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WASHINGTON, D. C., 191

At six o'clock it commenced to thunder and lighten, and all at once the artillery began to play joined by the musketry, about two miles distant. We sat down in our tent and waited to see them break in upon us; but Reno's forces held them back. The old 21st Mass. lay between us and the enemy and they couldn't pass.

God only knows who is lost, I do not, for the next day all fell back. Poor Kearney, Stephens and Webster were brought in, and in the p. m. Kearney and Heintzelman's divisions fell back through our camp on their way to Alexandria; we knew this was the last. We put the thousand wounded we had then into the train. I took one car load of them, Mrs. Morell another, the men took to horse. We steamed off and two hours later there was no Fairfax Station. Reached Alexandria at ten o'clock at night, and oh, the report which met those poor men at the train. The people of the Island are the most noble band I ever saw or heard of. I stood in my car and fed the men 'till they could eat no more, then the people would take us home and feed us and after this we came home.

I had slept 1-1/4 hours since Saturday night; but I am well and a strong and wait to go again if I have need.

Our forces are all back again in the old places around the city. McClellan's army here again and he in command of it all.

I am going to reach for my friends now. I have told you nothing of the old friends who met us among the wounded and dying on that bloody field. I have no heart to tell it today. Two huge boxes from Jersey have arrived. I don't know where we shall need them next.

To Archie and Lizzie Shaver, Yours,

Clara Barton,

Frankfort, N.Y

Headquarters Military District of Washington,

Washington, D. C., October 23, 1862.

Miss Clara A. Barton

I have

conferred with Gen. Wadsworth on the subject of obtaining a horse for your use, and he has directed that I place a horse at your disposal as soon as a suitable one can be found.

Very respectfully

Wm. B. Ch.

Edwin P. Sherburne

Asst. Adj. Gen.

No. 488 1/2 - 7th St.

3rd Story - Room No 9.