

THOROUGH FARE GAP, NOVEMBER 11, 1862

Dear Frant

It was with pleasure that I received yours of the fourth & was very glad to hear from you & to hear that you was well but was surprised to learn that you had not read any of my letters; I have wrote six times since I came here & two at Jamestown. I directed the last one as you said in the letter last night, the others I directed to Hubbardsville, Madison Co. They must have been directed wrong or else they have got stopped on the way. But Frant I am glad that you did not stop writing because you did not get my letters. You might naturally have supposed I had stopped writing and have quit also but No Frant that was not your plan & I am glad of it. But now we will commence new & Frant I want you to write once or twice a week & I will do the same, for it is a great pleasure to me to receive & to answer letters from my friends, our privileges for writing are rather poor, all we have for a bench is our knees, & a lead pencil for a pen. As you have got none of my letters I will tell you where I have been. When we left Washington, we went five miles to Camp Seward & stayed about two weeks & then marched to Fairfax which is seventeen miles, stayed there eight or ten days then we marched to within two miles of the place & there we done our first foraging we \_\_\_ in there just at night & drove in ten head of cattle and had them shot & cooking in less than an hour we went up to haymarket & just walked right into the houses & helped ourselves to what we liked best, & I tell you how the geese, hens, turkeys, sheep, hogs & cattle came into camp, yes & homey ducks preserve, pickles & they broke open a store & there was everything you could think of, I went out about three miles beyond the pickets with Oz Grelly & the orderly, & we got five hens two chicks & a pig. We picked the fowls & skinned the pig & had them cooked & I tell you they were firstrate, we stayed there three days & then went seven miles towards Warrenton, it snowed like \_\_\_ & cold thunder, we pitched our tent on some rails indian type with a fire in front & then we started foraging & what a time we had, we cornered some sheep & Bill & I both caught a nice fat one apiece our Company got ten, & three hogs and hives of bees a lot of apples & candles butter & everything we needed, & I tell you if we did not live for two days then call me a greeny. Well we stayed two days & marched to Thoroughfare gap where we are at present, it is only two miles from where we were before we marched the last time so you see we went fourteen miles to get two that's the way it goes here. Today has been washing day with us we had a regular old fashioned washing, & it looks

clean & nice to, you see us soldiers will make nice husbands when the war is over and we can do the washes well as the women. I will finish this letter I have just been to supper I had a nice plate of boiled rice with sugar on it & coffee & hard tack, we have enough to eat & I weigh the same I did when I left home & tough as a bear & so is Bill & the rest of the boys from Leon except Tom Plunkett & Ike Smith we left them behind. Frank I hope you will get these letters I wrote for they are good long ones but it is getting dark & so I will close & believe me to be as ever your true & affectionate friend, Edgar Shannon. Write as soon as you get this.