

"Mower" Hospl. Guard Room.  
Wednesday August 26th 1863

Dear Folks.

Here I am again in my office and quite busy today but I will write a little to let you know that I am back again safe & sound I left Salamanca at 11 A.M. Monday & at 5 P.M. was at Elmira. Fare \$4.05. At 9 got to Williamsport, at 2 A.M. Tuesday at Harrisburg & reached Philada at 6 yesterday morning. 12 hours before my time was out. Paid \$7.25 from Elmira to Philada & 18 cts from the city up here. Stopped 3 hours on the way at McClellan Hospl. to see Ab. Thomas & got here at 1 P.M. & found Mr Leonard glad to see me back. He has had 3 different men in my place since I left but has kept the place for me, & put me in charge again at once. There has been quite a tear-up here since I left. Medical Inspector King has been here examining for the Invalid Corps &c & I found about 50 men from the Guards were just going off to Harrisburg & a great many from the Wards are going off this P.M. to their Regts or the Invalid Corps. If I had been here I should probably have been sent to Harrisburg for the Invalid Corps with the rest but Mr Leonard intends to keep me here awhile. A new order has just been issued that all convalescents after having been on duty 6 weeks if able shall be sent to their Regts or the Invalid Corps & in order to keep some of the men here whom he does not wish to send off he has invented the expedient of sending them as returned to Wards for medical treatment & then having them return in a few days. According to this piece of strategy my regular turn for a fit of sickness will come about the 10th of Sept but you need not worry about my health unless you hear from me further. I have just transferred 17 more men to Guard duty in place of those sent off & others will be reported every day. The new Guard Room is almost ready. It is in the basement under this room & this is to be cleaned out thoroughly & the bedding returned & new bedding drawn, &c so that we shall have every thing clean here The other end of this room will be used for Court Martial every morning at 7. I received the August Phrenological Journal last night-did not find any letters but expected one from Uncle Rockwood. I wish you would send one of my card pictures to Aunt Lydia when you write. The news is good--our forces are in hopes of taking Charleston very soon--are knocking Sumter & Wagner to pieces every day I will see if I cannot get a paper to send you. Must stop. How did the little girls feel when I left?

Love to all from

Asher

P.S. I am to have a paper with all the names of drafted men in Catt & Chaut Co's. Missionary N H. Pierce is drafted! also Capt Mills of my Co who resigned & went home.

A Bliss

*(Courtesy of William H. Petersen, East Randolph, N. Y.)*