

We do not get our pay yet and money
is as scarce as hen's teeth. Boots + saddles
has just sounded + I must quit writing
for this time. ^(P.M.) The summons was to go out for
inspection. We all fell in line and after
standing in the drenching rain about an
hour + $\frac{1}{2}$ were informed that in consideration
of its being a bad time for the troops to
turn out the inspection was postponed.
All very well if it had come about 2
hours sooner. I have just been informed that
a large column of Gen Burnside's troops
passed through Centerville on the way to Alex-
-andria where they are to ship for Fredericks-
-burgh. via Aquia Creek. I like the Complex
-ion of this movement + have some hopes
now that the war is going to be earnestly
waged. + that Virginia is soon to be
reclaimed. Once the Rebels are routed
from this state they will soon fall a
Prey to the hosts that will hem them in
on every hand. I notice with deep concern
the clause in your last relative to your
throat I hope however it is not as bad as I
am led to infer from your account of it
that Effort that raised the money to
hire Substitutes that the draft might
be evaded in Sheridan speaks better
for the condition of their Pockets than their
hearts. I am glad they found the Substitutes
lest they might have brought dishonor on the
town if they had come themselves. ^{I'd hate to see a}
^{divided man run.} Yours truly + affectionately Eben

Chantilla Va. Nov. 20, 1862

Dear wife.

Your more than welcome
letter of the 9 + 10 came to hand on the
17. but in consequence of the frequent move-
ment of the camp + the rain I have not
had an opportunity of writing till now. I wrote
you from Aldie. We made a stay there of only
one day, when finding the country free of Rebels
we moved to Hopewell a little place in the
Mountains about 18 miles S.W. from Aldie
Arriving just at dark + getting orders to march
at 5 the next morning we travelled all day
in the rain and arrived here at night
as comfortless as you could wish any poor
devil to be under any circumstances.
We made the best we could of it however +
in the morning yesterday shifted position
once more + though we moved only about
1 mile still it was just as much trouble
as tho we had gone a days march it rained
slowly all day. + all last night. + this
morning it is pouring down as if the
winter rains had really set in

The boys are more comfortably prepared for such storms now than they would have been three or four days ago as we had shelter tents distributed to us. I suppose you do not understand the term "shelter tents" They are constructed in pieces & buttoned together so that four pieces makes a tent that four men can lie down under & be quite comfortable. You may think a house only about five 1/2 feet square & all gable end at that a small one for four men but I tell you it is a great deal better in this stormy weather than mine. I shall expect to hear from you at Albany by the next mail we get and am in hope everything may go as you wish. I got a letter from Shaler the same mail that brot yours they are all well Mother seems to like living there better than she expected Royce also wrote about the same time that they had moved to Lansingburg across the river from where they did live. They are just as conveniently located for you to find & perhaps more so than if they had not moved if you have not gone ere you get this.

Their House is No. 82 Congress St. between North St. & Nassau St. You can take the Horse Rail Road from the Depot at Troy. & go right past their door. Royce is working for the Horse R.R. Company. My health is first rate save that I feel a little touch of the Rheumatism since the storms have come on. The worst calamity I have to complain of is that "Billy Seward" the Poor fellow, has got so bad with overwork that he is so stiff & lame I am practically a dismounted trooper. He can only go at a walk. He has been a fine horse and has done me so good service I greatly regret to loose him. In fact there is hardly a companion in the Service whom I shall miss so greatly as he. I do not know what move will be next made. Some are of the opinion we shall stay here a long time & others that we shall soon advance towards the Rappahannock by way of Culpepper Court House & the Mouth of the Rappahannock. All is uncertain but I hope ere we have to go to hear everything is right with us at Albany.