No 28

Columbine Colage Hospital, Washington, D.C. Feb 8th 1863

Dear Mother,

I am so very happy and blessed, I can not express it on paper, for this fortunate change of situation in my present state of health. We left the Depot near Flamborough P.A. yesterday at 10 o'clock A.M. 50 in number from the 7th, 9th and 11th Co's. and we have on board with us beside a dozen car loads of troops on train way (as expected) to Fortsnst. The news came from there that the whole Army was going as fast as they could through the 7th, 9th Reg. and Brigade to start this morning. We arrived at 2 p.m. and 2 1/2 clock P.M. when we took Steamer (I forget its name) for Washington but did not get ready to leave till 11 1/2 past 1/2 o'clock, I felt quite thankful I tell you that I was able to get sound and help myself for the men piled in as thick as they could lay and some of them could not help them selves at all. I did not die on the passage nor of typhus from my own Co by name of Sturtevans two brothers and my both futhe down with
at first some time I was. And then Heathe came night on the notion of him and prepar'd the discharge for one and a furlong for the other. But God did not see fit to have them on the same Parent; home again in chief yesterday morning, just then we started and the other on board of the Boat I am now a man full so bad and in bed vomit himself all out taking care of them for two long nights and days. Such is war. A man cannot know his discharge until he's just ready to drop into the grave.

I was very thankful in getting good quarters, good bed and blankets and not crowded. Our Capt. Hough was striking that I wrote you of it change Capt. Babcock being promoted to Saint Louis but you should care of Capt. Hough, Capt. Hough and Mr. Assistant J. H. Chandler at Commissary Sergt and myself now put on a longboat with the rest of the officers on the middle deck. The Boat is fitted up apprately for carrying the sick. We had good nurses and anything was furnished to make us comfortable that we could expect. But there was much suffering among the seerships, especially privates who were piled in two decks for some to be comfortable. We arrived at W-at-at 12 11 o'clock.
When we found our had not got to our journey and
but had got the harder part which was to ride from
then to an Ambulance a distance of Smiles
But it was hard traveling on cut of mud and we
did not get there until 2 o'clock in the morning.
I was fearful that I should catch cold but I felt
no bad effects this morning after it I think I
feel better than I did yesterday morning. The fact
is I took all of my clothes and went to bed in a good
warm room as I used to at home a thing I
have not done since I left Concord. We are
not in the College Building but in a large Tent &
inside my self and nurse, good fires a heated by
a coal stove. The Cape Ad Affect me right. Home
and probably will. The Commissaryrypt and myself will
remain together and will get a Fellow for Home
of possible but there is not much hope. But mean
so much more comfortable then what we have known
that I feel as though we are almost Home.
Crosby of Hanover N.H. has change him I can say
that my sister in the Service I wrote to Edwin
day before yesterday (Saturday) saying I had read my
letter also you letter with $1.00 enclosed I liked
To have received it before but it came just in the nick of time. I had some of the stuff which I distributed among the boys of Co. F, but I brought most of the Butter and the sugar and tea. I had two good meals of the Sausages with potatoes before I left—wanted to go with the Rugt—very much hit—they all advised me to stay by any means and I thought it myself too if I must die. I may live two more hours than I Carlisle and I will know that would be your mind. But I am getting sick and must close—2d now 11 o'clock. My wife dinner at 12.45 for breakfast. Milk as soon as you get this. I am going home after Co. and must be quick—Thursday morning use of my rubber coat and cap and they had not got back with them and I do him more good than me what I must needed and stockings. Hoping this may find you all in better health. Ed. W. Miller.

P.S. Hurry Direct to Columbia Cola Hospital.
Washington, D.C.
Leaving of St. Ruge & Co.