

Camp near Rappahannock Va

November 16th 1862

Dear Mary:

Yours of the 10th just came to hand this morning, and I don't think it will be any more harm to write you a few lines in answer. There it would be to be sitting around idle. There is very little going on in camp these days, to distinguish Sunday from any other day. The same routine of business is gone through excepting, once in about six or eight weeks, the privilege of hearing a sermon. Today I attended service in the 12th Regt. and heard a very good discourse, by Rev Miller, the Chaplain. Shortly after our Chaplain resigned, a Rev. Mr. Farland volunteered to go with us, and acted without an appointment or commission until after the battle of "Bull Run" when he was taken

very ill, and had to be sent to the Hospital
He is now getting better, and will be back
soon, as I hope, with a Commission
appeared to be a very good man and
made himself useful, both in the field
of battle, and in camp. Consequently
both Officers and got to like him, and
petitioned the Governor to Commission him.

I do not think there is any
prospect of the Army "being settled at
place this winter;" consequently I would
not advise you to come on. I would
like very well to get home a short
time, and if placed any way that I
can get off. I will make the attempt;
but so long as the army is in the field
the idea of getting a "leave of absence"
is out of the question, unless in case
of sickness: where the Surgeon certifies
"it is necessary, to save life, or prevent
permanent disability" Then there

is another reason why I do not indulge
in the hope very much. Every person
that goes home from the army, now is
almost sure to get married: and you
know 'one might as well be out of the
world as out of the fashion' and for me
to conform to this fashion would require
some time to look around and enter
into the necessary negotiations.

Holland says to tell Annie
that he could not keep it: and that
it is all the fault of the girls.

I received a letter from Cunningham
to-day. I wrote to him, day
before yesterday.

My love to all at home. Respects
to friends.

Your Affect. Brother
Bob