

Sunday Evening

Camp 26<sup>th</sup> Co Regt  
Benton's Mass  
May 31<sup>st</sup> 1863

My dear Pat -

I am warned that it is time for me to write to you again as the week is spent, and if it does not go by tomorrow's mail, you will not get this until next Saturday. I am anxious to receive one from you, to know how matters are going on at home. It is truly harrowing to my feelings to spend this fine weather, cooped up here in camp, when we could be more profitably employed at home, and so much better contented. Oh how vastly different have things turned out, to what we expected when this war broke out! Who expected to spend two years in camp, with now no better prospects of this war ending than when it first commenced? Truly I had not anticipated its duration to this time, and such vast destruction and desolation.

We had a fine sermon this morning from the Rev. Henry A. Wise Jr, on "God manifest in the flesh". It was a brilliant discourse, and as he admitted to "intellectual" to create any very serious impression or to do much good. It was not a sermon suited to the soldier, to call forth their thankfulness to God, to impress them with their great responsibility to their kind benefactor, and to arouse a response in their hearts to the call which he has upon them.

I suppose you have received before this the letter I sent by Mr Samuel, with the 100 dollars. Be sure to get Cousin Jack to attend to the matters there is stated as soon as possible. There is another matter I overlooked - Wm W Wright had a claim of mine against the Broughtons for 75 dollars, it would be well to see what has become of it. He had the wheat receipts, and the accounts he got

I suppose all of you, as well as we here, have been greatly dis-  
-turbed and uneasy about affairs around Vicksburg. That  
is a very important position and if the enemy gets that  
he will strike us a very serious blow. At one time we  
had almost given the town and defences up for lost, but  
late reports here put us a little in hopes that yet he may  
drive the Yankees back and hold the Mississippi. We have  
heard that it has been officially reported that Gen Grant is on  
the retreat, thinking his situation too hazardous, as Johnston  
is threatening him somewhere in the rear. It is to be hoped  
this may prove correct. If this be so, advance any farther on  
the side of the enemy is stopped and there can be no more  
general fighting this campaign unless our Gen: advance  
upon the enemy.

I sent to Richmond for the Messengers, but Benson and Eubank said  
he could not find them in any of the book stores and Randolph  
told him there were none of these months to be got.

We have had a very fine spell of weather, elegant for farming,  
and I suppose the negroes have advanced considerably in hoeing  
corn and killing the grass. I expect the weather has been too dry for  
your garden. A report has come up to us that there are every  
body transports in the York on their way to Wash-point and  
the inference is that Hooker is going to change his base. But we  
cannot place any confidence in these things.

And now, I believe, I have written all the news and reports and

from Washington, it never be used to see if they have been  
sent, and to see whether the message can be got.  
I shall have to beg you for some more books to be sent  
by kind opportunity. We got several fresh ones.