

July the 23/64

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Dear Mary

I received yesterday the first letters that I have received from you since we left Martinsburg One was June 30 July 1 & July the 19th I mailed a letter for you on Saturday I think The day before we left the railroad I got the money The box did not get there on Saturday I was there myself Saturday & there was no box for me Our Chaplain started to Martinsburg yesterday If it is there he will have it sent here There was more than a bushel of letters come to the (page torn) Charly started yesterday to Frederick to see Homer Barack & Spencer Seymour You will hear perhaps much about the North mountain boys as we will or more I would not be surprised to hear that they was re-captured Our forces are heading them at most all points They will not get away with much plunder It will take Charly two or three weeks to tell all the news after he gets home If there was any bad management with regard to the North mountain boys I dont suppose Colonel (page torn) was to

(we believe a page is missing here rd/nd)

Colonel Mauls had command of the post and Gen Sigal was there himself We got the word Sunday morning to fall back to martinsburg They run an engine up from martinsburg & intended to go as far as Cumberland but they did not get as far as North mountain

The prospect now is that the raiders will get away with verry little plunder We have good news from Hunter, our troops over took the Rebels near Winchester & defeated them killing & wounding over three (hundred ?) being two hundred prisnors & four picces of canon, Today I am out on picket

Sunday the 24 it is verry warm here today I have just got in of picket Monday the 25 it has been raining verry hard all morning Tuesday morning I intended to have mailed this letter but it rained all forenoon on monday very hard & we had no tent About noon our tents come & we went to work to fix them up We had just got everything fixed our furniture arranged when the word came to strike tents We would have to go on the hights & in fifteen minutes we was ready to move Our whole stock of furniture tent and all we packed onto the hights It was dark when we started We was tired enough to lay down and sleep when we got here The 161st camped in the same place that we left There was fighting at Bunker hill yesterday We could hear the roar of canon verry plain but have herd no reliable news from there I think they will be to sharp to attact this place again I think the Rebs are in a bad (word missing ?) They dont know where to run or what to do It is verry Smokey today They cant tell just what the Rels are doing from the hights They can see from 10 to 40 miles a clear day with a glass That box was at Martinsburg Was to have been sent here on Monday I have not got it yet I think I will get it in a day or two The clothes I have does for preasent use My old Blouse was wore out on the right sholder but I put a verry neat patch on it so it looks verry well We have been building more fortifications up here today out of stone I heare nothing heare about the hundred day men reaanlisting I suppose any that wants to can do so You must get along with Will Swan the best you can You know better what to do than I do You had better make all the Bargains with him your Self if you can If he dont stay willingly try and get somebody

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else and let him go. It wont be long till i get home if nothing happens You know more about the wages there than I do I think we will be in Camp Chase by the time our time is up & that will soon robl around

Wednesday the 27

All things are not so quiet on the potomack this morning I dont heare of any fighting but there is quite a move of soldiers. Hunters army is coming down the valley They are going camp around on the east side of the mountain They had a fight on Sunday but I dont know how they made it

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We have to go out on fatiugue duty today again That is building breast works around the brow of the mountain I guess they will keep us at that the ballance of our time, The twelvth Ohio is down in the valley Some of the boys was up here They say that Marvin Bird was killed at Winchester last Sunday I have no chance to send this letter to the office yet the cars dont run from hear to martinsburg now On Monday was the last train that came through I suppose the rebels are in Martinsburg before this time Our men took every thing away that belonged to the goverment & left the place so the town will not do them mutch good I have had no mail from home since last Friday I believe I will close this letter Perhaps the mail may go out today I have no news to write today There is a large army down in the valley east of the hights from where we are There is no one thinks the Rels will attact this place I have not heard what direction the Rebls have gone I will now close this letter hoping that you may get it soon No more at preasent but I remain

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The army that ~~came~~ stopt in the valley are leaving this morning. They have been reinforced & are going after the rebels. It is said that Rosecrantz has taken Hunter's place. Messes Seymour & Barrack came here yesterday. They have been to see there sons & say they are both improving. They are going to leave this morning. Want to take the Boys with them. I am down at the Hook this afternoon getting my Boots half soled. Charge one dollar. The sixth 18eth & nineteen army Corps are passing through here. They are crossing at the ferry & going over throug Bollivar. There is Infantry cavalry & arttilery. It issaid there is another army going up the east side of the mountain in the direction of Hagerstown. I think you will hear some good news in a few days. Satturday the 30eth I am out on picket today. It is warm & dry here. We are still upon the hights. Them that is not detailed for picket duty has to build stone fence. I dont see why I dont get any more letters. It is one week yesterday since I got the last letters. The runs from hear to Baltimore. I do not know. Men for picket duty. Some of them has to go about five miles. There is no Infantry upon the hights but our regmt. Sunday evening. It has the appearence of rain. All quiet on the potomac.

That box was sent to Baltimore. There was a big scare & everything was cleared out of Marty & hear to & sent away. If it went there it will be sent back as soon as things gets setteled.

Monday Morning

I though I would have mailed this letter this morning but I did not get it done. The news will be later when you get it. The Boys are most all putting in there spare time making rings out of laurel root. For my part I have not made any yet.

All the talk now is when we will start home. The officers are buisy fixing up there Books. All but ours. Yesterday morning the Colonel came down & ordered them up to his quarters. He keeps them there at it all the time. The other officers has thers fixt out. The Boys that was paroled at Martinsburg and other places around, there paroles is

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