

Camp John Manley
Stafford C.H. Va May 20th, 1863

Dear friends at home

I received your kind and welcome letter and was glad to hear that you were all well I am enjoying that greatest of all blessings at the present time. I was very much gratified to learn that Clara was better and grieved to hear of the death of Uncle Charles whom I thought a great deal of This is a splendid morning and I have been detailed to go on picquet a duty that I had rather perform when it is pleasant weather then to stay in camp We have not done much duty since the Battle. We have had one corps drill and one Brigade drill and done picquet duty two days There is not more than 1200 men in our Brigade nor more than 10000 in the corps Major Gen. A von Steinweigh rode up to our Lieut Col. yesterday while on drill and says he your Regt. is not large any more Col. Loomis answered no they got badly cut up in the engagement Well says the Gen. you did well boys and you have my best respects and highest gratifications His Wife and family were present at the drill Brigadier Gen. Bushbeck thinks more of this Regt. now then any others in the brigade He is the finest dutch man that I ever saw He is not afraid to speak to a private and he thinks more of some of the privates then he does of one half of shoulder straps Lieut Burdick has sent in his resignation and will be in town some time this week I may send this by him dont know J. M. Bouton got wounded by his own gun while on picquet the other night He shot his second toe so that it had to be cut of Our former Col. A. G. Rice was in camp last friday he came to see the Adgutant who is yet missing and is very likely killed Col. Jones has returned from the other side of the river He is so lame that he has to go on crutches He went home with Col. Rice George Barron is in the Hospital Tomy Mason is on his way to Richmond Ben Spink has not been heard from All of the Olean boys are safe with the exception of Ben Richmond is not ours yet I wished it was but I guess I shall be home to ring bells and build bon fires when that is taken I am glad to hear that father has got plenty of work to do I hope his health will be good so that he can do it Please dont worry about me for I am just as likely to come home as I am to be killed I dont think of that at all I did not think of getting hurt while I was in the Battle I was looking out for some body else all the while I feel very thankful to think that I should pass through that shower of bullets without being hurt. I have written to Joseph and Philander and a letter to Sarah in answer to hers and sent it to Bolivar I am glad to hear that Uncle Frank is out of the war I have written to Jamestown and when I get a letter I will tell Kate something that she wanted to know but you must keep mum Give my respects to all and answer immediately Tell me if you got the check I sent kiss Clara for me and reserve for yourselves Your affect. son

Thaddeus

[Thaddeus L. Reynels, musician, Company I, 154th New York Volunteers]