

Washington, D.C. March 19.

Dear Parents,

I must take this short opportunity to let you know our whereabouts, yesterday as we were all lying around, the orders came for us to march, the tents were immediately struck, knapsacks packed, & without any time for writing to you or even to get our dinner, we left our camp, & marched six miles through heat & dust to this place. I do not know where it is but the name of it is "Meridian" Hill. we pitched our tents, about dark, and at 9 o'clock got a quart of coffee for supper, we slept on the ground with nothing but our empty ticks and a blanket

under us, but we slept very  
soundly. I particularly, as I well  
our guard the night before &  
did not get much rest. This  
morning, we got our breakfast,  
broke & coffee. I made a very  
good meal. Since then I had  
brushed myself all over. in a  
small stream. Hair here is done  
by & changed my clothes. I  
am very well supplied with  
underclothes, having 3 suits, we  
are really in the evening com-  
ing at least, one spring here  
has been procured, & a guard  
is placed over it to keep  
any away. at another spring a  
man was shot a few nights since  
by the guard & a great of  
his own found on him, but he  
was not quite quick enough.  
He leans here to-wards, for  
of the morning, to form a new

expectation South, as we know  
when I shall have a chance  
to write again, but you know  
I will be as faithful as I can,  
meanwhile direct as usual, I  
be sure and put N.Y. & C.  
plain. Or yours as loving as ever  
Fred,

P.S.  
I received your letter & the  
Eagle, was much interested in  
the papers, & delighted with the  
letter,  
H