

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 12, 1862

Dear Frant-

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to let you know that I am well, although I have not received an answer to the last that I wrote. I thought you would not know where to write. Here I am in Washington, a regular hog's nest. It is the nearest looking city I have seen since I started. I am sitting in sight of the Capitol--the place where our men whom the people have chosen to make laws have wrangled & quarreled & tended to everything but their own business & have brought on this war, taking the cream of our land, to waste & pine away beneath a southern sun. I tell you what Frant I have seen enough since I started although I have seen but little. I have seen the pale cheeks of many a poor boy all of which has been caused by men in high places. But enough of this. While I am writing the Regt. is getting ready to march to Camp Seward which is 5 miles from here. I tell you what it will be a "sweater". The sweat runs off of me now to think of it but then we have got to come to it & so I suppose we might as well begin now as any time. We started from Jamestown last Monday, the 29th at 6 o'clock in the evening & got to Elmira the next morning. We stayed there and got our equipage, gun & cartridge box & cap box with a knapsack (& haversack & canteen & all the rest. I tell you what it makes a load but then I can stand it if the rest can. I feel first rate this morning only I am a little cross as I have only slept about two hours in a night since we started. We started from Elmira Tuesday and got to Baltimore 2 o'clock the next day. Then we had to sit right down in the dust and stay till 10 o'clock & then started for Washington. Bill Brad & I got on the top of the cars and put on our overcoats & put our blanket over us & slept sound a good part of the night but we were afraid of rolling off. Bill slept like a hog & Brad & I could not keep awake to save us. The train stopped right in a big swamp & they said that the 24th NY Reg. had been fired into and two of the men killed & they had tore up 5 or 6 rods of the track; I tell you what it made me feel rather curious for a few minutes there in stillness of night in a country where the enemy are pretty thick and on the top of a car but then it proved to be false. In the morning I soon laid low and went to sleep & slept pretty good but--Frant who do you think I have seen this morning, well ___ it was Cap. H.N. Hunt a man that I have seen in Leon. He is getting so that he looks pretty well again but he is pretty feeble yet; I guess you would liked to have been in my place a little while. The 64th is near Harper's Ferry. We shall cross the Potomac in about half an hour. How it makes me sweat Frant. It would seem pleasant to blessed time, it would be but Frant be gay, be cheerful & sing and I'll try and do the same thing and now Miss Frant good-bye
yours now as ever. Edgar Shannon