

Camp "Meadow Bluff." Sunday Nov 10<sup>th</sup>/61 [1861]

My dear Parents,

Last night's mail brought me your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. It was sealed so securely that I had great difficulty in opening it, & finally only succeeded by tearing up a good deal of the reading matter. You could avoid this by pasting together only parts having no writing on them. I suppose there are no envelopes for sale as Ma mentioned a few weeks ago in one of her letters, that they were very scarce. It seems strange that there are not enough of these manufactured in Richmond, to supply the whole country, when they are so easy to make. The "Dispatch" comes very irregularly. The one of the 8<sup>th</sup> came by mail last night, the day after it was printed. I also rec'd [received] those of 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> but none others since the latter part of Oct. [October] The mail is very carelessly attended to. I wrote you a letter last Monday or Tuesday, which I hope was received. I have been on the sick list for several days past, and unable to attend my usual duties. I had and have yet a very bad Diarrhea, a disease which seems to be very prevalent among the soldiers, owing to the food or perhaps water, which is generally half-filled with mud. This morning however I reported for duty. Adjutant Pierce who has been sick and staying in the country for several days past, has returned and resumed his duties. Our cabins are progressing slowly, none yet entirely finished. The Artillery have almost entirely finished theirs. An order has been issued I understand for all three reg'ts [regiments] to build winter-quarters but our's seems to be the only one, that has yet commenced it. The paper says that a dispatch had been rec'd [received] in Washington, from Gen'l [General] Rosencranz, announcing that he had commenced an advance. He won't go far, I think. There is no news from Gen'l [General] Floyd, in fact the Dispatch gives us all the news that we get from that quarter. I have not yet rec'd [received] the Tactics or Regulations, nor the shirts, drawers. &c. [ & etc.] I will enquire something about Cap't [Captain] Williams. I have not much faith in the report about Rosencranz, or the 5,000 either. I have not yet become acquainted with Mr. Smith. His son is here, and I meet him frequently. He suffers a good deal from a "spinal" hurt received at Manassas, and said yesterday that he would return home in a short time on acc't [account] of it. A heavy rain yesterday almost flooded our tent. We had to pile everything up in the center and cover them with our oilcloths. We fortunately had our bed raised on some sapling poles and prevented the water from wetting it materially. I have been using some of the white sugar you left me to make toddy for my disorder.

I saw your friend Col. [Colonel] Barksdale this morning. There was preaching in camp this morning by a Baptist Minister. I had some duties to perform appertaining to my office, and so was prevented from hearing the whole sermon as I wished. How much I would like to spend this quiet Sabbath evening with you. You are now sitting by a nice warm wood fire, Meggie is chatting to you and Pa. If I could only be present! Nevertheless, however much discomfort, or pain I suffer now, I shall hereafter look back upon it with pleasures as having done so much for our country. I am in hopes that the destruction of the Yankee Armada will end the War. It certainly can't last many months longer. The Yankees are very much dissatisfied, and most of them willing to stop the war now, as they see there is nothing to be gained by it -- I will send this letter off Day after tomorrow, at 6 AM. as the mails leave then. I need an overcoat very badly. Pa left me his old one for the present and promised to send on mine from Staunton after having a cape made for it. I have 2 pair of yarn (thick) socks, but one pair woolen drawers. 1 woolen undershirt, one col'd [collared] and one white shirt. Pa says he will send me

on from Staunton another pair of drawers, & from Lewisburg another undershirt. Some grey flannel shirts would be most acceptable but nothing of the kind can be purchased in L. [Lewisburg] Pa also took my measure for a pair of pants to be made in L. [Lewisburg] out of blue "jeans" the only thing to be got in this country. I expect to enjoy myself exceedingly when I visit home. On Wed. evening Pa came into camp and I got a pair from Col [Colonel] I. Lucius Davis for both of us, and we proceeded to Mr. Nathans Hanna's about 2 ½ miles off, where I spent the night, returning Thursday evening. I enjoyed the food and bed exceedingly. They invited me to come down again. Pa returned with me, but bid me a final farewell after seeing and conversing with Col. [Colonel] Davis. He will return home by way of Staunton. I was sorry to learn that Gen'l [General] Fauntleroy had resigned and retired to private life at such a time as this. I have not been inside of an Episcopal Church since I left Lexington, There was one in Charleston but it was closed. The people here are nearly all Presbyterians and some are very bigoted. I wish I had a good stout blanket. The one I have is a thin one. I hardly know what we will do for bedding this winter, if we go into winter quarters here. We will suffer greatly, I suspect. I have rec'd [received] papers containing accounts of the Leesbug fight. It was a glorious, though dear bought victory. Kiss Meggie for me. -- Write frequently directing to E.F.C 3<sup>rd</sup> reg't [regiment] Wise Legion. Good bye. This will go off tomorrow at 9 A.M. As ever I remain

Your devoted Son.