

pepper into the letter you can do so  
without any cost, but we  
don't have any here and a  
little will last good on bean

Enclose a few pen  
seed, this fruit you  
will see it taste  
much like a bean

ma. I had some  
bulled corn day before  
yesterday got about  
a pint of corn and  
bulled it quite well

It made me think  
of home. I had a

letter from home too

Friday folks all well

What do they hear from

Johnny Blacky Short?

Write me when you drop

but that I know send

me a paper one in a

white and I will be much

obliged. Tell Emma Jane  
and her something or other

Dear Brother:

I wrote to you while  
at Sandy Hook a hasty letter which I  
suppose you have received and this. For  
that I asked you for a little change I  
can now do without it as I have  
succeeded in obtaining a little but if  
you have already enclosed it will not  
be a loss. Postage stamps are rather  
a scarce article about here. Please enclose  
a few and will much oblige.

My health is very good I feel first rate  
except a little hay; I think being in  
our tents so much makes us feel  
shiftless. We don't have any seats so we  
lie down instead of sit. Our tents  
some are of the smaller sort made of two  
pieces of drilling buttoned together which  
are suspended over a crotch two occupy a

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Pleasant Valley MD Oct 16, 1862

Dear Brother:

I wrote to you while at Sandy Hook a hasty letter which I suppose you have received ere this. In that I asked you for a little change I can now do without it as I have succeeded in obtaining a little bit but if you have already enclosed it will not come amiss. Postage stamps are rather a scarce article about here Please enclose a few and will much oblige.

My health is very good I feel first rate except a little lazy; I think being in our tents so much makes us feel shiftless. We don't have any seats so we lie down instead of sit. Our tents now are of the smaller sort made of two pieces of drilling buttoned together which are suspended over a crotch two occupy a

a tent unless you choose to write  
their pieces with them, in that case three  
or five go together and then we have one  
good piece. Fine tent in ours; you would  
be pleased to see us now we are all  
writing some in the tent some outside  
some are writing in their portfolios  
while seated on the ground others seated  
on a rock or lying on the ground using  
a tin plate board or ~~any~~ anything else which  
comes handy for a writing desk. Our  
position for writing is not so easy as  
when seated in an easy chair by  
a good table; so you must excuse my  
writing, if you can read it we all respect  
We are in a very pretty country now, full  
as pretty as N. H. Pleasant Valley runs  
North and South the Maryland Heights on  
one side and a high range of hills on  
the other. In this valley are camped  
Burnside's whole corps which numbers  
about 100,000 men according to the  
best guessers. Our Reg is brigaded in Gen

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a tent unless more choose to unite their pieces with them. in that case three or five go together and then we have one end piece. Five tent in ours! you would be pleased to see us now we are all writing some in the tent some outside some are writing on their portfolios while seated on the ground others seated on a rock or lieing on the ground using a tin plate board or anything else which comes handy for a writing desk. Our position for writing is not so easy as when seated in an easy chair by a good table: so you must excuse my writing, if you can read it too all I expect We are in a very hilly country now, full as hilly as NH. Pleasant Valley runs North and South the Maryland Heights on one side and a high range of hills on the other. In this valley are camped Burnside's whole corps which numbers about 100,000 men accordingly to the best guessers. Our Reg is brigaded in Gen.

Saunders brigade, Gen. Sturgis, <sup>division</sup> Burnside's  
Corps. I saw Burnside a few days ago  
he is a burly looking fellow there is no  
military stink up about him, he looks  
like one of these free, open hearted fellows  
I am glad to we are under him, but  
how long we shall remain under him  
we can't tell, we are shifted about a  
good deal. At Arlington Heights we  
were under Casey, Briggs' brigade now  
we are in Charro's brigade which is  
composed of the 21<sup>st</sup> & 35<sup>th</sup> Mass. 51<sup>st</sup>  
Penn, 51<sup>st</sup> N.Y. & 11<sup>th</sup> N.H. We are the fullest  
Regiment in the brigade, the others except  
the 35<sup>th</sup> Mass. average from 300 to 500 men  
I am very glad to see in the appointment  
of the Generals for the different army  
Corps McDowell is left out, the old soldiers  
say our reverses have been in a great  
degree owing to his treachery, one of the  
N.H. 2<sup>d</sup> boys said Hooker ordered his  
men to shoot McDowell if they could see  
him. I hope Hooker will not be ordered

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Faero's [Ferrero] brigade. Gen Sturgis's division Burnside's Corps. I saw Burnside a few days ago he is a burly looking fellow there is no military stuck up about him. he looks like one of those free, open harted fellows

I am glad we are under him; but how long we shall remain under him we can't tell; we are shifted about a good deal. At Arlington Heights we were under Casey, Briggs' Brigade now we are in. Farero's brigade which is composed of the 21<sup>st</sup> & 35<sup>th</sup> Mass. 51<sup>st</sup> Penn, 51 NY. & 11<sup>th</sup> NH. We are the fullest Regiment in the brigade. the others except the 35<sup>th</sup> Mass average from 300 to 500 men

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West for we need him here. They seem to  
be doing the clean thing out West. It is  
cheering to think the Rebels can be whipped  
in one section if they can't be here. I can't  
make up my mind that the Western troops  
are braver than we; but I certainly look  
rather bad for us. What a burning <sup>shame</sup> it was for  
that Rebel cavalry to be permitted to run all  
round us and go back unharmed. It may  
all be accounted for, but I can't see it.

What do you think of the "Proclamation"?  
I think it is just the thing for the times.  
The soldiers don't care what they do if they  
will only let us have a chance to whip the  
Rebels soundly and we can do it if they will  
give us an opportunity. I can now hear  
heavy firing in the direction of Harper's Ferry  
it is one continual roar, now now and then  
we hear a tremendous roar which I suppose  
is the great siege guns. There are no troops  
moving yet in this valley as I can see.

We may go into action before twenty four  
hours, but the probability is we are the reserves  
and shall not see fighting very soon. I read  
that drafting has commenced in B. I hope  
you will not be drafted, but if you are I would  
go. How the 39<sup>th</sup> Mass. come to W. Write how Charles  
Atwood is & where the Regt. is stationed. I hope this  
will find you and the children as good  
health as it leaves me. Our folks will send  
down that coat of mine if you want. Please  
write as soon as you get this. Put in a little block

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I enclose a paw paw seed this fruit grows wild here it tastes much like banna. I had some hulled corn day before yesterday. got about a pint of corn and hulled it quite well It made me think of home. I had a letter from home last Friday folks all well What do they hear from Johny Black & Short? Write me who are drafted that I know send me a paper once in a while and I will be much obliged. Tell Emma I will send her something next time