

Camp John Manley  
Virginia May 11, 1863

Dear Elery

It has been a long time since I have heard from you but I have thought of you very often every day I have thought whether you were doing as well as you ought to & whether you were taking as good care of things as you would if I had been at home. Now I have heard that you are getting rather lazy that among other things you had neglected to clean out your stable as you ought to have done. Now, if that is so dont let it be so any more. For you dont know bad it makes me feel to hear any thing of the kind about you. You must not think because I am not at home that it is of no consequence whether you do well or not. I want you to do better when I am away than when I am at home with you. You must not think because Pa is not here to see you that you can do as you please. You must do the best you can in every thing. I have not heard that you was getting to be a bad boy, on the contrary I have heard that you was a good boy only you was getting a little lazy. Now dont let me hear anything more of the kind. Be thorough about your work and be particular about your chores. Leave nothing undone that ought to be done dont say Ill let the stable go until night without cleaning, for when night comes you may not have time. Do it in the morning. Do everything in its time. Remember the old maxim. Never put off till to morrow what ought to be done to day for if you do you will overcharge the morrow with a burden which belongs not to it. You must be kind to your Mother & Brother and sisters. Do just as Ma tells you to do & then you will do right. We have had a terrible battle a good many were killed. I saw several shot down and the bullets whistled close to my head but fortunately I did not get hurt.

Camp John Mangley  
Virginia May 11/63

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