

David's Island
Sept. 23rd 1862

And still I hail from the Island. Each day brings newcomers and occasionally large squads are sent off but I am here yet, When my turn shall come I shall be able to go if possible as sound as ever for you may rest assured that I shall endeavor to stay till I get strong enough to do my duty as it should be done.

As far as flesh is concerned I am as fat as a young puppy, weighing now 150 pounds against 117 pounds at Harrison's Landing some 5 weeks ago but I am not as strong as formerly and it will be some time I think before I regain my full strength. The terrible diarrhea struck to me amazingly.. It is something that is not kicked very easily (several soldiers have died on the Island of this disease, contracted in Virginia) and when it does run a man it takes his strength and life away worse than a fever possibly can.

Although it is completely checked in me so that I can eat anything with "impunity" as Mrs. Partington says, yet I have no particular desire of returning to the army till cool weather renders it safe for me to do so.

I stick to the kitchen yet and shall probably remain there awhile- I get no extra pay as it is a voluntary association and I can not get detailed, but I have been offered the position of Ward Master in one of the Wards where I can get 25 cents extra per day (as this is the price they pay all Nurses and hospital attendants) but I don't know whether I could stand it or whether it would prove agreeable to my feelings to be among diseased and wounded men. But I have talked of my own affairs enough and now I will speak of something else. I have received no letter from home in a long time and have delayed writing but getting tired of waiting I concluded to trouble the waters and see if some of you wouldn't step in. I suppose the reason is that you are so busy attending Camp meeting and Fair that you have forgotten. David's Island and the commissary of "Yonkers Kitchen" who liveth there on; but only for a short period for soon I presume you will gladden my heart by sending the expected message.

With best wishes for your health and prosperity and trusting that the time may come soon that we shall see each other face to face I remain

Your own boy,

John