



Two miles from Bolivar Oct 17/1862
My Dear Wife,
I hardly know how to commence
this letter as we are situated. I will first
tell you where we are and how we are situated.
We are situated two miles from Camp on
picket duty. While Andrew is frying some
beef steaks I am sitting on the ground near
the fire writing. We are in the grove. Our fire
is under a large oak tree. Pad is on guard
a short distance from here. He happened
to be in the Relief that is on now.
His health is good. I suppose I shall
have to take my turn before the twenty
four hours are out. As there are four
Sargents it will not come very hard on
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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Belfast Historical Society
MMN # 98623

Date: Oct. 17, 1862

Description: Alfred E. Nickerson letter to his wife

The Boys have just killed two pigs
so we shall have a good supper. You may
think strange of our killing pigs that do
not belong to us. But it is not at all
strange. We are not bashful about
Drawing all we can get on secesh
territory. I see some of them have
been off and got some corn to roast. Our
^{Picket} guards and the Rebel Picket guards
can see each other. and are so near
that they can exchange words by
talking loud. That is what I call pretty
near the enemy what do you think about
it Gus. A Rebel came into our lines
and gave himself up this morning.
I saw him and talked with. He said
he was tired of fighting. And would
take the oath of Allegiance.
He was a good looking fellow that
is for a Rebel. He looked as if he had
enough to eat. And decently well
clothed. This looks so bad I will
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future time, this ink and paper
belong to Nahum Downs, the one
who gave you such a good compliment.
By the way Lieut. Clements left
here today bound home. I told him
to call and see my wife and tell
her all the particulars. He promised
me that he would. I will mention
a halt. Monday morning I hardly
know whether to send this or not.
It looks so bad. I think I will
send it and you must make allowance
for the chance I had to write. We were
out about two miles from here as
picket-guards I don't know as you are aware
of what picket-guards are. They are guards
placed out side of the forces to keep them
(the enemy) a proper distance. Perhaps your
Dad can tell you something about it. We killed
six shotes while we were there. Had a plenty
of pork. We roasted it ourselves over the fire you
can imagine how we looked. As I am obliged to go and
do my duty. I must close. I will write you again
Wednesday. There is a battle expected
soon but don't know how soon. Yours, Alf.

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