

(Copy)  
(near Lewisburg, Greenbrier Co. [County], Va)  
10 o'clock [sic, o'clock], Tuesday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1861

My dear Mother:

Doubtless you would be considerably surprised if you could see me now sitting here in this comfortable room with a nice, warm fire. Now you would want to know what I am doing here, don't you? Well, I will tell you: The gentleman who owned the place is named Alexander. He is an uncle of one of the young men in our company who went this year to the University & with whom I have been messing, by the name of Larew. This old gentleman came over to camp & brought a supply of good things for the "boys". I was unwell at the time & as soon as he saw me he said I must not stay there, but must come home with him. So the next evening we started off together in his spring wagon & got here about 9 o'clock the same night, which was Thursday last. I was affected with a bad cold & cough, sore throat & diarrhea. My mouth too pained me a good deal with soreness inside, which changed the taste of everything I ate. The next day the Doctor came to see me & said he thought the symptoms indicated measles, which has been raging in camp ever since I came out here. The next day (Saturday) the appearances evidently favored measles. As soon as these symptoms appeared I began to get better & now feel pretty sharp. The Dr. came again on Sunday & was satisfied. He told me I must not return to camp for several days -- until I had entirely recovered. I hope to be able to get off, however, by the beginning of next week. I am treated with exceeding kindness. The place is just two miles north of Lewisburg, & but a short distance from the turnpike which leads there. It is a very plain farm-house, two stories high; the people plain country people but kind-hearted. I was exceedingly fortunate in coming with this gentleman, for to have the measles in camp would not be exactly pleasant or safe. I still get no letters. The only one I have ever yet gotten was the short epistle written by Pa from Lexington to Charleston, which I received at Greenbrier White Sulphur. Gen'l [General] Floyd commands here now. He has gone on with his force, expecting to meet the enemy some 45 miles the other side of Lewisburg. Gen'l [General] Wise's force, also, for the most part, has followed. The latter is pretty well equipped now. Several prisoners have lately been taken from the enemy & mailboys captured. It is reported that Gen'l [General] Lee has driven them back to Clarksburg & is about to surround them. I don't expect this is true. I am going to stay here quietly until I get well enough to go back to camp. Direct your next letter to Lewisburg care of Wm. [William] Alexander. Some time in September or October, I am going to get a furlough & come home for a week or so. Write immediately. I am as ever your devoted son, Eugene.

If Pa comes tell him to try & get an oil cloth overcoat for me.

Thursday morning. I have not had an opportunity of sending my letter off before. I expect to remain until the first of next week. Write as I directed. You will have some difficulty in reading this. I rode in this morning & I am now writing at the PO in Lewisburg.

Eugene