

*[On letterhead illustrated with cut of United States Capitol and printed heading, "Headquarters
154th Reg't N. York Vols., Col. A. G. Rice, Company (D).]*

Arlington Heights Virginia 5 miles from Washington
October 3, 1862

My Dear Wife

I now sit down to write a few lines to you to let you know how I am getting along I am well and as tough as a bear and I hope you and little Romain are both well

While I was writing before we had orders to get ready to march at five minutes notice But we did not start until most sun down we started for Camp Chase on Arlington Heights we Passed down through Washington City on Philadelphia Avenue the principal street in the City down to Chain Bridge the Bridge crosses the Potomac River which is one mile and 30 rods long we reached our Camp after dark we laid down on our blankets the first night but yesterday we got our tents which is made of Factory Cloth large enough for two men to sleep in

I saw Elias Andrus yesterday and quite a number of other Boys that I knew some of them have been Prisoners with the rebels there was 3 of our Pickets guards shot night before last while they were on guard Our men took 14 rebels Prisoners yesterday they think they are the ones that shot our men there was a man in another regiment that is camped about 40 rods from us got mad and shot one of the soldiers in that regiment and they took him and Called out six soldiers from that regiment and they shot him it was done yesterday some of our Boys see them shoot him

I have not seen a fence since I got in to Virginia Everything looks desolate there has not been any rain here since July the dust is 4 inches deep and the wind blows hard and the dust flies so that it almost puts out any ones eyes

There is I should think 2 hundred thousand soldiers in Camp that we can see their tents

Our rations were dealt out to us this morning Consisting of Pork hard Crackers Coffee Sugar Enough for ten men we have two Camp pans that holds about Eight Quarts apiece one of them to make Coffee in the other to fry our meat in we have one knife and fork spoon tin plate and one tin cup we Enjoy our selves first rate onely it is very warm it is as warm as any time in the Summer in Franklinville I am writing in my tent and the sweat drops off of my face like rain we can see the Capitol from here we can see the Potomac river we can see one or two forts it is on high land and we can see a long ways from here

I send you a Bill of the money such as the southernns have it is not worth anything in the northern states let Smiths folks see the money and tell them that I would like to see them Horace is well he seems to like it well the First Lieutenant in Co F in our regiment was taken sick yesterday morning the doctor thought that he was Poisoned I have not heard from him to day

I can not write any more this time I will write again soon Good bye this [time] from your affectionate

Marion