

White Sulphur Springs  
August 11<sup>th</sup> Monday 1861

Dearest Mother-

We are still here though it appears from all that is transpiring that we will remain but a short time longer. We have been here now a week and a day. The place is a beautiful one, perfectly adapted to pleasure & shade-seekers. The buildings are numerous. The large hotel in the reception room of which I am now writing is a very large and fine looking edifice built of brick. There is a main building and two wings, altogether, I should think 250 feet in length. It is exceedingly cool and pleasant. The reception room is a large one with beautiful painted engravings hanging around the wall of the same style & very similar to those in Uncle William's dining room and passage. On the floor is an oil cloth. A few chairs and a sofa complete the furniture except the table on which I write. And yet, it is an exceedingly agreeable place to occupy. I often come up in the heat of the day merely to get cool. The dining room is 150 feet long, as is also the ball-room [sic, ballroom]. I took dinner one day last week here. There was but little preparation and we fared but indifferently. They charged me 75 cents, which I think was a reduction from their usual charge. In this dining room there are a number of little tables, suitable for families or friends. About 60 or 70 yards in front and rear of the hotel are rows of cottages, some of which are most beautiful, others second-hand. There is a perfect woods of trees over the whole lawn. We have here now 4 regiments commanded by Col. [Colonel] Tompkins formerly of USA.; Lieut Col [Lieutenant Colonel] McCausland, lately assistant Commandant of Cadets at Va M.I. [Virginia Military Institute]; Lieutenant Col. [Colonel] Anderson who figured with Walker in Nicaragua; and who commands our regiment; and Lieut Col [Lieutenant Colonel] Richardson Jr. of Richmond. There are a few Army officers here but for the most part they are ignorant men with no experience. Wise himself is not qualified to command a body of men. He does not know how to provide for his men is hasty and passionate. He frequently curses his officers and reprimands them most severely for imaginable offenses, which he thinks they have committed, or which have been committed through his own fault. Thus he becomes unpopular, and everyone is convinced he is not the man to command in such an important position as this. Gen'l [General] Lee is arranging matters in the North West and I am in hopes he will pay us a visit soon. A man (2) came into our camp yesterday, a member of the Greenbrier Cavalry, who are in service in that neighborhood, and he reports our forces at 15-20000 men. He says they are at Monterey, some 7 or 8 miles from the enemy. A fight is anticipated very soon. The Adjutant of our regiment [sic, crossed out] said the other day that Gen'l [General] Wise told him we would soon start back to Charleston, as soon as the regiments were organized and equipped. I hope it may not be so. I think the Kanawha Valley is the meanest country I ever had the (dis)pleasure to be in. There is a very great scarcity of water there, and what there is is scarcely fit to drink. Besides, the people hate us and won't furnish you anything for less than double prices, unless you press it. Gen'l [General] Floyd's Brigade passed by here the other day on the way to Lewisburg. They have about 1800 infantry and 250 cavalry. They are now near Lewisburg. I have had four colored shirts made since I came here of check calico. The stuff is going to fade though, I can see. I was charged only a dollar for the making of them all, being as I was a soldier. In the words of the immortalized --- (I forget his name (never heard it)); "Who would not be a soldier?" He should have parenthesized -- "If he could not help it." My company drills pretty well now. I have nearly finished with them. I have written to you since I came here - and wrote 2 or 3 times before but have not received a word in reply except a short letter from Pa at Lexington, dated

July ---, and directed to Charleston, which the Capt [Captain] handed to me the other day saying he had gotten it from the P.O. I enquire every day, but haven't yet succeeded in getting anything. If you have followed the advice I gave you in my letter the day after I arrived I ought to have rec'd [received] a letter before this. I have not rec'd [received] any pay yet but expect to have some sometime soon, as the Inspector or Paymaster or someone came around the other day and inquired how long I had been drilling the company. None of the troops have yet been payed [sic, paid] off since they entered the Legion. Yesterday the General inspected our regiment and Col [Colonel] Tompkins and had a list taken of all the guns, clothes, tents & that the men wanted. In one company from Roane or Nicholas, had a large number of its men barefooted. Our company is armed with the common Mountain Rifle. I think I will become a candidate for the Lieutenancy. I would advise Pa by all means not to come out with the intention of joining the Army, and accompanying it in the long marches we make. The exposure, unpleasantness, & expense attending it would be very great. In the long marches it is difficult to get conveyance and a long walk of a hundred miles would be too much for him. I don't know in what way he could be of any service to General Wise in sketching. Perhaps -- I am almost sure, if you would offer your services to him, voluntarily, as a Physician or Surgeon, they would be accepted. They have here very young inexperienced physicians, who are not qualified to perform the necessary surgical operations. We have now our own Lieut-Col [Lieutenant Colonel] Major and Adjutant, -- the two last were in the USA. The Major (Lawson) is a very nice gentleman; strict & understands his duty thoroughly. We have had better organization in camp since he came than ever before. We have 10 companies in the regiment, one from Miss, another from Richmond, a third from Halifax. The Eastern Va companies are decidedly the best. The men are not as large as those in the West, but they have a quiet firmness about them, which will go farther than the noisy talk of your western men. There is a company here also from the University called "Univ: Volunteers," which is a very fine company. There are several Cadets here drilling companies. They have, as I, gotten no pay yet. I am sorry I did not bring my trunk along with me. I must now draw my letter to a close. I wish I could [writing continues on sides of page 8] see Meg. Give my love to her, and a kiss. Please excuse my mico envelope. I put it in my haversack and it got greasy. [writing continues on top of page 1] Yesterday morning we had a sermon under a sugar tree in camp by Lieut [Lieutenant] Field, a Method. [Methodist] minister. The inspection prevented us from hearing Mr. Brown, a Pres. [Presbyterian] Minister and private in our company. Goodbye. If you write some after getting this letter, direct to Lewisburg.

[continued on side of page 1] Your devoted Son, Eugene.