

FAIRFAX, OCTOBER 16, 1862

Dear Frant--

Once more I seat myself to write to you although I have got no answer to either of the last two that I wrote. I wrote one in Jamestown & one in Washington; but as we are going out on picket-duty in a day or two I thought I would write now as I might not get time there. And I want you to write every time you get a chance; for I tell you what it does a fellow good to get a letter. I guess I have not had one since I left Jamestown. The boys most all got one last night but me, & I tell you if they were not a tickled set then I would not say so.

Bill is writing home to his folks. We have both got our backs up against a barrel thought we have got a tent about 11 feet high & 12 feet long for four of us, & all of our duds. Bill says send his best respects; Brad & Gus Shippy tents with us. The boys from our place are mostly well, 3 or 4 have got the mumps & Ike Smith is in the hospital to Washington. We left Camp Seward last Sunday at noon & marched 10 miles & struck our tents for the night. It rained like split; but I slept good. We started the next morning at 6 o'clock & marched to this place 7 miles making 17 miles with 70 lbs. on a fellows back it makes quite a mark but what a God forsaken country to march through. No fences, no crops, & no nothing but a few grinning blacks & worse looking whites. We are on ground that was held by rebels last year. Frant I heard you had been sick, your father told me in Washington. Fry Cooper has resigned and gone home. Frant I wish I could sit down & talk with you as I used to talk over the old times which we have ___ together. Oh Frant, if I were only down there ___ school with you, I tell you what could ___ I enjoy myself. The other night when I was on guard, to guard the quartermasters store; when all around was still & no noise, but the mules chawing hay, & now & then a guard calling the ___ while the moon shone bright shedding a dim luster over every object: reminding me of many such pleasant nights that I had ___ in old Leon and my thoughts wandered back to scenes which are gone never to return & with them thought my dear friend Frant came into my mind unawares & before I knew it my eyes were about half full of tears, but Bills going to write & so I will quit write as soon as ___ get this While sitting there in the moonbeams rays I thought of other and happier days of days and hours I passed with thee when thou wert more than all to me. Yours truly Edgar

FAIRFAX

It is with pleasure that I take up my pen to write you a few lines. ___ Edgar can't write a letter alone, we both have to write in the same letter I suppose he has told you all

the news there is to tell, we had some bread & milk for dinner to day we have awful
times here. I would like to sit on that ___ of yours about five minutes. I could fight
as well ___ then well Frantz, I will close for the _____ I will write more next time.
Goodby. This from your friend Wm. H. ___