

#9

Headquarters 154 Regiment N.Y.S. Vol.  
Camp near Stafford C. H. Va.  
April 11, 1863

My dearest Lis,

Yours of the 5th inst. I received and you can't tell how glad I was to hear from you and to hear that you are all well. Do write oftener!

Yesterday was a big day in the 11th and 12th Army Corps. Both were received by the President in the same place we were received the day before. The President was accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln and a little boy about as large as Charley and was escorted to the field by General Hooker, Sickles, Schurz, Slocum and Howard with a numerous retinue of Brigadier Generals and citizens who came up from Washington with him.

The troops were stationed in the field at 11 o'clock. The Divisions in line of battle with the several Regiments massed with spaces between Brigades. The 1st Division of the corps forming the first line--then a wide street or space and then the 2nd Division in the same order and so on with the dividing--with the Artillery stationed away to the right.

At twelve o'clock the cannon on the right announced the coming of the President by firing a salute of 21 guns--a moment afterward the party came in sight. The President and General Hooker in the advance both upon horse--followed by a few horsemen as a special body guard--then the carriage with Mrs. Lincoln followed by a large guard of Lancers.

On approaching the troops the President bared his head and rode in front of the first line at a slow gallop with General Hooker just in the rear who was in turn followed by the immense bodyguard of Lancers and Cavalry. After passing the whole length of the first line he passed to the rear and rode in the same way in front of all the lines. I had forgot to tell you that the young Lincoln, a fat fair haired boy of 10 or 12 rode on a black shambling pony sometimes beside his father and sometimes in the rear.

The carriage in which Mrs. Lincoln and some other lady rode took a position some distance to the front of the troops on a slight elevation near the National colors. While the receiving party were passing among the troops the several bands played "Hail to the Chief" etc. in fine style.

After passing in front of all the troops the President took his position by the National colors and the troops by regiments passed in review before him.

The pictures carry a good idea of how old "Abe" looks--the most of them are exact likenesses--he looks careworn, anxious and fatigued. Mrs. Lincoln is a blonde, "fat and fair and 'Squishy'". She would remind you of Mrs. L. I. Mason--though rather prettier looking. She looks to me like a cow animal somewhat?, a coquetish, trifling woman without a single mark of greatness about her. Perhaps I am unduly? prejudiced against her on account of her shameless conduct? and frivolity with General Sickles during the review. I wouldn't be surprised if old Abe had a good cause to shoot Sickles as he (S.) had to kill Key!!

I am glad the cow and old John are sold but if the heifer should make a live of it and come in you will still be tied up if you'd not- - - - -