

Head Quarters Camp Mc Dowell
Falls Church Va July 7th 1861

Dear Gussie

You see by my heading that we are still at the old camp. Last night I was on Guard at the house as I yesterday wrote shile there and this morning I came off and have been sleeping nearly all the forenoon. It is now after dinner. It is pretty warm here today. Our new Brigadier Gen. Keys reviewed our Reg't. last night just before Dress Parade. He was well pleased with the Reg't. and said that he was glad that we were so well armed. Gen. Tyler told him that we were his Boys and he expected a great deal from us. I had some new apples yesterday. They were nearly ripe and they tasted the most like apples of anything that I have eaten since I left home. Blackberries are ripe here. I have picked my fill several times in the fields. It is the Sabbath and as usual it seems very little like it. Though I cannot forget you nor your dear church privileges at home on this day. The men are generally in good spirits notwithstanding the prospects there is of a fight very soon. You may direct your letters as usual until further notice. They will probably be brought to the Reg't. wherever it is. As I said yesterday in my letter I may not be situated so that I can write after we move but if it is possible I shall do so. We are to move without our camp taking nothing but our knapsacks and our Haversacks in which we carry our rations. Our movements will be rapid and we will probably take up our lodgings wherever we can find them. I understand through some of the men that they had a good prayer meeting last eve but as I was on Guard I could not attend. There will be public service here this afternoon. We like our Chaplain very much. The mail has just arrived and as there is no letter for me and shall consequently have none to answer, and as I can think of nothing more to write I suppose I might as well close up my letter.

Dear Gussie - I leave you in the hands of a kind providence who doeth all things well. I fully believe that if it is for our good that I should be returned safely to you I shall be, so put your trust in God and pray for me while I will continue to trust him and pray for myself. These are trying times for others as well as for us. We certainly ought not to be startled at the prospect of a Battle for that is the very purpose for which we came here and we have been very fortunate that we have not had to fight before. There is one thing certain there remains but a short time longer for us to serve and if I live I shall soon be with you again. And now commending you to him who careth for us I close
Affectionately you husband

Horace

Remember me to the Fathers and Mothers and Brothers and Sisters. Good bye.