

Charlestown, July 17<sup>th</sup> 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 (Analyst. Geom.) & in ~~Fren~~ [sic, crossed out] 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 [sic, labors] 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 parlour [sic, parlor] at night (which he does very often) he always draws a large crowd of ladies. A particular favorite and on which he sings best, I think, is taken from 'Il 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. Received a letter from Bro H. yesterday. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Mammy 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 Brudge ---

And how does Brudge get along? 'Spose we have a little talk together about matters in general. Do you play chess now? I have only played a few games with Peter Pfeiffer, but I beat him twice 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 Brekinridge [sic, Breckinridge] and Lane ratification meeting in the court house and several speeches were made by Hege, Isbell, and Hunter. The former explained his course at the conventions of Cha'ston [sic, 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 Jessio.' 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 [sic] 'Greys' do not march 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 Jeff. Guards, the old company do better than any. You would be really surprised to see how well they perform the march and execute the drill. There is an old French lady

staying here from Washington who converses frequently with me in French. I could 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.