

Camp Defiance. Tuesday. A.M., Oct.15

1861 -

My dear Father,

The two Dispatches and the accompanying notes were handed me late yesterday evening. One paper bore the date of Oct 12th (Sat.) [Saturday] the other 10<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). On Saturday last I went up to headquarters, where I met and conversed with Col [Colonel] Davis. I told him, how long I had been drilling, -- that there was a vacant 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenancy in this company, -- & that, thinking my services were worthy of a Lieutenancy, and I qualified for it, I would like him to assist me in getting the position. He told me to get the approval of the Col [Colonel] & Cap't [Captain] & he would make application for me. The Col [Colonel] approved of the appointment but Cap't [Captain] said that, as there had been no election for the office he would prefer in justice to the company and candidates, to hold the election on yesterday. Accordingly, about 11 AM yesterday morning the company was marched out into the road and in the presence of Major Brown the election was held. There were 4 candidates, Larew, Curran, Shields (Serg't [Sergeant] Major and formerly Orderly of this company) & myself. The vote stood as follows: L, 17. C, 4. S, 21. I, 2. Larew said the election was unfair because several were absent on picket who would have voted for him. Major Brown pronounced Shields legally elected by majority of those present. The Sergeant Majorship is thus left open and yesterday I spoke to Col [Colonel] Swank about getting it. He said he would "see about it". The pay is moderate, \$21 a month, and it is a noncommissioned office of the Staff. I was very undecided about accepting it, but determined to do so, merely so as to be in some occupation that would pay until Gen'l [General] Wise resumes the command when I will apply with Col [Colonel] Davis' recommendation and assistance for a Lieutenancy, and if I do not get this then, "Ho! For the East". We will soon go into winter quarters or more Eastward, I hope the latter. I have been thinking seriously about trying for some position in the Militia at Winchester. If I could get an adjutancy in one of the regiments stationed there it would pay well (\$90 per month) and my experience would be of great service. ~~Couldn't you~~ [sic, crossed out] What do you think of it? I hardly know what to do. My mind is perplexed and has a thousand plans continually filling through it. Give me your advice in your reply to this, which I shall look for anxiously & immediately. Write more at length on this subj't [subject]; heretofore you have merely touched upon it. I write you notes frequently and yet you complain of not receiving them. As for the clothes, I have written about them several times. I do need shirts very badly, as also drawers, yarn socks & my overcoat which I would like to have sent on from Staunton by the 1<sup>st</sup> opportunity, as it is getting very cold on the mountain. The shirts and drawers I should prefer to be of grey flannel. At Mr. Alexander, I left some white shirts and socks. Send them. I wish we could be together so as to have a consultation & then I could decide what course to pursue. I should prefer if possible to get the Adj. [adjutancy] in the Militia. All of Gen'l [General] Loring's command has left except 2 Va reg'ts [regiments] 42<sup>nd</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup>. The Wise Legion and Artillery and these two reg'ts [regiments] are all that remain. Gen'l [General] Lee is still here. I will send this in by this 1<sup>st</sup> opportunity.

Wednesday 12 P.M. Oct 16. Capt [Captain] Brown whom you remember to have seen often in Charlestown, and who lived for a long time with Mr. Willis, his uncle, has just been to see me. He says he has a company at York River. I suppose official business brings him here as I saw him conversing with Gen'l [General] Lee. He staid [sic, stayed] but a few moments, saying he had to return. I forgot entirely to send this note to L. by him until after he left. I sat down this morning and had a serious deliberation

'cum meipso'. The result of which was that I wrote an application to Col. [Colonel] Swank for the Serg't [Sergeant] Majorship and expect to get it. I drilled the company for a long time this morning. Write soon in reply -- Eugene ---