

Alexandria Sept. 24th/63

Dear Frant

Once more I seated to commune with thee by means of pen & ink. Oh how much more pleasant it would be could I converse with thee as I used to. I could say more in half an hour than I can write in a week. it would be such pleasure to take your hand in mine & look you in the eye when you answered my questions. then if you misssake yourself & said what you did not mean I could tell; & not need to doubt, but Frant I do not doubt you; you have proved true to me thus far; far more I am afraid than I have to you if I have done wrong. I have been sorry & have learned a good lesson from it. I am always very glad to get a letter from you. I write to a good many to get all the news & pass away the time I think it full as profitable as any, but it makes no matter how many letters I get yours are read first & with the most pleasure. Your letters are a great help to me here to help me do right. This is the worst place for wickedness I have been in. There are the most ways to tempt me to do wrong; but when I am this tempted I think what would my friends say what would Frant say; would she not scorn me & justly too & friends desert & more than all my conscience reproach in & make me miserable. I try to do right & trust may as good at least as when I left home; & would I were a good deal better. there is need of it. I will change the subject & tell you something about the boys of course you wish to hear from them. All the boys from Leon are well except Del. He has the fever again; I was up Tuesday & he was just shaking his tent finely & himself worse. I made him a cup of tea & he felt some better. I have not seen him today as I went away yesterday and got back at noon today I must as soon as I finish this. Bill is the same old Bill I tell him he is counterfeit as he could not pass _____ & get home. he has gone to the front somewhere with conscripts today. I passed him coming back but did not _____ Ab is well & I think Em H is doing well. I think so, too. Helen must feel grand, an old man with two children you say she has made her fortune I should think misfortune if she goes to Ellington it will be read handy won't its not very far from Cherry C. I should like to been there along with Mary & Eunice. I think one evening would passed pleasantly. Give my love to them the next time you see them. how pleasant it would be to go up to the _____ camp meetings & the fairs; but I cannot & so will content myself;

I cannot say I hate this kind of life. there is a great deal of excitement & much to please, something new every day I went three miles beyond Culppeh? yesterday, sixty miles the whole distance is a picture of desolation. The meadows & corn fields are covered with bushes, the fences are all burned houses & barns torn down the chimneys of the houses are all that's left of them to mark the places of ones happy homes hardly an inhabitant to be seen in going this distance we pass places which have been the scenes of many bloody battles: Fairfax, Manakas; Bull Run; Bialter Brandy station, Warrenton & other places. Hilpatrick's cavalry passed us last night they had a heavy fight with the rebs yesterday; across the Rapidan, the troops have orders to have eight days rations ready to carry & seven to draw with the teams. I think there will be a fight soon, a large one too. If they have a good a time to Chasis as they generally do they will have a grand time. let them have it, they surely have their reward. I was very much started to learn that Curyton Mergon was dead I could hardly make it seem so. it made me very sad, truly time is making a great change in Leon & in the whole country not a day passes but what something undergoes a change but let us cheer up & stare fate in the face. their heart will be happy if its in the right place. I have got two boils on my face and a sty & they feel pleasant. And now Frant, good-bye, write soon and believe me as ever your true friend, Edgar