

Camp Stonewall Va

Oct 28th /63

Dear Sister

I received your letter of the 15th last week I would have answered sooner but circumstances prevented. Since I last wrote we have moved from the Rapahannock to Brandy Station six miles from Culpeper & are now busy building huts for winter quarters. The day after we got to this place Chapin came down with my overcoat & the remnants of my box, as he was delayed on the road, I thought some of the contents would spoil, he opened the box & had to eat the Turkey & some other things, I got the butter, a few sweet potatoes, the bottle of ~~Stout~~ gin & the pickle & cheese, which I have been enjoying very much I also received the \$50 sent by Uncle James, for which you will give him my best thanks & tell him I will not forget his many acts of kindness to me. My overcoat fits elegantly & I find it quite pleasant these cold mornings.

Yesterday morning we were called from our beds, ordered to cook a large supper & be ready to march by six o'clock.

We were soon ready & moved down to woods
The Regt. was all with a long train of caissons
to haul off some rail road iron which had been
left across the river, finding the yanks between
us & the iron, it became necessary to drive
them off, so our regiment & the 5th were thrown
forward as skirmishers, we formed & advanced
finding the yanks posted on a hill, their cavalry
also drawn up in line supporting a battery
of artillery, which commenced shelling us as
we advanced, we kept on until we got to the
skirt of woods in front of their artillery where
we found their cavalry dismounted & posted
behind trees, as soon as we got close enough
they poured a volley of musketry into our line
wounding several, among whom are Raymond
slightly in leg, & Bartley severely in leg, of
our company, also killing two in the 5th.

We kept on, driving them from the woods & taking
position behind the trees, opened fire upon
their cavalry & artillery on the hill in
front of us, it soon got too warm for them
so they limbered up & went over the hill
in short order.

As we had driven them from the river, the wag-
gons came up & loaded & started ^{for} from the river
in the meantime the Yankees, thought they
would try to drive us off, & advanced again
to the top of the hill, when we opened fire on
them from behind the trees, & our artillery
from the hill behind us, soon compelled them
to pull back. The first shell fired from our
artillery, fell short of the Yankees & dropped
in our company between Syle & myself, but
fortunately the fuse had not burned up
so we had time to pull down, when the shell
burst the piece flew over our heads.

After the wagons had safely gotten across
the river we withdrew our line & returned
to camp where we arrived about nine o'clock
at night every body tired & broken down.

But we all after a good night's sleep feel
much better. This evening we have to witness
The execution of a deserter from the 2nd Reg,
he says he is prepared to die. As I have
to clean up my gun, on account of the hunt
yesterday, I will close.

M. S.