

I trust that I have over-estimated
 my duty as director - and now
 shall, while this terrible war holds
 I must be seen with it - and for
 center reasons I am down to go
 to Port Royal and will

most respectfully ask of
 your honored Dept - permission
 to do so, and to take with me
 such as have sent down to
 be the such supplies as I
 may find necessary for the
 center of the suffering army
 men

I am with great
 respect
 J. B. [Signature]

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COPY.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 191
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Dear Friends:-

Yours awaited me on my return from Fairfax Tuesday evening (or night rather). I left here on Sunday morning in the rain in company with Mr. Wells, Mrs. Morell, Mr. Haskell, Mrs. Alford, et al., and took train at Morgan Bulley's office, and soon found ourselves at Fairfax.

I cannot tell you the scenes which awaited our eyes; the wounded were constantly coming; but no hospitals this time; only God's great one under the blue canopy.

The men were brought down from the field and laid on the ground beside the train, and so back up the hill 'till they covered acres. The bales of hay for forage were broken open and the ground was "littered", like "bedding" for horses. They came 'till dark and then it was dark indeed: One lantern on the ground; made requisition for candles; drew a few. The wind blew just enough to put them out every few minutes, and the men lay so thick we could not take one step in the dark. ~~By midnight the men lay so thick we could not take one~~ By midnight there must have been three thousand helpless men lying in that hay. We had two water buckets--five dippers--the stores which we carried to eat besides hard crackers. My one stew pan which I remembered to take, and this made coffee for them. All night we made compresses and slings and bound up and wet wounds when we could get water, for what we could traveled miles in the dark over those poor helpless wretches, in terror lest some ones candle fall into the hay and consume them all. At length morning came and we sent up the train with 1250. Next 1000, next 1100, next 940 and so on. Still the ambulances came down and the cars went out and we worked on. Took the meat from our own sandwiches and gave it to them, and broke the bread into wine and water to feed the poor sinking wretches as they lay in the ambulances.

On Monday the cavalry appeared in the wood opposite and a raid was hourly expected. (In neglected to tell you that Mrs. Fales sent to me before I started to know if she could go with me. I had the train wait and sent back an ambulance for her and her stores; and this made three ladies--Mrs. Carner is away.

On Monday p.m. all the wounded then in were sent off and the danger became so imminent that Mrs. Fales thought it best to leave, altho she only "went for stores". I begged to be excused from accompanying her as the ambulances were up to the field for more wounded and I knew I should never leave a wounded man there if I knew it, though I were taken prisoner forty times.