

no 42

Post Hospital, Lexington, Ky. June, 19th 1863

Dear Mother & friends

Your long looked for letter of the 14th came to hand yesterday and you can rest assured that I was glad to hear from Home and to know that you had received my letter of the 7th and that you were all well. Time passes here in the Hospital very ~~much~~ different from what it does in camp life; hours seem like days and days like weeks and I had given up in despair with the idea that I was not going to hear from any one again yet as you see your letter came through without any delay receiving it at M. yesterday.

I sent a letter to S the 12th and a paper the 13th. I was much better at that time than when I wrote you and I have gained in strength very much since then; the want of which at the present time seems to be my only difficulty. I have no cough at all now and my lungs appear to be as sound and well as ever. I have a good appetite and my food does not hurt me except that I have been obliged to leave off using so much milk as I made it almost my whole diet when I first came here. I am still taking porter 3 times per day the only medicine I have been

taking for several days this is to help in regaining
my strength which ~~when~~ I shall have in a short time
and then I shall be as well as ever again

It has been very warm and dry and the nights are
getting to be quite uncomfortable I take all the
exercise that I feel able to by walking about Town
and I visit the Cemetery where Henry Clays Monument
stands nearly every P.M. which is nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from
here It is a pleasant walk from here and a lovely place
where you get them every thing is perfect order and neatness
(unlike most every thing else here in Ky) and the large
trees which are scattered over the Grounds almost wholly
hide you from the scorching sun The Monument is
of a cream colored stone 130 feet high with his statue of
12 feet beside this there are many other large and elegant
monuments I intended to day to go over to his
Mansion which ~~is~~ is near a mile the opposite direction
from here They have a nice Camp for the Convalescents
about a mile from here where myself and D. S. Hull
expect to go in a few days although I was in hopes to
start for the Regt by the last of Sept or the first of week
after but I understand that Gen Burnside has issued an
order against any of the Convalescents joining their Regts
at Vicksburg I think that very sensible although I feel quite
disappointed for I have been anxious to get well so as to join
them thus yet I cannot leave here very well until I
hear from the Col. The particular reasons for which
I will explain as it may tend to set your mind

more at ease in regard to wellfare and future prospects. When I was sick at Crab Orchard the Dr went to the Colo to order a sick leave of absence of 30 days for me the Colo came into my tent amideally and informed me that he should be glad to do so and would but as he had sent to Concord, ^{for} for my Commission as 2^d Lt I had better wait untill I had received that which he was expecting in a few days and then I could go Home and then if I did not get better I could easily leave the Service you can little imagine how thankful I was to hear this although as I told him I had no desire to quit the Service unless it was absolutely necessary for me. He came in to see me every day while we staid there coming in the night before we left to bid magood bye and presenting me with an elegant dressinggown and saying as he left that he would forward my Commission as soon as he received it and I have been hoping every day to receive it as I shal have to get mustered either here or at Cincinnati.

If I should get strong and well I shal not apply for a furlough otherwise & you may expect to see me up that way. My duties will be much lighter in fact I shal have very little to do and when marching I shal have nothing to carry.

I hope that the conflict at Vicksburg will soon end with success to our forces so that the troops that went from here can return which they will do as it is decided and I think we shal need them here. Too for the rebels are hovering round here pretty thick.

They had a small fight at Mt. Sterling a few days ago in which we were driven back causing some alarm to the people and small force which is stationed here. The soldiers at the Convalescent Camp were furnished with arms ammunition so as to do what they could but as Gen Sturges Headquarters are here, who is now our Corps Commander now Gen Wilcox having been assigned to the command of the Post ^{at} Indianapolis

I do not apprehend much danger about this place so long as Gen Sturges makes his Headquarters here and Gen Burnside frequently comes down here from Cincinnati. We have about a dozen sets here in the Hospital sick & wounded it makes me provoked to see how well they fare here, and think when I know how our prisoners are treated we say very little to them as it only ends in a brawl. If I had my way I would hang every one of them on the first time.

I hope that it is true about Lee's crossing the Rapahannock for I feel confident that Hooker will give him a bad thrashing when he gets back into his den. I would not have Lee go into Pa. ~~and~~ to the great loss of that Country, and the benefit of his Army, but I am willing that he (Lee) should make a strike that way enough to stir the up what little spunk and patriotism these cowardly Dutchman have left. This being their little where only I have heard of their being in a fight I am glad to hear that my Old native Town will not have to resort to a draft.

I am some like a writer in the Cincinnati Commercial in regard to the President's last call for six months men. I think it has proved to be a poor plan and that we have already had too many such troops in the field by the time they were fit for actual service. Their time of enlistment would be out. We have one Regt in our Brig for 9 months their term expires the 13 of next month it is the 12th Regt, and they have not as yet amounted to a row of pins.

How and where is James Gallager I have not heard you mention his name for a long time he was then sick and how are the rest of the boys from B. I expect they have been or will soon see some fighting if they are under General Hooker.

2 P.M. I left off just before dinner to go to a fire which was but a few steps from here. The fire originated from a Building joining a large Catholic Church and used as a mill as I could learn as a sort of a millinery both of brick and might of burn sand if they had had such Engines & for putting out fires as the size of the Place requires, or such as we should have in an Eastern Town of the same size it is still burning. Tell Her I don't know when I shall get his letter (which has gone to the Regt) and he must write me another I hope to hear that he is better of his hooping cough in the next but he must be careful and not take cold. Do not worry about me for I am in a good place and doing well. Please remember me to all enquiring friends and write often from your affectionate son and brother

C. W. Wilcox