

Transcript of Letter from Charles Warner to his Mother Mrs. Almon Warner, August 23, 1863

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Camp 145th Reg^t. New York Vols.
Kelly's Ford Va.
Aug. 23^d 1863
Sunday Eve-

Dear Mother:

The day is past; and the blazing sun which for long hours has continued to throw forth its scorching rays, has sunk behind our Western hills - The Moon - his less dazzling, but more lovely sister - shines forth with a gentle light, and though it does not astonish us with its glaring blaze - yet it amply compensates for its loss in this respect, by not compelling us to seek for shade or shelter to escape its influence -

Here and there a twinkling star dots the firmament as if to add to the glory of the "Queen of Night" by the contrast thus afforded between them - and as I glance from these pages to the sky above, and notice the bright stars and the lovely moon, and, recollecting they are the same stars & the same moon that I have often gazed upon in old New England my heart grows sad, and I long once more to be with you - I think with the necessary appurtenances I might then manage to enjoy a pleasant evening- by the way an idea has just come into my head, it was about 3 years ago this present time I was engaged in paying my compliments to one Miss Nellie Washburn much to the dislike of certain parties, who shall be nameless on these pages, but much to my own enjoyment. I would not feel very badly to exchange my present situation for one similar to the one I then enjoyed - Say, have you any/one that you are desirous of introducing to my notice at this time? but let us abandon these "moon shiney" subjects, and come down to the realities of life, for after all they are the main points which concern our existence here on earth. The weather is getting warmer, and rain has not fallen to any great extent for nearly or quite a month - good water is getting scarce, or what we call good water - Most of the water we use comes from a torpid stream which is full of frogs, and their companions "pollywogs" tolerable drinking water can be procured only at great trouble. still our health is quite good, as yet I am satisfied that this kind of life is just suited to my constitution, though I hardly suppose I could endure many campaigns like the one we have just passed through - When we reached Sandy Hook last on our return my cough began to trouble me quite severely, though I had but little cold - it kept on increasing, until within the past few days it has disappeared. I suppose my being able to build a bed off the ground was what cured me - and I do not expect it will trouble me again unless by long and continued exposes to the inclemencies of the weather - It is the general opinion here that the Army of the Potomac has ceased to exist, and that a large part of our already small army on our return to this point has left us; and we are hereafter to remain on the defensive. but as we are in no position to judge of the strength of our army I will not hazard a guess, though I think

no forward movement will be undertaken at present.

I have seen marching enough, and though I have no dread of fighting, yet my hot blood is getting cooled down, and a quiet life in camp just suits me.

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Charges against Col Price were last night handed in by Capt. Allen, to our Adjutant, they have to be forwarded to Division headquarters through the proper channels, and Price will have to forward them from this regiment, though of course he will disapprove of them. I presume he will keep them as long as military law will allow him before sending them forward, but that will be only a few days. I do not think they will amount to much more than proving vexations & irritating, though Allen thinks to break him - Nearly every officer in the regiment is down as witnesses, and there are charges & specifications enough to hang a man, if it depended upon their number so to do. If it were possible to put in the old charges against him I should have considerable hopes of doing something. One strong charge against him is for refusing to obey Col. Ross' order at Chancellorville on Saturdays fight when Price left us - Ross was commanding our brigade. other charges too numerous for mention are also drawn I shall appear as witness on the charge refusing to obey his superior officer (Col Ross) as well as some others, and I suppose Price has long ere this vowed new vengeance against me, as he perused the charges I hope in mf next to chronicle his being placed under arrest preparatory for trial - Oh! we are a peaceable set of officers - one of the men in this regiment has been sentenced to forfeit \$10 per month for what is due him and for 20 months to come, and wear a shirt for a week - all for improper language, and raising of weapon to strike an officer. I am going to enclose a letter written by Sergt. Maj. Butler whom Price refused to commission (so he Price says) because he did not condole with him when under arrest. Butler - is a college graduate, and left a theological seminary for the army, influenced I believe by patriotic motives - he is universally liked by all except Price, and a letter expressing our regards and esteem for him signed by all the officers except Price, and he was not shown it has been forwarded to him lately - Butler is not very healthy, and broke down on our late march and is now sick in hospital his letter though but a poor representation of his hand-writing when well, yet you can have an idea what a splendid penman he is, and believe me is in every way as worthy, as his penmanship is excellent - yet for the caprice of a single individual he cannot get a commission he is entitled to both by ability, and also the first entitled to it by seniority, so you see I am not the only sufferer.

Butler is not like me hot headed, and never done anything to injure Price by word or manner though he did not fawn about him. With a good night I close

Charles Warner