

Falls Church Via Thursday
July 4th 1861

Dear Gussie

We are still here in camp on this the day of our National Independence and no move has yet been made by us towards Fairfax although Troops have been crossing the Potomac and concentrating about here and between us and Fairfax and we are no longer the advance of the army as we have heretofore been. I see no more signs of our moving farther into Virginia than I have done neither do I any more believe than I have done that we will. And yet my opinion may not be worth much in regard to it, for many of us do believe that we will. But you know that I always have an opinion of my own and am not inclined to alter it because others think differently unless I have good reasons for doing so. Blank Rolls for mustering us out of the service have been given to the orderly Serg'ts. to fill out to have them in readiness when our time expires. I do not think that it is Gen. Scotts plan to bring us into a fight now as our time is so nearly expired unless some unexpected and sudden movement of the enemy should make it necessary for the Three Years troops are pouring in by the thousands and I think that his plans have been made to have a sufficient number of them on hand to do the work which will undoubtedly soon be commenced. I think that our Brigadier Gen. Tyler would like to bring us into action before we go home in order to gain a name for himself and the Conn. Troops but he has not the power to move until he has orders from a higher source. The only thing that has transpired here today which has made it seem like the Fourth has been the raising of a Flag in front of the Camp while the Band played Yankee Doodle and the Star Spangled Banner and that is nothing to attract attention here for Flags are no new sight for us and music we have a plenty of that every day. We heard the booming of cannon in Washington this morning which sounded as much like the 4th as anything although the sound of cannon is an every day occurrence here for some artillery are practicing within hearing of us nearly every day. I have been trying to think where I was and what I was doing on last 4th of July but I cannot. My memory fails me. But I guess that I shall have occasion to remember this one, a long time if I live. Nightbefore last (Tuesday) I was very sick, was not able to sleep any at all for the pain which I had across me. It was the cholic or inflamitory pains, I can hardly tell which as the Dr. did not say. He gave me a dose of oil and a mustard plaster to lay across my bowels in the morning which relieved the pain to a great extent. I feel much better today having but a very little pain but I am pretty sore across me yet and feel pretty weak. But I am gaining fast and in a few days will be entirely well again. So don't worry about this for I am getting along finely. The days are fast passing away and if providence permits I will soon be with you again. Good bye for this time. Yours in much love as ever

Horace

Falls Church Via July 5th 1861

Dear Gussie

I am feeling well today ~~xxxx~~ and by tomorrow I shall resume my usual duties again. We are still here in camp and so far as I can judge from existing circumstances there is no more signs of our moving towards Fairfax than there has been, unless unbeknownst to us it is Gen. Scotts program to move us. ~~There~~ at any rate if such should be the case why as a matter of course ~~everybody~~ day brings us nearer to the time of moving. But I still believe as I have done that when we move it will be towards home. But you must remember that I know ~~nothing~~ about it. It is only my own opinion drawn from circumstances as I view them. The Maine Reg't. arrived here I believe last Tuesday and passed us on the road towards Vienna. But I think that we are as near Fairfax as they are. Another Reg't. is on its way here for the Baggage train has just arrived and gone into a field of Rye near to us where I suppose their encampment is to be. Some of our men think that we will be relieved from our position by another Reg't in a few days so that we may go back to Washington which will be so much on our return towards home. But these are only opinions of different ones without any certain knowledge in regard to it the same as my own ideas I suppose. But our time is fast wearing away and it will be but a short time at the longest although I suppose that each day seems to you like an age but they are really no longer than other days as you well know without telling. Dinner is ready and I must stop for now and ear.

After dinner - I was mistaken about another Reg't. arriving, it was a few Government Baggage waggons which came with a Balloon and the fixtures for inflating it. It will probably go up here tomorrow again to reconnoitre the enemies position. Something will be done soon and when a movement is made it will be a grand general one which will sweep secession from Via. and compel Jeff to make his exit in quicker time than he came into the State. I want to do some service for the country but for your sake I am anxious to be home. For this reason I prefer to be at home instead of entering an engagement now perhaps to be killed and I think there is not much chance of my being hurt unless I enlist again. And before I do that I will ask you consent so you need not give yourself any uneasiness about the affair. Now, we will talk this matter over together when I get home in my arm chair with and and Prince and ----- near by in the Rocking Chair.

We had a prayer meeting on Tuesday evening at our chaplains quarters in a house near by. It was rather a private affair got up by a few professors of us. Edward Davis, Geo. Allen, and several others with myself. We had an excellent meeting all of us was profited and blessed. I must now close. Good bye. Yours in much love

Horace

Dear Gussie

I am now on Guard at a house close by the camp to protect the property against any rash acts of the Soldiers and also to prevent any communication to and from the house by the secessionists. It is an easy post there being scarcely anything to do but to sit still and eat corn cake and milk (which of course we have to pay for), but it is a rarity which we cannot get in camp. Troops are being sent over here with a considerable rapidity. Last evening Gen. Tyler had a meeting of his Officers in which he said that we ~~had~~ but a short time to stay and he was exceedingly anxious that we should see actual service by being in an engagement in order to go home with honor's achieved in a hard fought battle. He wants us (the Conn. Troops) to acquire a name which shall live in history. He said that he should do all in his power to have ~~us~~ advanced on to the enemy before we return home. Lieut. Col. Spiedell of our Reg't. told us yesterday afternoon that we must learn all that we could of skirmishing for we had only 3 days more to do it in. So according to that about next Monday or Tuesday we shall be advanced on the Fairfax and if the secessionists do not ~~soon~~ (as I think they will) we shall have a chance to fight. I told you in my last that I did not believe that we would have to advance and fight. I now begin to think that perhaps we may though I do not consider the thing to be set down as a fact yet because I am pretty sure that we have not yet had ~~marshing~~ orders and we shall not be likely to move without them. Yesterday I ascertained for the first time that since we have held this position we had been under orders to march to Fairfax and once to Washington but both were countermanded before we could carry them into effect. So you can see how uncertain everything is with us here. I understand that Gov. Buckingham is very much opposed to the way in which we have been ~~advanced~~ into Va. He did not understand that we were to be moved so far from the Capitol. He is very much dissatisfied with Gen. Tyler and Col. Burnham and he has applied to the War department for 10 days grace in which to get us home and pay us off in. It is franted we have only about a week longer to stay here. Gen. Tyler said last night to the Officers that today we would have another man over us in his place as Brigadier Gen. while he was to be promoted to Major Gen. over this division of the army. If Gen. Scott orders him to move his division towards or on to the enemy while we are here we shall have a post of honor in the movement if he has the power to give it to us. The 1st Reg't. is his pet and he is determined that we shall go home with honors if it is possible to obtain them. But he cannot move until ordered to do so by Ben. Scott. Whether those orders will be issued before we are relieved from this position or start for home or not I can not tell. But one thing I am sure of and that is that there will be a forward movement very soon. If we are to go to Battle I may be fortunate in the conflict and I may not. God only knows. It is a good cause. I could not die in a better one. And what is best of all beside I feel assured that if this earthly house is dissolved I have one not made with hands eternal in the heavens. I have unusual peace in my mind this morning even with the prospect of a Battle and death ahead. I feel calm and self possessed. I trust submissive to his will whatever it may be. When death appears very near to me it is then I feel happiest. Truly grace and strength is given just when it is most needed. As my day is so is my strength. How can I ever doubt my Heavenly Father again. He is so kind. Surely no good thing will be withheld from them that love him and put their trust in him. Since I have been absent from you I believe that I have learned to trust him more and I have not seen a time when I trusted entirely in him that I have been left comfortless. His grace has ever been freely given and I will doubt no more. I fully

believe that he can portect me in Battle and if it is for the best he will. If it is not for the best, if more good can be done in my death than in my living why we certainly ought to be submissive for death will certainly separate us ere long, but if we are good and get to heaven then there will be no more separation. I had rather that my letters would not be printed for there are many things and some even in this one that I would not like to have printed. If we do not get 10 days grace to go home in there will be about 2 weeks remaining to us in which a considerable real service may be done. I should not be surprised if we took Richmond before I return home. I think that that is the object to break up the Confederate Congress. I wrote you yesterday just as affairs looked to me, but since that time they have changed. I hesitated before I commenced this letter about telling you the real facts but thinking that you would prefer the truth rather than have me keep back anything I tell you all. But let me request you to be calm. Don't murmur or complain. It is all for the best and I have faith yet to believe that I shall return unharmed to you. Some and perhaps many will be killed but the chances for my safe return are more than they are for my death. And if my trust is in God do you not believe that he will spare me? I do - love to all

Horace