

Camp Meadow Bluff Monday Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dearest Mother,

Your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> October was rec'd [received] on Saturday, as also one from Pa dated 28<sup>th</sup> at Staunton. I had intended writing to you yesterday, but went to sleep in the evening, and in the morning attended service. This was held in the open air, although it was very cold. The minister, a corporal in Capt. [Captain] Ingraham's company, from Roane, chose for his subject "Godliness", preaching a short but pretty good sermon. He said there should be a weekly ~~sermon~~ [sic, crossed out] prayer meeting every Thursday night in our camp.

Adjutant Pearce went out about 5 miles from camp, on Saturday, to spend a few days, in order to recruit his health, which has been bad lately. Lieut. [Lieutenant] Ellicott of Charlottesville is now occupying his place. On Saturday morning a party of men under Col [Colonel] Swank went up on a hill to the right of our camp and cleaned off a piece of ground for our "Winter Quarters". Today 120 men were sent up and are now busily falling trees for the cabins or huts. The Artillery who commenced over a week ago have, already erected 4, 2 of which are covered. I was in hopes we would go east but it seems we shall have to remain here. The position we now occupy is a low marshy one, and consequently very muddy during rainy weather, a specimen of which we have had the last day or two. I suppose Pa is with you by this time, enjoying your company and that of sweet little Meggie. On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> I commenced a "journal", which Pa made for me while at Mr. Alexander's. I wrote in it again this morning. We are expecting daily, Col [Colonel] Stark and Lieut. Col [Lieutenant Colonel] Cauley (an old army officer) appointed to this regiment. I got some clothes washed a few days ago by Mr. Warmack, one of our mess. [messengers] for which he charged me 40 cts [cents], (being 5 cts [cents] a piece). They were not ironed of course, but boiled and rubbed until they looked very white. Old Mr. Taylor about whom you inquire is the father of Capt. [Captain] Taylor and a private in this company. He is 57 years old, but the most industrious, and laborious man I almost ever saw. He attempted to raise a company of "Seniors" in Greenbrier but failed, and then determined to join his son's company, which he did while we were at Camp Tyler below Charleston. Who do you mean by Clayborn Green: Is he the lawyer who lives in Charlestown, or his brother from Winchester? I have heard of three other candidates from our county, W'm [William] Lucas Sr, Andrew Hunter, & Alex Boteler. I hope and believe Mr. Boteler will be elected. He is the most talented & gentlemanly man of the lot, as well as the truest to the South. "The inglorious men of McDonald's cavalry" is represented in the paper as a most glorious and noble achievement, such as to do honor to those engaged in it. We have had some experience in running on a much larger scale. If it had been left to Genl [General] Wise however we would have stood our ground. There is very little news stirring, hardly enough to make a letter as you may see by the way in which I am drawling [sic, drawing] out this letter.

There is a good deal of sickness in camp, and 2 or three deaths occur almost daily in our reg't [regiment]. There are only 342 privates fit for duty in this regiments some 270 being "Present-Sick." The whole Legion reported "fit for duty" a few weeks ago 2880 men out of an aggregate of about 3500. The Sun is now shining very pleasantly, & affords a very agreeable contrast to the freezing mornings and nights. Pa writes that he bought me a fine blanket in Staunton for \$10.00. No cloth was to be purchased for any price. We can purchase apples in camp almost every day at 10 cts [cents] pr. [per] doz. [dozen], very seldom 5 cts [cents]. At 1<sup>st</sup> we were charged 15 cts [cents] but the mil. [military] authorities fixed the maximum of 10 cts [cents]. Onions also sell at 10 cts [cents]. Chestnuts 10 cts [cents] a pint. Kiss

Meggie for me. Give my kindest regards to Cousin Lizzie. Tell George, I will endeavor to write him a letter soon. I have been intending for sometime to write to the Misses Maxwells but have not yet done so. I will however soon. This letter is very interesting I know, but it is the best I can write at this time. Good bye- I remain as ever,

Your sincerely devoted son,  
Eugene F. Cordell  
Act. [Acting] Sergeant Major.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Regt. [Regiment]  
Wise Legion