

2-23-1862

Arthur McKinstry to Mother

Arthur McKinstry

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Camp Wool Feb. 23^d / 1862

Dear Mother,

Frank's and your letter came to hand and were very gladly received. I had begun to grow anxious about you, you had been so long silent. I can and will send you the V. out of my next pay and shall suffer no inconvenience by so doing. We may get our pay anywhere from the 10th to the 20th of March, I think it will be within three weeks. Our company is out on picket along the shore of the Potomac but Camp Wool is still our Post Office, I am on the day relief and the business is not carried on so strictly as at night. To morrow I stand four hours night relief. As I can see all that is going on at a glance I sit and toast my shins at a good fire and take a turn up and down the beach now and then.

I drew a new rubber blanket so that I might be on hand to march at any time and made a good havelock of a part of the old one. This has already proved a capital thing for it protects my head and shoulders effectually from the rain. I sent a box to Uncle Willard yesterday morning which contained two very fine and heavy riflemen blouses 2 pairs good linen pants and my comforter which I do not need longer and am by far too stingy to throw away. The freight is paid and when Frank goes and gets them he and Lute can wear them. They are whole and almost new and cost Government about eight dollars or more. They have stood me a good turn but the weather is growing milder and as I am still well loaded the alternative was to send them away or throw them at the riggers. The reason I sent them by way of Uncle Willard was that some others

put in with me which reduced the freight one half per man. The birds have begun to sing to day and I don't believe we shall have much more frost. Our present station is at Sandy Point which is perhaps $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 miles below Kudd's ferry and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ above Liverpool Pt. By this reckoning you can place it upon the map I drew and sent you. Hooker's Division has not moved to Liverpool Point but extends from Matamoras Creek to Liverpool Pt. Thus the line of regiments extends twelve or fourteen miles and contains about that number of regiments averaging at ^{about} 1000 strong each. Well I think our chances of getting back to celebrate the 4th of July decidedly better than they were ten days ago. That the rebels are discouraged is evident from their silent batteries. They have been very quiet for a number of days. Well I must get some firewood for it will soon be dark so with love and plenty of it for the

old home circle I remain

Your very affectionate son

Arthur.

P.S. I weigh 180 and don't look so fat as
I did when I left home. The weight is in
muscle this time

from Arthur to
Mother - Camp Wood
1862