

NEAR STAFFORD C. H. VIRGINIA, April 10/63

My dear Frant

I promised to write you and do it this week so to keep my word good I shall have to do it today so it can go out tomorrow. I had just laid down to take a nap but I happened to think of my promise so I got up and went to work. You know I always like to keep my word good. We are having so many grand reviews and so much drilling I can't get time to write nor anything else. We had a Grand Review yesterday. We were reviewed by Gen. Howard and staff. He is our junior general now. He has taken command lately and Sigel has gone west. I believe I'd rather have Sigel. Today we had a grand review at which the president, general Hooker and all the division generals and brigadiers in the corps. were present. It was a grand show. the grandest I have seen since I was in Virginia. We were told to get ready in the morning so about 11 we started and went about two miles to the place where the review was to be held. Here we were up in lines one behind the other, a brigade in a line. We had just gotten formed and stacked our guns to rest when we could see them all looking towards the station. I soon saw it was a body of Lancers that attracted their attention. They were gayly dressed and mounted on fine horses each one bearing a lance about 10 ft. long with a little red flag on. The next thing we heard was the roar of the cannon and almost made us jump out of our boots followed by 25 more in honor of the president. All eyes were strained to get a glimpse of that chap Lincoln. The boys in the rear rank pushed themselves 10 ft. high (though I reckon they would be glad to come down a peg or two when they come to crawl into their tents). He soon came in sight followed by about 500 generals and officers and cavalry (there were three women with him and they looked a great deal better to me than he did) after they rode around and showed themselves to us, we had to walk along by them and show ourselves to them. There was a little boy about as large as Dutch Shannon who rode by the side of the president fulfilling what is written in the Bible (A little child shall lead them) after we had in review, we marched back to camp and sat down to my dinner of boiled pork and hard tack. I made up my mind that all their and show was only a outside show, only a mask to cover the miseries, the anguish and tears which is caused by war. Their

_____ is that we have never been sworn in and they can't hold us. The boys thought the officers were going to try to get us sworn in today or tomorrow they can't see it. I guess it is all humbug. I wish it would happen some way so that we could get home. The paper was a present from John Manley, he gave every one ~~the~~ in the regiment two sheets because we named the camp after him. The boys are all well. Del has gone home, but Frant, I must close this letter and get some wood. Write as soon as you get them. From your true friend, Edgar S.