

Head. Qrs. Army of the Potomac,
Near Falmouth, Va. June, 13th, 1863

Dear aunt.

Your kind letter was rec^d last night, and as I have nothing particular to do, I will try and write a few lines. I am glad you are so well pleased with the picture, I thought it was a very poor one, it looked so cross, but I had to sit in the sun to have it taken, & it was almost impossible to keep from scowling, I mean to have a better one taken before long & I will send you one of them. I am having very easy times just now, about two weeks ago I was detached from the company, & have been orderly for Gen. Hooker since my duty is just to carry dispatches from one place to another.

& when I have to go far I can have
a more to ride. I am of course
half the time, & then I am not
bothered with bills, well call,
or any of those things, I like to
run for ten hours he is very
pleasant and kind. I hope I
shall be able to keep this place
as long as he is in command.
I will get rid of much hard
work, and enjoying my
travels, I am glad to hear
you are enjoying a little better
health, and I hope we may
both live to see one another
again, there does not seem
to be much use in trying
to get a fur cough, & I don't
think I shall try to get one
before next winter, as long as
I am well I want complain,
but I get sick I want to come
some where mother can take

care of me. I suppose I should
be improved a good deal in
the 2 years past and I wish
I could see it now I suppose
every thing is so lovely. I often
think of the beautiful mead.
— now I green trees in comparison
with the country which the
"iron heel of war" has laid
waste, it is a fact worth noting
the difference in the appearance
of the country this side of the
river & the opposite side, the
one occupied by a hostile and
the other by a friendly army
these the fields are green and
beautiful, but here it is
nothing but a barren, dusty,
waste, & that has my own
with the beautiful valley of
the Stracatonic, I must close
this very short if I should
be in time for the mail,

I should be very happy to
hear from you any time,
Give my love to Mabel, & take
a good deal to yourself
from your aff. nephew
Frank,
Frank