

Staunton - July 5th 10 AM - 1861

My dear Mother, when I left you, I went into town, out
down and thought over what it was best for me to
do. I decided to follow out my plan of going to the
Kanawha Valley. I with some difficulty and delay
got my check cashed, at about 9 1/2 o'clock, paid
4.50 for hand-trunk, 35cts for having my trunk
taken out to Mr. Campbells, paid for breakfast
at Hotel. My ~~baggage~~ baggage consisted of
the little trunk, packed to its utmost capaci-
ty and a bundle. I had intended when I went out
in the morning to leave the under coat, I had on, but
forgot it - I purchased from the tailor at the Insti-
tute a cadet coat and had cadet buttons put
on my high school coat, which together cost
\$1.25 - From the Armourer I purchased a splen-
did pistol, a repeating revolver, with six bare
rels, for the small sum of \$24. which would
sell in Richmond for \$75 - I hadn't time to
get the shirt from the woman. You get it
and keep it for me. I started from Lexington
at about 10 AM in omnibus for Goshen -
there we took the cars of the Va central R.R.
and came to Staunton, where we arrived at 7 1/2 PM.
I found some of the cadets here at the Hotel -
I start this evening at 3 o'ck for Jackson
River, where I take stage for Lewisburg,
and from there go to the Kanawha Valley.
From Lexington here, the charge was \$3.00,
being about 25 miles by stage and 32 by
rail - I have now left in my pocket
\$60 - My plans are as follows: To go
to the K. V. have an interview with Gov-
Wise, tell him, if he will give me a
place to sleep in and something to eat I
will drill troops for him as often as
he desires - I be a candidate for the position

I will try and gain favour in his eyes, and make myself popular among the men, studying tactics continually and show that I fully understand it - Thus I mean to manage and think I can secure employment and perhaps office - Don't wait and see what I can do - If Gov. Wise doesn't accept it, I will try Col. McCausland who was this year a professor at the V. M. I and a graduate of Lexington, show him my recommendations, and with recommendations from Chew, Rouse &c (who left yesterday evening in the cars, having been detained from some reason until then) I will be sure to get something to do - Anyhow it won't cost me anything to stay there for I can sleep with the Cadets, eat with them &c - Don't you think my plan a very possible and also a very probable one? I do - My high school course looks very much improved and I am wearing it now - I was very fortunate to get the Pistol No. 1 in a regular Army pistol. I would have been entirely without weapons if I had not got it - It was very kind in the 1st Sergeant, as he is called to let me have it - If I hadn't got it, I intended to get a single barreled pistol from one of the Cadets for \$2.50 - I would have gotten the latter anyhow but hadn't time, getting my check got lately cashed - I could have sold it for \$5.00 in K. V. You must not be disheartened but cheer up. Do me some good with you - You have a pleasant boarding house in the country, a kind friend from home -

and it is a safe place comparatively -
though it is hard to tell, where safety is
now - cheer up - I will write frequently
and let you know how I am getting
on - I will tell you where to direct your
letters when I get there - Kiss little
Meggie for me - I must now tell you
good bye -
Your devoted, loving son -

Eugene F. Lardner

*Received and paid for
of [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]*

APR 2 1864



PAID 5

Mrs Christine Cordell -
Lexington -
Rockbridge Co -
Va -