

In camp near South Mountain MD.  
June 28th 1863

Dear friends at home

To day is Sunday and as I have got a good place to write I will inform you of what I have been doing for the past week We have been very busy since I wrote you last. Last monday noon we were ordered out on picket three miles from where we were in camp We had a splendid time and lived like kings The country flows with milk and honey as well as other stuff The people were all Loyal except one or two familys and they were rabid Secessionist I paid 50<sup>c</sup> a pint for honey & 25<sup>c</sup> a pound for butter very nice The same day that we went out we captured a prisoner one of our men a Lieut in the 3rd Regulars trying to desert or join the Rebels We kept him over night and next day we sent him to Head Quarters and I have not heard any thing from him since He told some of the boys that he had been cashiered and dismissed the service and that he was ashamed to go home because his folks were of high standing and that he had become deranged & crazy

On the battle field  
at Getteysburgh Pa  
July 2nd 1863

Yesterday we attacked the Rebels \_\_\_ and the \_\_\_ and fought them all day loosing a great many on both sides General Reynolds of the First Corps was killed at the first outset General Barlow commdg. 2nd Brigade was killed I have not been in the battle having been detached from the Regiment last Sunday as Brigade Orderly for General Chas. R. Costor comdg first brigade 2nd Division When the fire opened myself & another orderly were ordered to fall back to the rear with the ambulences We did & went to the Hospital I saw some very bad wounds and help dress them Some were shot as much as three times in different places Some had an arm shot off some had legs shot all to pieces and hands and fingers all torn to pieces with shells I stayed there until they were ordered to move the hospital when I left and went to the front and stoped at Head Quarters all night This morning I started back to the rear It is reported that we have taken possession of the town and that the Rebs have fallen back and are trying to get on our flank We have plenty of Artillery Some 20 & 30 pounders We have about 100,000 thousand troops have engaging General Lee Hill & Ewell with all their forces I think that we will gain the victory We took a Brigade of Rebels cavalry & six hundred troops I have been all through the town the citizens have not left yet Our Regt & the 134th N.Y. went into the field yesterday noon with about Eight or nine hundred men & came out last night with 80 in all they were completely surrounded and had to cut their way through I went to find some of them last night could not. I saw Lieut Col Allen and Major Warner and a Lieut of Co I with one private I expect that all of the Olean boys were killed wounded & taken prisoners I am sitting in a house in the rear of the battle writing this I will write to you again as soon as the battle is over I shall keep out of danger

Thaddeus L. Reynels

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