

[Letter is in poor condition, making some parts illegible]

Narrows, March 25th, 1864.

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My Dear Parents,

Friday

I reached Camp safely this morning at 1 A.M. You will have doubtless heard before this of our safe exit through Mr. Willis William by whom we sent word. I desired to get back as soon as possible, in order to pay a visit to Greenbrier, but was delayed so long at Dublin unable to get a conveyance that I am afraid it is too late now. George left me at Luray and went down to Fauquier County with Mr. Maddox who had left a horse at Aunt Louisa's which he was going after. I should have gladly accompanied them but was prevented for the reason that I had no horse. I persuaded George to go however thinking that he would spend 5 days there very pleasantly. I reached Charlottesville last Sunday morning. At Church I met Cousin Harriet Taylor, and Mr. J.C.R. Taylor at whose house Cousin Charles and family are boarding. Mr. Taylor persuaded me to go home with him. I consented and rode out in the carriage. I spent Sunday evening and Mon. until 12 M, very pleasantly the young [letter ripped, illegible] making themselves very agreeable. They all desire their best regards to you. Mr. Taylor [letter ripped, illegible] wished me to spend the rest of my furlough with him but for the reason mentioned I left on the train on Monday and arrived at Dublin on Tuesday, where I was [letter ripped, illegible until page 2] at 4 PM. I started in the ambulance with Capt. [Captain] Van-Fossen, reaching here late into night. I found my command under marching orders, for what reason I cannot tell and would not in this if I could. They all supposed me captured having heard of some SO [senior officer] having been taken and thinking it me. Of course you would not expect me to get here without loosing something. Upon examining my bag I found one of my linen shirts, and one box of blacking missing. At Lynchburg I went to Mr. Garland's to deliver the package to Miss Clara Thomson. Old Marm Sleptoe was there and asked an enormous quantity of questions as usual, Lt. [Lieutenant] Fowler of Lewis's Batt. [battery] accompanied and we had a very pleasant visit receiving an invitation to supper the next evening and also an invitation to remain and go to [illegible] & c. [et cetera], from Miss Clara. I left my glove in the passage. Upon arriving at Dublin I was asleep, and being suddenly waked up forgot my knapsack and coffee which was hanging up. I have [illegible] over the loss very much. I telegraphed the conductor but he says he could not find it. With the exception of these losses I returned safely and thank my creator for his kindness and [illegible, letter in poor condition] in having preserved me through so many [illegible, letter in poor condition]. Genl. [General] B. is expecting a great deal of [illegible, letter in poor condition] having been in the saddle ever since his arrival. [Rest of letter torn off and illegible]