

Richmond, Va., July 17, 1861.

Dear Father: At the time of beginning this letter I am well and in a very good state of health. I have not been what you <sup>may</sup> call sick since I have been here. We are going to leave this place to-morrow, certainly, if nothing happens to prevent.

Some of our boys are very sick now. Robert Walker came very near dying last night. Two or three physicians had been to see him and each one gave him a dose of Laudanum. In fact, they sent off for the doctor at the hospital and he sent him more than a dose to take. It was thought for sometime that

he was dying. but by rubbing & stirring him about he was kept alive.

To-day I went to the city to-day expecting to have my daguer-  
otype taken, but there were so many there for that purpose, that I did not have time to wait for mine.

Make yourself contented about me, and be you assured that I will do the very best that I can for myself. I have the opportunity of getting whiskey every day, but I do not drink enough to hurt me. I only drink when I feel like it will benefit me. I made the above remarks because you have cautioned me so much <sup>about</sup> drinking. Just at this minute I am offered a drink, which I refuse.

Alfred and Serap are well.  
Charles King is somewhat un-  
well. Whether he will go on with  
us tomorrow or not I can not  
tell. He don't know himself.  
If he be well enough he will  
go. He is only weak with the com-  
plaint that most of us have  
had since we have been here.  
Of course, if a person is anywise  
sick he will not be able to stand  
the march that ~~we~~<sup>we</sup> will have to take.  
James is well.

My love and greatest <sup>respects</sup> to all.  
Yours affectionately

Wm. M. Rawlings.

P.S. I would like to hear from home sometimes;  
but it is very doubtful whether we will  
ever remain in one place long enough  
for that. ~~W. M. R.~~ W. M. R.

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