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November the 1861
26

Dear Father and Mother this finds me well and
hoping that it will find you the same we are in ^{an}apolis
our Colonel has been Commander of this post until yesterday
as he was turned out and General Foster has taken his place
and as we are fixing for to move as fast as we can we don't know
where we shall go to yet we shall move in to the Camp
about two miles from here in this Camp there is fifteen
thousand men in this Camp it would be asight for you
and the rest of the folks in old pen to look at and you
may form some idea of it to see three thousand cloth
tents and fifteen thousand men all on drill towerce with
drums beating and officers giving Command and Every
regiment has twelve wagons and six ambulances for ~~sick~~ sick folks
and Every regiment has sixty horses and it makes busy times
around here the City of anapolis is crunched Every day with
soldiers and wagons it must take some provisions to feed
the whole of them horses and all but all have enough
to eat and we have never had more cloth nor better in our life
it is asight to see the steam ships and ships coming
in and going out of this port all loaded with provisions for
man and beast to day you may look off on the Chesapeake
Bay and you can see four war ships ready and willing to
try their luck in a fight with them you may rest assured

that the united States has not got such bargains
for nothing as soon as the leaves fall from the trees you will
hear some war news that will settle the whole world and
make the Southern Confederacy totter and fall to the
ground never to rise no more our armies are well fed and well
clothed and all eager to meet their enemies on the battlefield
any day that god sees fit you always knew that old Tom
or Howard to home and time will show whether it will be so
in battle I have not been in no general engagement yet
nothing but skirmishes when we was out on picket guard we have
three men killed and we killed ~~five~~ ^{four} of them and wounded ^{them} ~~four~~
and they run as fast as their legs would carry them the army
in virginia are doing nothing at present but they are fitting
for a great battle and it will come off before long the united
union has six hundred thousand men in the field at this
present time provisions are very high here apples are worth from three
to five cents a piece here cheese is worth sixteen cents a pound butter
is worth 25 or 30 cents a pound tobacco is worth from 30 to 75 cents
a pound flour is worth seven dollars per barrel pork is fetching twenty
dollars per barrel potatoes we cannot get at all as for tea we get it
once a week and it is mean stuff that we are in the
same as a prison our ground is walled in with a brick wall about
ten feet high and three foot thick it incloses about fifty acres
of land dotted with all kind of southern trees and there is a row of brick

Buildings all around this back wall the buildings are from one to three rods apart and they are three and four stories high they are used for the accomodation of the officers and the soldiers we have a hundred men to guard those works Every day and every night we have two forts to guard the entrance to this harbor Encampment is considered next to Washington in importance we have all kinds of diseases in this Camp we have the small pox and the measles and all kinds of fevers and this place is used for an asylum for the whole American armies we have one thousand or more sick men now in side of this yard ~~and~~ yesterday I received Johns letter and was glad to hear from him he told me that Jerry was taken for stealing a horse it is not the first time that he has been taken for stealing he stole a horse from Lyman Mudge's brother the sons being of Rachel White and he got bail and when the trial came off he was sick and he followed it up and got clear by paying nine hundred dollars and he left his wife in Washington County and as he married again by the name of Sterling in Lowell in Vermont and he last fall stole horn to feed his team for two months in Lowell in Vermont and his present wife did go in the woods and out nights with him and she kept secret society with her brother Walter you need not tell me any more about my wife but you must let me know all about my little girl as often as you can answer this as soon as you can cannot oblige

Josephus Thew

I have got my likeness taken and it will come with this letter ~~and~~ and I will send it to you all

Belroy
Belroy

Belroy
Belroy