days in New York. If Belle were here, it would be happy. Precious Belle.

Going up the avenue, what a noise of the omnibus collected at Bryant's Minstrels as the crowd is just coming out.

Arrive at camp at 10:30 in the evening. To my astonishment the camp was gone. My tent, traps, all.

Went over to Mr. Clark's [and] wrote a note to Lizzie saying how sorry I was. I am glad now I told Mrs. Knox of Lizzie's condition tonight. I told Lizzie to tell Belle how sorry I was.

It is hard to be ordered into the field without the opportunity of going home. Poor little Belle.

She will feel sad to have me go away now even though I am ordered away from New York and cannot have her with me when we are married. It would not so be hard if I could only go home [for] a little while. I feel sad to go. If I were out of the army I could go home. Belle darling, I am sad tonight not to come to you before going away again. I will come [as] soon as I can. I can't do without you and every day you become more precious to me. My Belle, My darling. How much I should love to write, "my wife".

I am sorry too, not to bid good bye to Lizzie as I would like to.

I learn the command have gone to [the] foot of Canal street to embark. Proceeding there [I] find they have not gone on board. They left camp, I believe, between 8 & 9 p.m.

I go down in the steamboat with [Lt.] Mills. Lunch. Very late [I] lie down on the seat of [the] cabin and get a little sleep.

### **September 12**

[I] have found things all right, except my new trunk which I obtain and leave with [the] nurses (late). City Express Co., Warren Street in [the] basement. To be forwarded by Adams Express Company to [my] Father at Niles.

### **September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

Leave my measure[ments] at Ackerman's, [a] military tailor, in case I should need it for future use. I am ordered to go with the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry and a detachment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. (Major [Jonathon W.] Gordon, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry.)

Delay nearly all day. Mrs. Knox leaves for up the river at 5 p.m. I ascend to [the] deck of a boat by [the] dock and watch to see if I can discover them pass.

[I] only see a scow going up towed by the steamboat "Rip Van Winkle." Can it be them?

I regret I could not have known this day was to be so entirely at my disposal. I might have had a nice visit at Brooklyn and kept my appointment with Mrs. Knox. This is normally the way in the army. We are never our own masters. I am almost, quite tired of army life. [I] begin a letter for Belle. In the morning I had written a letter to Belle and mailed it at the Astor House. [I] also [sent] a letter to my parents.

A Russian man-of-War fires a salute in the harbor. McLoughlin & wife come to the steamboat. Our orders [are] changed. [We] are to go by rail to Alexandria for the reason of our boat being unworthy to transport us.

[We] leave about 6 p.m. for Amboy. It is a beautiful prospect, steaming down New York Harbor. [The] band play "Dixie" as we push out.

About 10:30 p.m. [we] arrive at Amboy, N.J. [We] proceed immediately by rail to Camden [and] arrive at 2 a.m. Quite a little sleep by [the] way.

### **July 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**[Ed. Obviously, he meant September 13<sup>th</sup>.]**

Crossing [the] river to Philadelphia, the navy yard is on fire. A great many steam fire engines [are] at work.

Breakfast at the Soldiers relief Association.

[We] march up to Wilmington Depot. By Wilmington railroad to Baltimore early. These upper counties of Delaware are fine soil [and] evidently wealthy. Wilmington is a fine town. At Perryville [we] cross the Bay (or river) by running the train on a steamboat, and proceeding to Baltimore without change of cars.

[We] arrive at Baltimore at 2 p.m. [then] march through [the] city to Camden Street Depot. Have dinner at the Soldiers Relief rooms. Nice dinner. Mail the letter for Belle [which] I have been writing on the way and [another] to my parents.

Proceed direct to Washington. This part of the road is slow riding. [We] are delayed by trains running.

See men fed, then go up to [the] U.S. Hotel. It rains. To bed toward 12 o'clock.

### **September 14<sup>th</sup>.**

Have slept well. Breakfast at 8 o'clock, then down to [the] Regiment. Call at Dr. Alvord's offices [and] find [that] he is absent, on a leave.

Rosaniline blue.

Leave [the] city at 3 p.m. with orders to proceed to Alexandria. Getting sick men in [the] Hospitals, I am delayed all night in [the] city. Stop at [the] City Hotel. (Send Belle a paper.)

### **September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Go out to camp. Sick call. [The] 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry gets in. In the afternoon the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry get in, in [the] afternoon. [I] take my trunks over to Washington.

Send Belle \_\_\_\_\_.

### **September 15, 1863.**

Take my large box trunk & my leather hand trunk to Washington and leave it at the Ebbitt House, corner F & 14<sup>th</sup> streets. Leave them with [the] proprietor in store 'til I call for them, which I hope to do soon. Marked [them] with my name.

Meet Dr. [James T.] Ghiselin, USA going out to the army. Go to camp in [the] evening. [I] write a letter to Belle.

### **September 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Warm. A little rain still in camp. My diarrhea is unpleasant.

Lend to Dr. Colton \$5.00.

Rumors are circulating of our returning to New York. Bah! The army of the Potomac is our destination. Troops are seen coming in from the direction of the army on the railroad.

The day is warm. [I] get my trunk in order for a move. Belle's picture is very pretty. Send [a] letter to Belle of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Neglected to prepay it. I wonder, will she get it? Forth went and sent to the office for it. [I] could not regain it. It has probably been mailed from here.

My Hospital Steward has been absent since coming into [the] city. Returns tonight. I place him under arrest.

Send monthly return to [the] Quartermaster General for [the] month ending August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1863.

To My Parents

To my dear Parents,

I am ordered into the field again. I trust it will not be long before I shall see you. 'Til then remember my love as your dutiful son. I do not know what awaits me. I only know that God is good. I never was better taken care of than when God has taken care of me.

I pray I may trust entirely in him [?au].

I wish to write to you of Arabella Knox. We have been engaged a long time, and were soon to be married. I hope now soon to be at home but should it be God's will that I fall, take Arabella for your child. She is all to me. Love her as you would, do, love me, and give to her my share of the property. What you would give to me, give to her, for my sake.

Your Son,

Cyrus Bacon, Jr.

Camp near Alexandria, Virginia.

2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry

**September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

You will, in such case, find letters in my trunk for you and too, give Belle this book.  
Cyrus.

My large Box Trunk and my Leather hand Trunk are at the Ebbitt House, Corner of F & 14<sup>th</sup> streets, Washington D. C.

Private Peter Wynn of 2<sup>nd</sup> [the] Infantry will look after my baggage with regiment.

**Dated. September 16, 1863**

At camp near Alexandria, Virginia.

C. Bacon jr.

Asst. Surgeon USA.

My Fathers address is,

Hon. Cyrus Bacon

Edwardsburg,

Cass Co,

Michigan.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1863.** Alexandria, Virginia.

The day is very warm. Write for Belle.

Send Assistant Surgeon Joseph R. Smith my Carte-de-Visite at his request. Send duplicate of monthly return to [the] Quartermaster General.

Had obtained a pass for Washington but concluded not to use it.

No rumors yet definite of our march.

When we do march, I shall close this book, beginning another memorandum which I shall carry with me on the march steadily. Indeed I hope I may go home soon. It seems hard at such a time not to be one's own master. Were it only my own happiness I would not feel so anxious but I had hoped near this time to be with Belle and we be married. Now this time seems deferred. I would be happy to be with her today and make her happy. My Belle, "wife." She is very precious to me. I wish I could put away her sadness when she knows I am going away to the army again.

I want none but Belle to see this book (possess it), should I never return to my home. I am sad to go away now. My Belle darling, I do love you.

I hope I may soon come to you my "wife" all to me as my life is to you ever. God care for and love you darling is my earnest prayer. And may his hand and care go with me returning me safely to you and all I love.

I embrace you fondly today, dearest Belle.

Always yours, Cyrus.

[Ed. The Carte-de-Visite was a card with the giver's photograph on one side. The reverse side usually bore the photographers address. Some doubled as calling cards by bearing the name and address of the person pictured. It was common for soldiers to send to their families.]

**September 18.**

The morning is warm. Rains [come] later in [the] day. A heavy wind takes a fancy to draw the pins of the tent from the softened ground and tumbles the tent around my head. So I crawl out from the ruins, don my rubber coat, and proceed in the rain to put up the tent.



Send [a] letter to Belle. Take dinner at a private house near. Make an addition of one man to my Hospital detail. I am so unwell, I send for Adolphus for the purpose of talking of the advisability of my going into the field. He advises me not, most positively and thinks I should take a sick leave. I am satisfied my health will be endangered by going out in my present condition. [I] send Ray to Washington for medicines. Traps in my trunk [are] getting wet in the storm. I have quite a time in drying them.

Yesterday [I] visited Adolphus. He regrets so much that his wife is not a Christian. I wonder will I have any letters from loved ones before leaving here.

The Vermont Volunteers went out early this morning as an escort to a train for the Army of the Potomac. I suppose [it is] our turn as soon as we receive our Camp & Garrison Equipage. Which I believe we now wait for.

Release Hospital Steward Patterson from arrest.

Bo Boy brings us a cup of coffee at supper.

Am very unwell tonight.

### **September 19, 1863.**

Rain during the night. I am quite unwell. Make an application for a sick leave of absence. [A] leave of absence for the benefit of my health (on a certificate of my condition from Assistant Surgeon Adolphus USA).

Have my application approved at Regimental, Brigade and Division Head Quarters, then Adolphus carries my application to [the] Medical Director [Army of the Potomac, Robert Osborn] Abbott.

The day is very cold making one quite blue.

If I may obtain my leave, I wish to go home and keep entirely quiet for a while. [I will be] dieting carefully when I hope to be rid of this.

Without self praise I can say I have done, in the last year (since my connection with the Army of the Potomac,) more hard work than any other Medical officer in the Regular Division. First the winter campaign under Burnside, then [at] Chancellorsville remaining with our wounded after our army fell back. Seeing the last of our wounded away from the Confederate Hospitals. Just back in time for the spring & summer campaign, then the Battle of Gettysburg, remaining there some weeks 'til the Division Hospital was broken up. Back to the army just in time for the move of the Division to New York. Three weeks there then "presto," "change", and [back on] the field again.

It has been to me a campaign of work and a campaign of honors.

### **September 20.**

Send Ray over to Washington with my leave of absence to get Dr. Middleton to have the matter arranged for me as Adolphus could not remain long enough yesterday to complete it. The middle of the day is warm but the night is cold.

I had entirely forgotten it was Sunday while doing some of my morning business.

Last night it rained. The 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry was ordered out on an hour or two's notice to proceed to the army of Potomac as an escort to a Pontoon train. They had no trains so [they] left their property. It is said they are to return.

Dr. Middleton said I might as well have had a longer leave of absence.

I have read the bible some today. I wish I were a better Christian. It is one of [the] unpleasant facts of a soldiers life, a want of Christian communion.

I wish I were more earnest in my walk with the Lord. My Father in Heaven, grant me a more earnest Christian life. I would rather be a Christian than be ought else in the world.

Sergeant \_\_\_\_\_ and the three girls running away from New York City. He declares he did not marry one. Says she followed him when Captain Long brings him to account. The girl asserts it. Sister in distraction writes to Captain Long, saying it is too respectable a family to come to such disgrace and wishes to know that they are married.

### **September 21<sup>st</sup>.**

As Adolphus had not had time to take my paper entirely through, I sent Ray over yesterday but he did not get back. In the night came orders to break up camp and proceed to the army near the Rappahannock. (The whole Division of Regulars is to go.)

Reveille at 2 a.m. (I think at this hour.) [We are] to be at the Depot at 8 a.m.

As Ray had not returned, I wrote an application to go to [the] General Hospital and had this properly signed. [I] saw the command to the Depot, [and] had the sick placed in [the] Hospital by an order from General Slone's Medical Director. [I] then crossed to Washington [and] met Ray just returning. He had been necessarily delayed. [I] saw Dr. Alvord, [and] got a pair of shoes at Mr. Jay's. By this time I am pretty well worked for one day & [I] stop at the Ebbitt House where I, at night, repack and arrange my trunk.

and leave [my]

Trunk in Store at the Hotel

'til I return.

Ebbitt House

Corner F & 14<sup>th</sup> Streets

Washington D.C.

### **September 22, 1863.**

[I] act on my leave of absence for the first, this day.

Rise early. Leave Washington at 6:30 a.m. for home. Via Baltimore, [I] arrive at Harrisburg, [Pennsylvania] at 10:30 a.m.

[I am at] Pittsburgh at (1) one o'clock at night. (First at Altoona at 8:32 p.m. where [we] have supper.) The cars on the Pennsylvania Central road are a kind of sleeping cars, and very comfortable.

### **September 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

Cleveland at 9:30 a.m. Breakfast at Alliance, [Ohio where we] wait 'til 2 p.m. Arrive at Toledo at early evening. Supper [is] delayed 'til 9:30 p.m.

[The] sleeping car [is] full so I have to sit up. Reach Elkhart at near 4 o'clock.

### **September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

Elkhart at 4 p.m. [I] hire a carriage to take me home.

Home.

Home at about 9:30 a.m. Breakfast. This is nice, prepared by mother's and Eliza's hand.

Father does not know me 'til I speak. His eyesight has failed so greatly.

Mother and Father both seem [to be] growing old. They work hard. I wish they [were where they] did not have to work so.

Mother does not look at all well. I should like to see Mother & Father both quietly settled away from the farm.

**Home September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1863** - continued.

Almost an entire change since last being at home. James is married and living away. (It seems as though I should see him here)

Stephen is away at School at Olivet [College in Michigan].

Sarah is the only one [left] (and she is gone to visit the State fair at Kalamazoo). The new house is quite an improvement.

How pleasant it is to be at home. In the afternoon Jennie comes over to visit me. Home is the pleasantest place in the world. I am tired of the army and wish I could have a home of my own. I am weary tonight.

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

[I] go to Niles with Father.

Surprise Arabella. I guess I am glad to see her. She is a dear precious girl and I do love her fondly. [I] go no further today.

**September 26<sup>th</sup>.**

At Mr. Knox's. Call at David's and at Mrs. Griffins. Have a sleep in the afternoon.

These days with Belle are pleasant.

**September 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Cholwell takes me home. Warm. All at Church but Mother & Eliza.

James & Jennie come over in the afternoon. Oscar Diefenbacher comes.

**September 28<sup>th</sup>.**

[I] ride with James to Andrew Starr's. Write to Stephen.

[The] day is very warm.

**September 29, 1863.**

The day is very warm, [I] arrange my trunk, [and] call at James & Sam Starr's.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Go to see Dr. Bugbee. Lizzie, Zillah & Nellie Paine drive up. Andrew & Emily Starr come over in the afternoon. These days are very similar to the "dog days".

Lizzie remains to go with me tomorrow.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

[It] rains during the night. [It] is so wet this morning [I] cannot take Lizzie home, perhaps it will be better this afternoon. [It] does not rain later, and after dinner [I] take Lizzie down. Remain at Mr. Knox's during [the] night. These evenings are pleasant to us.

I pray I may make Belle's Life always happy. She possesses the highest moral principle and is worthy [of] all my life can bestow. My very Soul loves her and I know I shall be well rewarded in her love.

My Father in Heaven, I pray thou will richly bestow upon us all thy blessings. Assist me to make her life bright and happy and make her life an honor and happiness to mine. I acknowledge, O Lord, thy hand in all things. Oh make thy goodness and blessings richly to be upon us.

**Oct. 2 [Friday]**

[I] call at uncle Nathaniel's in the forenoon, after saying a pleasant good bye to Belle. I wish Lizzie were better.

Mrs. Knox talked to me about her in the morning. She does not believe I tell her candidly of Lizzie's condition. I am sorry in it, yet how can I? It would be a pleasure to know her case [was] more hopeful.

At uncle's the children bring in an apple which weighs 26 ounces. Dinner at David's. Give [?Dean] a large piece of Gum Opium I obtained from the Confederate supplies while attending our wounded after the battle of Chancellorsville.

Go out to the Fairground in [the] afternoon with Lydia & David. Meet Belle there with Lizzie. At the Fair is a very good exhibition of fruit & vegetables. Principally, the exhibition is of human beings. Some very passable "lady equestrians".

[I] say goodbye and drive home, yet Belle & Lizzie reach home before me. Get home about dark or a little earlier. Cold night.

**Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

[It] rains, [and] is cold. In the forenoon, Sarah, [my] cousin Arlouin Starr, and myself went over to James's for the afternoon visit. Toward evening Mother & Father come over and we have a family supper. Oscar Diefenbacker is there. [It] is very cold. We ride home with David Fleming.

**Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Go to the old Church at Edwardsburg. Mr. Taylor has left and a Mr. Ottoman is now settled as pastor. His sermon is a very good one. It is the Communion Sabbath. It has been long since I have before united in communion with this church. Since then I feel that God has truly been with me where I have been and [has] been my God watching over me amid danger [to] unconditionally care for and blessed me. It is a precious season of communion. I am enabled to consecrate myself anew to God. May He help me to keep myself pure and without blame before him always. I pray earnestly as I go out again from home that God will go with me where I go and be my God. That he will keep and bless me in his watchful care and then I know that it shall be well with me.

James comes to our house [with] Jennie. Find David & Lydia there. During the day all are at home again.

So bad a night, [that] David does not go home.

**Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 1863.**

The day is better than yesterday. David goes home. This is my last day at home. I go to David's to remain overnight and tomorrow.

James takes me down to Niles today.

On Fathers Note I have on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September drawn the sum of \$200.00.

For note referred to, see 11<sup>th</sup>, 1862. (See September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1862).

[Ed. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Dr. Cyrus Bacon and Miss Arabella, eldest daughter of Mr. Abraham P. Knox of Niles were married. The Niles Republican for the following week printed an announcement indicating it was at the home of the brides father and performed by the Reverend John Boon. He seems a little wistful about it being “his last day at home.”

The same edition also listed the prize winners for that years Berrien County Agricultural Society fair. Uncle Nathaniel Bacon won the award for “Best pair of Bantams” and earned a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award in the “Best Sow” category. His new father-in-law was honored for his French Merino Ewes. His cousin Samuel B. Spear earned the prize for the best pair of trotting horses. Other prizes were given for ornamental needle work, the best ambrotypes and the best photographs. The 26 ounce apple did not appear on the list of prizes.

Ten days later, October 16<sup>th</sup> he was back in Washington D.C. and filed a letter with the Surgeon General requesting a transfer to hospital duty due to impaired health. He enclosed a certificate of disability by Surgeon Basel Morris, U.S. Army.]