

Camp Belger May 2, '63

Friend Rebecca

I hope you will excuse me for taking the liberty of writing to you without your permission but never the less I will take the liberty hoping in due time to hear from you. I presume you would like to know where I had kept myself since last fall well I will explain in as few words as possible after enlisting in the 5th Regt. last fall the Col. came to me and said he would like to have me help him recruit a new Regt. and he would either give me a good position in the new or else I might go on to the old so three of us opened an office on the corner of Bd way and Fulton St. and recruited 89 men for him. When we were ordered down on Staten Island when they told me I had been transferred to the new one so I went to the Col. and told him I would like to go on to my Regt. He said I could not so the consequence was that I took French leave. I run the guard and went to the north end of the Island where I found it all guarded by Soldiers and could not pass them so I had to make believe I was wounded. I made a sling and put my arm in it and started and came up where the guards were posted when they told me they were not allowed to let soldiers pass but they would have to let me pass as I was wounded. I then went to Uncle Bens and from there to Canastota where I remained until the first of march when I started for Uncle Judes and told him I would like to go on the 150. He wrote to Col. Ketcham and arranged it so I could come into this Regt. without any trouble. I like it very much here so far and hope I shall continue to do until I get my discharge. We are having gay times here at present but we do not know how long it will last. I suppose it depends mostly upon Hooker if he should get defeated we probably should be ordered to the front immediately if not we probably shall stay here all summer. Yesterday afternoon as I was walking up Baltimore St. I met a lady I should presume by the style that she was rather Secesh. She was very afraid she should touch me so she ketches up her dress and steps clear off one side & of course had business the same way so she was obliged to take the street or get her dress soiled by touching me. Day before yesterday there was a colored major passing through here when some of the citizens caught him and tore off his shoulder straps and pounded him considerable when one of our Lt. arrested them and had them put in the fort to await their trial. As there is no news of any consequences I must close. My kind regards to your Father and Mother and the rest of the family. I hope to hear from you soon.

I remain as ever your Friend,

N. Sheldon

P.S. Direct your letter to Co. A, 150 Regt. Baltimore, MD.