

August 7 [1862}

Dear Mother,

Your note was gladly received by me, but I was very sorry to hear that you were so down hearted. It gives me pain to read such letters from you. You have had great trouble I admit, but you don't know what suffering is as well as many others. There are thousands of families here in VA that would be only too glad to take your place. It would be a happy change for them. Surrounded as you are by friends why can't you forget your troubles and not brood over them all the time. Oh if you could but learn the lessons I have learned in the army. You would cease your murmuring .

When you have been reprieved of the privileges you now enjoy of home, friends, meetings, the benefits of the Christian Sabbath, and all the other blessings you now possess so liberally, then you may have some reason to complain. Me thinks the promises from above, that all these light afflictions are for our good, and "that we are to be made perfect through suffering" and glorious promises of the Father, of a life of peace beyond the grave, in the "Christian home in glory" where we shall greet the loved friends that have passed on before and above all where we shall see our Jesus and shall never more sin. Me thinks I say all this should cheer up you drooping spirits and make you happy instead of miserable. "I know that my redeemer liveth" and my soul has been made to rejoice while I have been on the Peninsula with exceeding joy, amid the greatest dangers and privations, to know that the eye of that Redeemer was ever upon me, to save me from all harm, and the same Lord that upholds me can & will also support you in your darkest hours. Cheer up than and be happy and as you cease from worrying & fretting you will become more contented with your lot and then you will make others around you much happier and better satisfied.

In regard to the verse you sent I will say I think it very appropriate. I would suggest the propriety of omitting the last two lines however.

The money I send home I wish you & Mr. Hurlbut to spend for the family if you need it, if not , let Mr. Hurlbut take care of it. I shall be well satisfied to leave the rest for Mr. H. to see to as I know he won't lend it to any old codger .

(My letter was to late for the mail yesterday and I will finish now) but you will find full particulars in Mary's letter in regards to it.

The verses Mary sent me expressed exactly what I felt before I left De Kalb, when I was wishing to enlist, and waiting for your consent. They are very appropriate to my case.

I think prayer offered in my behalf has been the prayer of faith, "for such" it says "shall heal the sick" and my health is certainly better than it was. I can walk by the aid of a cane ½ a mile, but I am very careful not to stir too much, but just ake moderate exercise. It is hot, hotter, hottest here now in August. It seems as though

we should have to give up breathing at times, but we manage to live through it, and I have to take my walk in the cool of the day.

We had the pleasure of greeting one of our boys yesterday who was taken prisoner at the battle of Malvern Hill and was released on parole. He was taken to Richmond and has had rather a hard time of it, but still he looks and feels quite well. He is only about 16 years of age, but is very intelligent and his accounts of things is very interesting.

Now keep up good courage, and be of good cheer and may the blessings of God rest upon you all is the prayer of your affectionate son.

John