

Reg., 150, Camp Soldiers Home, Co. K
October 17, 1862

Dear Brother

I received your letter on the 14th and was glad to hear you are all well. it rained here last night it was the first big rain we have had here it commenced at half past 11 oclock I had just come off of guard and had got on the porch and Bill Yong had just went on as I came off it rained like the D. for two hours and then slacked up at 9 oclock this morning it was as clear as a bell and warm again the news came at 7 oclock night before last that the Rebbles were on the other side of the Potomac and Mrs. Lincoln had to have the guard doubled for fear the Rebbles would take the Place and all the guns were loaded for the first time for three weeks to stand guard with the Major was here last week and we had a good drill the two companys were brot up in line of battle and drilled awhile and then Co. K. had five rounds of Blanks Catridges gave them and we fired by File and by Co. till they were used up. Co. D left last week for the City to guard the Soldiers Retreat and our Co. has to guard the Soldiers Home alone, so we come on Guard offener, Mack Dowell Clover Yong Yokum and Cutter tant togeather all my nefs are well at present. I was down to the city day before yesterday and seen move than in all my life the first place we went to see Cap Fays Co. witch is guarding the White House Cop Fay has been sick for 3 or four weeks, with a fever we started from there to go the Navy Yard so we got on the street cars and rode down to the Navy Y where we went to see the Monitor is now repairing but they would not let any one go in so we rode back and went to see the Patent Office where all the patents that was ever got up is there we seen Gen. Washington's vest and coat that he wore before he resined his commission his sword Camp chest gridiron and all his cooking utensels also a cane that Franklin willed him, also a Jappanese saddle that was presented to Old Buchanan Dr. Kaim the artic regions with his rear suit on gun and sword that he had when there from there we went to the Smithsonian Institute where there is every kind of Animals or birds from the size of a mouse to a bear and Birds from half the size of a humming bird to the size of an Eagle. I seen an aligator 7 feet long I seen a lump of copper that was brought from the Indians for \$5,654 and sea shells as hig as half a bushel and crabs twice as big as your foot me and Philip got weighed when we were down Philip weighed ony 136 and me 161. Behind the Capitol there was a pond full of gold fish about as big as sun fish Some all yellow some with a spot on the head or tail the steeple on the Capitol has never been finished yet there was men to work building front of the Capitol and they are building another story on the war department to morrow we are to have a drill of loading and firing laying down and so I must come to close So good by send 2 steel pens. W. A. Cutter