

Leesburg Va. June 20<sup>th</sup> 1863.  
My Dear Mother, I again take up the pen for the purpose of writing to you. Since our march on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. terminated for the present, I have been wholly unable to let you hear a thing of my situation; but now that an opportunity presents itself I have to employ it. On Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. I wrote to you. On Saturday at about 7 o'clock P.M. we were ready to move. Starting at 9 we marched all night long and halted Sunday morning at Dumfries. I have not the space to describe the place but leave that for either William or Charles who have both been there. We resumed the journey on Sunday P.M. in very warm weather and spent the night on the road. Not in motion however. For myself, I was in an ambulance and so managed to procure a few hours sleep. Most of the boys were less fortunate. At 8 on Monday morning we moved on again and reached Fairfax Ct. House long before sunset making having made about 25 miles since morning. We remained at Fairfax until 7 A.M. of Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Then moved towards Leesburg crossing the Leesburg & Alexandria R.R. at noon. Arrived at ~~the~~ place of encampment for the night near a house in which lived a Mr. Brown & family consisting of himself, four or five sons, most of them little shavers, and one very pretty daughter. The latter pleased me most of any. She was about 17 years old with dark hair & an unusually fair complexion. Add to this the fact that she was of small frame (and you know I like small ladies best) and you will excuse my devoting so much space to a description of her. But I have not yet finished. She was the most witless, innocent girl I ever saw. Although very intelligent, she seems to know nothing of the rules of society, treating myself or any other private with the same degree of consideration she accorded to Genl. Slocum. (I forgot to say that his head quarters were in the yard of Mr. B's house). She would step up to the Genl. and ask the time with the same familiarity that she addressed any one else. Well we stopped there all night and started the next (Thursday)

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
MMN # 79275

Date: June 20, 1863

Description: Jordan of Co. D of the 10th Maine Infantry wrote to his mother in Portland to report on his regiment's march to Leesburg.

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My Dear Mother, I again take up the pen for the purpose of writing to you. Since we started on the march just terminated for the present I have been wholly unable to let you hear a thing of my situation! But now that an opportunity presents itself I haste to employ it. On Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. I wrote to you. On Saturday at about 7 o'clock P.M. we were ready to move. Starting at 9 we marched all night long and halted Sunday morning at Dumfries. I have not the space to describe the place but leave that for either William or Charles who have both been there. We resumed the journey on Sunday P.M. in very warm weather and spent the night on the road. Not in motion however. For myself, I was in an ambulance and so managed to procure a few hours sleep. Most of the boys were less fortunate. At 8 on Monday morning we moved out again and reached Fairfax Ct. House long before sunset making having made about 25 miles since morning. We remained at Fair fax until 7 A.M. of Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Then moved towards Leesburg crossing the Lees-

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morning for this place whence we arrived about 9 P.M.  
in the midst of a heavy rain. I had lost my haversack on  
the way and therefore was without food. After hunting for  
some time I managed to procure some supper in this Secesh  
town and a good one it was too for a good Unionist furnished it  
and then refused pay. I paid her however before I left the house.  
At last I found a place where the battalion was quartered  
in a church, and slept there. The way whiskey was drunk  
that night was a caution to those who don't drink.  
Had I been so disposed, I might have had any amount.  
But I was not. Since then it has become more of a scarcity.  
Not scarce enough however. Leesburg is quite a large place with  
some very fine buildings both private & public. Among of the  
latter is the Court House in the grounds around which are  
now pitched the Head Quarter tents. Stores were evidently  
not of the first class order although tolerably numerous.  
The inhabitants although for the most part bitter Secesh,  
are quite hospitably inclined. Soldiers can go with any of them  
and talk quite sociably. As for the young ladies they are  
as a general thing very pretty. There are many quite handsome  
although they do not possess that lively beauty so characteristic  
of our own Portland belles. When the war broke out, every  
one was a fierce secessionist. So rabid that as in Winchester  
they refused to pass under the folds of the stars & stripes, but would  
rather walk in the gutter. But now there is a decided change.  
— My last letter probably gave you some hope of seeing me  
some time in next month. But I fear you will not unless as I firmly hope,  
the battalion is ordered to Portland to go into the new regiment.  
I have not received any tidings from home to inform me whether  
reorganization is to be attempted. I am looking anxiously for news.  
Lately the sentiment of the majority is changing in regard to going  
into the New 10<sup>th</sup> if it is formed. Most of them would be willing to  
do so if they could visit home thereby. I hear that the 28<sup>th</sup>

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New York is to return. — On the last march I must say that I got along better than ever before. For I rode the greater part of the way in a Head Quarter ambulance. All the clerks are entitled to this. Hereafter when I march I shant march but ride. Since th

On my last letter I told you of my visit to the 5<sup>th</sup> Maine. Since that time I have heard nothing of them. In all probability I shall not for some time to come. I should like to receive my glasses; but never mind I must do without. — To-day is one of those unusual rainy days so much to be disliked. Everything is dark and gloomy. But the bright sun will come out again some time.

Milk can be bought for ten cents per quart in great abundance. The boys buy this and biscuits, corn, and spider cakes to eat in it. For my own part I am sick of it. I am sorry to say that I am having a touch of the diarrhoea again. I have been in tip top condition until a day or two. Some cherries that I ate I suppose brought it on. Besides I am out of tea just now. I will fix it all right as soon as I can get an order on the Commissary.

Rather than drink coffee I use milk or even cold water. Do not give yourself any uneasiness as I can check it easily I think in its early stage. — I began with a large sheet, but it was the best I could find. I am afraid it will not be filled out. — Please tell William and Charles to write. I am particularly anxious to hear from the regiment. Col. Beal did not come to see us, but we heard of him at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Maine. He is reported to have said that we should be sent home certainly if the regt. reorganized. Oh! that it may prove true. I wonder how the people like the raid of the Rebels into Pennsylvania.

I hope they will be prevented from going any further North. I beg you to excuse this as I do not feel like writing well to-day. And as ideas are about "played out" I will

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soon close. By the way, your last letter seemed to show that you thought Hooker had taken Fredericksburg and that the 12<sup>th</sup> Corps participated in the movement. Mine to you before this will explain the true state of things.

If the Rebels come back from the North this way, they will find quite an obstacle to overcome. If we can destroy that part of Lee's Army the Confederacy is played out in Va. I have seen no papers for a few days, so am ignorant as to what is going on. I hope all goes well. Charlie & Leonard B. are well and send love to all.

Remember me to all friends as usual. Write as often as possible any or all of you. And now I will close this epistle with sending an abundance of love to you  
My Own Mother,

From her Soldier boy,  
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