

Head Quarters Camp Parole
Sept 7/63

Dear Father

It is some time since I wrote you a letter but I intend to make all I direct to you count if possible and as much as possible

I am well and just about as fat as I was when I was home from Jamestown on Furlough. I have not weighed myself in some time so I do not know how much to say but I suppose I must weight between 150 & 160 lbs

We are having very pleasant weather yesterday we had some rain Fruit is plenty and Peaches in particular some as large as your fist. I went down to Alexandria to visit the Regt on saturday and in the town I saw about 3000 or 4000 Watermelons in the Market Enclosed you will find a Receipt for \$20.00 That I have Expressed this morn I hope you are all well and I wish you would write very soon and let me know if Frank is coming down here in this National Grave Yard for it is not much else I do hope he wont I feel he aint needed

Yesterday I recieved a letter from Norman R. Thompson he is Sergt in Co G 49 N.Y.V. and he writes a Jolly letter enough to raise anybodys spirits if they aint drooped too far perhaps you dont know him Frank does

Down in Alexandria I had a good time with Earl Bacon and and another friend I visited Wolf St. Hospital. They consist of 2 Brick buildings and they are splendid structures too (built of brick) and quite northern in their Style I would have you know that most of the cities and Towns in the south as far as I have been have a peculiar style of a sort of Old fashioned build. The Great planters houses are mostly built on high hills so as to over look a good extent of country and a short distance from them are the Log huts of the Niggers We are having first rate times in the Office here plenty to eat plenty to Drink & plenty to wear as I can prove to your satisfaction if you were here to look at the clothing accounts Col Watkins I think is a very nice man and a model officer as he shows by the care he takes of the men in his charge

The boys think that they have laid in Parole Camp about long enough and begin to wish to be exchanged Our Regt lays at Alexandria engaged in escorting Conscripts to the front and are on duty pretty much all the time

I saw Dudley Beadle when I was down to the Regt and he is fat and Strong our Col just came in and brings the report that Sickles is going to have the command of the defences of Washington and that Gen Heintzleman is going to the front well I cant tell what will come next

Wild Grapes are beginning to get ripe and there are some splendid large ones full as large as our Issabelles and and a pretty good flavor they have too

Please give my respects to Ella & all the rest and as I do not know of much news to write I believe I shall have to stop for this time excuse all my flourishes tell Stella I shall write to her some time and I shall ever remain

Yours Truly

[September 7, 1863 continued]

or in the Military term in addressing our high officers

I am "Col" Capt. & Gen
Very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Charles W Abell

PS we are not exchanged yet and it is not likely that we will be very soon
Good Luck to Conscripts and my best wishes for all but but but but but but
Copperheads I'd like to shove a few of them to the front Wouldn't I though but I
see that the Rebs love the Coppertips about as well as I do in my estimation
Rebellion is about played out

Charley