

In Camp near Belmont Virginia Jan 1863

Dear Parents

With pleasure to me I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present and hope these few lines will find you all in the enjoyment of the same good health I received your letter as also one from Edmund Anne Louisa Henry & Clara and I assure you they were read with pleasure by me to think although I am far away from you all I am not forgotten by you Dear Parents I hardly know what to write only every thing looks dark for our cause still I for one will never give up as long as there is a plank left of the Constitution to stand on. I do not blame the People of the North for demanding a forward movement and finding fault with the Administration for they expect a great deal of them. but I do blame them for becoming divided and let Party feelings govern them instead of patriotism. led on by fiends in gossamer shape well may it be said that these is the times to try men he is true to their Country for we are surrounded by traitors on all sides. even our Generals he we have put confidants in has been found guilty of treason

others has let personal feelings govern them instead of patriotism
and it seems to me that the sooner we get rid of such men
the better. To day it is raining quite hard but as we are
in camp and the weather is quite mild we are all well.
We had quite an adventure the other day and we all expect
to have another fight with those that is trying to break
up our Government. but we were ~~deceived~~ ^{led} to disappointment
for we had hardly left camp when it commenced to rain
it rained for 24 hours. water left the roads in such a state
as it was allmost an impossibility to travell over I saw no
less than 18 Horses on one Castron and it was as much
as they wanted to do to draw it out of one division ^{on}
train there was no less than 80 mules dropped dead. Our Corps
I was out in that pelting cold rain all the time with
hardly any thing to eat. ~~and we~~ ^{still} did not hear a
murmur of discontent. and if eny one should be ^{ago} discom
it is the Soldier. he when wet and hungry has not even
a house to go in. I see by the lats news Franklin has
been relieved from his command alss Burnside & Sum-
ner. And Fighting Jo Hooker takes command of the
Army of the Potomac all I hope is he will do some
thing to fetch this war to an end we have the men, he
is willing to fight and anxious to do so if they will

only be led on by a good man. General McCall ^{McCall}
had never ought to have been removed from this army
for we all had confidence in him and if eny one could win
with the army it was him. In fine weather we have 4000
we have to turn out of our Tents at day light and forme
Regimental line which is not very pleasant as the Morn-
nings is quite cold. We expect to get payed off in a little
while and I hope so for the men want their money.
I received a letter from Martha Jane the other day
she says that all the folks is all well she says
she was to visit Aunt Charlits they are all well.
give my love to Edmond tell him I thank him
for the Stamps he sent me tell Henry & Charra I
thank them for writing to me and the first opportunity
I get I will write to them. Also give my love and best
wishes to Ann Louisa tell her I will write as soon as I
can to her I am glad that you have heard from John
for I thought some thing had happened to him. I am
also glad that Thomas has received your letters for
I know what it is to not hear from home.
I have very little more to say this time only I am
quite well off for clothing and I have enuf to eat we do
not suffer in camp it is on a march the Soldier suffers

our Company is under 1st Lieutenant Davis - our Capt-
has been appointed Major in some other Regiment -
our present Brigadier General name is Wheaton. I suppose
by the time the weather allows us to move we will have
some other man over us as we have had no less than 4 since
we have been in the service. We go on Pickit - 3 days out
of 9 we can see the Rebels and talk to them and exchange
papers with them. but instead of giving us a hole paper
they cut all the news out of them.

There is nothing but a small stream of water that divides
our pickets - from theirs. and they say if you will not
fire at me I will not fire at you.

Give my love to Pa tell him I am sorry to see things
they way there are and I hope and pray after we get out
of this scrape we will be a wiser and a better people
I will now fetch these few lines to a close so hoping
this will find you well and hoping to see you soon
I will close by sending love to you all

Yet I remain your Son
William Alled

To my Mother
W. Alled
1862

Write soon as you
can