

Charlestown. July 17th 1860.

Dear Sister,

I have been intending for several days to write a letter to you, as I have written to both Bro George & Henry, but never commenced it and with me that is the principal part. Since my return my time has been occupied variously with reading, studying, and a little hunting, and still less politics. My studies have been in French, Mathematics (Analyt. Geom.) & in ~~Latin~~ Greek. In reading my 'mind has found food' in 'Vestiges of Creation', 'Man & Woman' a celebrated book by Ph. Slaughter of Culpeper, 'Grote's life of Socrates', and the 'Waverly novels'. I went out to see Mammy last Wednesday, with Willie Wilson, and we hunted and lounged around until night. She gave us a splendid dinner having killed one of her chickens for our benefit, and we did full justice to it. I

can assure you - However our labours were not crowned with much success, as we only got a swallow, snake, and two bee birds. But the fault did not lie in us, for we saw, certainly, only one squirrel, and he ran immediately into his hole. We were all very much pleased with 'Monsieur Eugene', and he looks as though he might be worthy of his great namesake. Miss Ella Maxwell has been learning two songs for my benefit - 'Homeward Bound' & a little Latin song, which the students sing at the Univ. & which was composed by a graduate, I think. If you would like to have a copy of the words and notes (on a rough sketch) I can furnish them. Albert Reade is here now on a visit during the summer, and is getting up classes in vocal & instrumental music. He sings very finely & whenever he commences singing in the parlor at night (which he does very often) he always draws a large crowd of ladies. A particular favorite and one which he

sings best, I think, is taken from 'H Trovatore', 'Ah, I have sighed to rest me.' Miss Florence Hunter had a private picnic at the river last week, but the company was very select and particularly the 'aristocracy'. The cemetery is being laid out and decorated, and will in a year or two be very pretty. Mrs Maxw^{ell} received a letter from Bro H. yesterday. The one he has written her she did not answer the former, but says she will answer this. Henry one of Uncle W's farm hands ran away last Tuesday evening, because Uncle whipped him. as Mamma says for sauciness at Lewis Washington's. I haven't heard whether he has recovered him or not. I suppose you have heard the Willie Wilson is an A. B. - graduated at Columbian Col. Washington. He is going to the University next year. I will go next year to the 'High School' and try for the 'Gold medal' worth about \$20, and the year after to the Univ. if Pa can afford it. Kiss all the children, and give love to Aunt V. and anybody else you choose. I am your devoted brother
Eugene.

— To. Bridge. —

And how does Bridge get along? Spou you have a little talk together about matters in general. Do you ever play chess now? I have only played a few games with Peter Pfeiffer, but I beat him three in succession, and now he won't play at all. I wish some of the 'men' would condescend to play with me, but their dignity would not allow them. Yesterday was a great day here. There was a Breckinridge and Lane ratification meeting in the Court-House and several speeches were made by Hoge, Isbell, and Hunter. The former explained his course at the conventions of Charleston and Baltimore, at which he was delegate from this 'electoral' district. He was a seceder. Isbell spoke for more than two hours, I believe. Hunter's was very short owing to indisposition. They all pitched into 'squatter sovereignty' and the Douglasites, and gave them Dizzie. I think, it is almost as bad to vote for Douglas as Lincoln. They asked why the Whigs had not come out with their platform. I thought they had come out. Give us your opinion. I was surprised to find the the 'Guys' do not march so excellently as has been said. They execute the manual very well. And the L. Cadets do not march as well as our old company. But I think the Inf. Guards, the old company do better than any. You would be really surprised to see how well they perform the manual and execute the drill. There is an old French lady staying here, from Washington who converses frequently with me in French. I would like very much to take lessons from her. With the hope that this letter may prove more interesting than I think it is. I remain your affectionate Brother.