

Dupee

Washington. May 21<sup>st</sup>/65

Dear Mrs. Bacon.

I suppose you will be surprised at our being so long here, but as yet have been unable to find an abiding place at Alexandria. We left City Point last Tuesday and came directly here as Mr Hayes was obliged to remain behind us, to pack our bedding, crockery, and some other things that could not be well disposed of until after we left. Thursday & Friday he tried in vain to find a place for an Agency at A. and Saturday we went ourselves. We were so sure of remaining there that we gave up our room at the Ebbitt House where we had been two days, and had our baggage

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Date: May 21, 1865

Description: Mary E. Dupee, a nurse serving in Washington, D.C., and Virginia during the Civil War wrote to Ellen Usher Bacon in Maine to report on the nurses' activities and their move to City Point, Virginia.

taken to the Agency. We failed entirely, and came back at night hoping to get into our old quarters, but there was "no admittance".

The City is full, and we considered ourselves very fortunate in procuring a room in a house kept by colored people. 'Tis a nice large house, and every room but this, is occupied by gentlemen, only one is furnished with board, and our landlady consented to furnish us with meals. So you can imagine Miss Usher and myself, in a third story back room, where we sleep & eat. If there was a parlor in the house where we could receive our callers we should like it first rate. The living is splendid. Mrs Ringgold is one of the best cooks I ever saw. She has three children and until quite recently were all

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slaves. The oldest daughter you would be charmed with; she is very lady-like and converses well. This P.M. we called at Mrs Whitney's, where we stayed the first day of our arrival. She had been expecting us back and insisted upon our giving up this room and remaining with her until after the grand review, which we have concluded to do. Mr H. goes to A. again tomorrow to see what has "turned up" since yesterday. It seemed as if all the world and its cousin had met there. Such crowds of people, & army wagons, to say nothing of the horses & mules. Capt Mayo sent his ambulance to the boat for us and we rode out to his camp first. After dinner which was nicely served in a tent, we visited the men and guns, then drove all about

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or something. If there were any tents  
to be had we should be made, but  
the men can hardly get enough  
for their own use. Some of Sherman's  
army passed us; we waved our  
'kerchiefs at them, which pleased  
the boys you may be sure. There were  
a great many of them, and our prog-  
ress was somewhat impeded by them.  
They looked cheerful and happy.  
This morning Sheridan's Cavalry passed  
here. We stood at the door to see them  
until we got tired, then came up  
stairs to breakfast, and went back  
to find them still passing. Sheridan  
reviewed them at Willard's. We  
went to hear Dr. Channing this fore-  
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and John Brown<sup>5</sup>. I haven't had  
such a treat in a long time, and  
only regretted there were so few to  
hear him. The weather was show-  
ery, but we went between the drops.  
You know we are small, and  
could easily do so. We wouldn't  
have missed the sermon, if all the  
drops had hit us. -- I am very  
impatient to be at work again,  
for I know there are so many of the  
boys who need the very things, we  
have boxed up, spiced with some  
cheerful, comforting words. The Agency  
of the "M. C. H. A." is regarded as a  
home by them, and they are anxious  
to have it continue as long as they  
are kept in the service. -- I was  
going to apologise to you, for not  
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Mary Dupee  
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[Sideways at left]

money holds out. I have but little left. Miss Usher is a good banker however and I hold on to what I've got as much as possible while she is round. She keeps you so well posted upon matters and things here that but little is left for me to say. Must bid you good night with much love for yourself and friends,

Yours faithfully,

M. E. Dupee.