

highest hopes of you & all who  
them brilliant hopes. And the Brigadier has  
once more visited us, and is playing some of  
my Brigade to day and I am in hopes he will  
pay my Regt. soon. I tell you some of the  
men (recruits) make the money fly here —  
(Well it seems to me you are making some very  
curious marriages out your way, will let them  
go on, if they think there is no hereafter")  
Well the most of the men lately enlisted I learn  
is coming in to the 9th Regt. well I shall go  
and see the boys as soon as I hear of them  
getting here, as that lays only about four  
miles from us. But I learn that there has  
got to be some drafts after all to fill up  
your quota, well I am anxious to know  
who is the lucky winner of a musket and  
"Lap Knack". Well it looks quite doubtful  
to me since the Chicago Convention, about  
little Mac's Election, as it has turned the  
most of the army, his letter of acceptance is  
good enough, and I for one would like to  
see him elected if he would carry out the prin-  
ciple of that, but the Peace idea in that I  
can't go, I did not come down here to give  
them independence as they call it, and the  
same time I do not want to vote for old Abe

"On Picket near Fort Hancock"

Near Petersburg Va. Sept 23<sup>d</sup> /64

Dear Ed.

Your small but well filled sheet was  
most welcome received, night before last, and I  
now avail myself of the first opportunity of pen-  
ning you a few lines in answer. Yours found  
me enjoying first rate health for me, and in  
good spirits and everything, as the saying is,  
goes lovely. I was rejoiced to learn you was  
enjoying good health, and also having good  
times. But I am sorry to hear your mother is  
sick, and sincerely hope ere this reaches you  
she will recover her health. It is also with  
regret I learned of the death and sickness in  
your vicinity, and I am in hopes as the  
cold weather comes the sickness will abate —  
Well I don't know "Ed" as I have any particular  
news that would interest you at this time.  
However I will give you all I have, hoping  
by the next time to have something of more  
interest. A few days ago the "Johnnies" came



around our left, and in our rear, and attacked  
and overpowered our picket line and captured  
quite a herd of cattle numbering 2470 heads  
and drove them off, and got away. I am sorry  
to say with the whole herd and took some  
of the guard along, it was very early in the  
morning, and our force there was small only  
one regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Dist Columbia Cav. And the  
enemy was about 7000 strong. Well of course  
as ever the 2<sup>d</sup> Corps was called upon to go  
to the rescue. And the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade of the 2<sup>d</sup>  
Div. started out soon after getting the order  
and I was lucky enough to be detailed to  
go with them. we went out about 5 miles  
when we met the Cavalry who reported the  
enemy safe across the Blackwater cattle and  
all, so we stopped and went in to camp  
knowing that a further pursuit would be useless  
and the Brigade is still out there with the  
Cav. And since then the Johnny Rebs have  
their pickets halloeing to our pickets Beef,  
Beef: and imitating cattle driving. But I

guess our pickets will tell them it is getting  
quite cheap in the Shenandoah Valley about  
now, as you probably have heard that Gen.  
Sheridan has made a big Early get out of there  
Early. And as the 6<sup>th</sup> Corps was there I am  
quite anxious to hear from the boys in the  
5<sup>th</sup> Wis. There was a salute fired here the  
morning after the news was received, and I  
wouldnt wonder if some of their Breakfasts got  
spoiled in Petersburg, as every gun that could  
be brought to bear upon the city was loaded  
with shell & shot, and you'd thought it was  
a regular 4<sup>th</sup> of July, since then it has been  
unusually quiet all along our front, but we are  
looking for an attack almost every day, and  
every preparation is being made to make it  
a narrow one to the enemy. Our army is getting  
reinvigorated up fast by convalescents from the Hosp  
state and almost regiments of recruits coming  
every day, and I think the army is in as  
good spirits as I have seen them during the  
present campaign. The late victories have given