

Princeton. Va. Nov^r 26th 1862

My Dear Parents,

The mail yesterday evening brought two letters from home, one of date Nov^r 16th, the other Sept. 28th. The reason of the latter not reaching me (this one was the first you wrote after we got possession of the Valley) was probably the misdirection, it being to care of Col. [Colonel] Corley-Loring's Division, & someone had added on the back Lewisburg, Va. While we were at Fayette, C.H. [Courthouse]. I recd. [received] a letter from you with date of Oct. 5th, which contained very nearly the same substance as this one. In your letter of 16th Nov., you mention not having learned of my promotion to Lieutenant. I have mentioned this in more than one of my letters this fact. I suppose they have miscarried, or are now in Winchester. It would be a good thing for you to enquire occasionally at the P.O. [Post Office] there. Here after I shall, until you direct otherwise direct all my letters to Berryville. I applied to Col. [Colonel] McCausland when we were last in the Valley of Kanawha for a furlough but he refused as I could not then get home, & could not assure him for certain that you were where I could see you. I went over to his quarters again yesterday evening, immediately after the recpt. [receipt] of your letters to see whether he was willing to grant me one now, but he had recd. [received] orders from Division Hd. Qrs. [headquarters] not to give any at present. I have not much hopes that the letters which you spoke of writing him will have any effect, as he is a man who when he makes up his mind rarely changes it. I am sure though that he will notice my application as soon as it can be done. The weather is getting very cold and we continually hear rumors of our leaving here. Nearly all the tents have chimneys to them, which makes them when they do not smoke as comfortable as houses. The Capt [Captain] (Dews) & I sleep together in his tent. We have a nice chimney, which we paid one of our men to build for us.

Rev. [Reverend] Wm. [William] Bibb, a Baptist clergyman from Fayette Co. [County] has been appt. [appointed] to chaplain to our Regt. [regiment] & preached his first sermon last Sunday. He is a plain, simple, preacher, but a very sensible one, judging from his 1st effort. He had a brother who was a private in our Company, but was discharged, not being included in the Conscript Act. 2nd Lt. [Second Lieutenant] Darlington resigned a short time ago, & the Col. [Colonel] has appointed Ord. Sgt. [Ordnance Sergeant] Peyton to fill the vacancy. I enjoy myself very much playing chess with the Misses Halls. They have beat me most of the games thus far, but as I get my hand in I expect the tables will be turned. Miss Ella has engaged me to teach her to play some of my pretty pieces, & as she is a lady by no means deficient in sense or understanding I anticipate a pleasant time. I stand in great need of winter underclothing, & on this acct. [account] if for no other must go some where [sic, somewhere] to get some. The sword I am now using was one that Col. [Colonel] Starke let me use which he had made in New Orleans & wore all through Garnett's & Loring's campaign in North-Western Va. I am still using the coat which I had made in Charleston S.C. when we were there. Made out of cloth you remember brought over from England in the Ella Warley. It is well worn however & I shall soon have to look for another. A uniform is now so expensive, that to a Lt. [Lieutenant], it is almost like buying a farm used to be. It costs \$130 in Richmond, a full Captain's pay. I have no overcoat but expect to get one of Capt. [Captain] Dews' (he has two) in a few days. They are both Yankee overcoats but it is my intention to get mine died [sic, dyed] a sort of dark brown, like Larew's. Mr. Wm. [William] Alexander is again in Greenbrier, at his old home. I recd. [received] a kind message from him the other day to come over & pay him a visit. I wrote a letter a short time ago to Capt. [Captain] Starke in Richmond to request him to inquire about my Cadetship. I look for a reply daily. I should much rather have that position now than the one I occupy. They [sic, the] pay in both is the same, & the regular service is much preferable to the Volunteer. No letter from "Brudge" yet. A deserter was shaved, branded, & drummed out a day or two

ago in presence of both regts. [regiments]. [Letter resumed on lefthand side of page 1] Kiss little Meg for me. Remember to Mammy Lettie & the other old women & tell them I think of them frequently & the good old times I used to enjoy at Wheatland when dear Uncle George was there. If I get a furlough shortly I will bring Maurice or servants - Goodbye.

Your dev. [devoted] son –

Eugene