

Charlesto(w?)n]sic, Charlestown] - Kanawha County Va
Wednesday. 6 P.M. July 10th 1861

My dear 'Mammy', Though I wrote at Lewisburg on Sunday, it not withstanding letters are so high, I am again seated at the table to tell you of the great & almost unexpected success with which I have met. We started from Lewisburg at 7 ½ [7:30] AM on Monday. There were in the stage with me, Col. [Colonel] Farish of Appomattox, Col. [Colonel] McDermott, both aids of Govr. [Governor] now Genl. [General] Wise, Major Parkes of this place a member of the convention and elected in place of Judge Sommers who resigned (The Major was the Secession candidate and had no opponent) Capt [Captain] F. P. Turner of Jackson Co. which adjoins this, (no relation I believe of ours), likewise, a member of Convention, Dr. Fuqua, a perfect gentleman, with whom I became ~~perfectly~~ [sic, crossed out] well acquainted and like him very much, and a beautiful young lady, who accompanied us only about 25 miles. She told me (I had the pleasure of escorting her up a mountain over which we all preferred to walk) ~~and she told me~~ [sic, crossed out] she had been to Staunton two years ago & knew Miss Annie Beall. From ~~Howard~~ [sic, crossed out] Lewisburg to Charleston is 100 miles, and it is an exceedingly unpleasant trip. We arrived here last night or rather this morning at 2 o'clock. The scenery from Lewisburg here is beyond description. The Aleghany [sic, Allegheny] and its branches meet the eye everywhere. We crossed over several of these ridges, two of which, Big Sewell and Little Sewell were immense, overlooking the whole country for miles. I think, in this ride, I saw more beautiful scenery, than ever before in my life. I wish I was able to describe it, but must confess that even if language was adequate, I am not. I must mention however one place that reminded me of the rock opposite Shannondale. It is about 30 miles from here. We got out of the stage, and walked a short distance, when, having turned a rock, one of the most sublime spectacles "The Hawks nest" I ever witnessed was presented to my eyes. We were standing on the edge of a rock, overlooking the Kanawha river, 1300 feet high. There were mountains on all sides, and we could see them far away in the distance, disappearing, as it were in folds. I shall always remember the ride as one of the most novel and picturesque, I ever enjoyed. This morning I went to the Gen'l's [General's] Headquarters, but found that he had gone out to a camp about 2 miles from town. This evening after dinner, I went again. There were several there and I was detained for some time. Mr. Lucas (Dan) who is clerk, introduced me to the Gen'l [General], and as soon as I showed the latter my recommendations he immediately told me, he would gladly receive my services. He told me to come up tomorrow morning, and Cap't [Captain] Harvey would give me an order to drill Cap't [Captain] Taylor's company at "2 miles camp," (2 miles out of town). I sat talking to the Gen'l [General] for some time, told him I had several times been near seeing him at my Grandma's. He asked me then whether Mrs. Turner was my Grandma, and seemed more pleased yet to find she was. He says he has 2800 men though it will be better not to say much about this. There was a fight a day or two since between the Richmond Blues, Cap't [Captain] O.J Wise (son of the Gen'l [General]) and a portion of a ranger company, and a detachment from the Indiana and Ohio regiments. There were 115 of the former, and about 150 of the latter. It took at Ripley about 40 miles from here. Though the enemy were on a hill. They ran, and we captured 17 killed 7. Most of the companies here are armed with the Mountain Rifle, and they certainly know how to use it. Many are armed with the flint lock musket. The Richmond Blues is the only company here armed with the Minnie musket. The men are large strong~~ht~~ [sic, crossed out, strong] hearty men, accustomed to labor, hunting, and the mountains. Govr. [Governor] Floyd is coming on

soon with 3 regiments. In a month I suspect there will be 10 or 12000 men here which is all they need. We will then take a trip to Ohio, and retaliate a little for the way they have treated us. Scouting parties of the enemy are prowling around the neighborhood continually plundering, and making the people take the oath of allegiance to the "New Virginia." Charlestown is right on the bank of the Kanawha, and from where I now sit I can see the river plainly about 60 yards distant. I think it a pretty place; almost the size of Charlestown. On the other side of the river are high bluffs--like those on the Missouri. I met with a young fellow in the Richmond Blues by the name of Burr, with whom I went to school this session at the E.H.S. [Episcopal High School]. He is only 16.

I had a holster made to my pistol yesterday, and bought a bowie knife. If I had a good minnie musket I would be pretty well armed. Direct your letters to Charleston and I will get them. The Breakfast Bell has rung and I must feed. Good bye. Kiss Meggie for me and believe me to be your loving son.

Eugene Cordell

From Charleston
Kanawha Co [County]

Inly -

1861

From E.F.C.