Camp Co. F. 4th Md. Vols. at Aquia Creek
June 4th 1863.

Dear Mother

I did not forget last night that Jade was being married and I ate the cake you gave me, with my comrades, and wished for her happiness; I hope that her married life may be as calm and undisturbed by trouble as it ought to be, for both she and Herbert can fairly deserve to have some reward for their goodness. Of course you will write me in full about it. Who was present and how the affair went off and how you succeeded with the domestic arrangements, and every small circumstance which will interest me. Where is Jade now & where shall I direct letters to her during the next month or two?

This morning an order came to have the Battery hitched up at day break and remain in readiness to move, and also to have three days rations issued to the men; we can not tell the meaning of these orders but they show that there is a possibility of moving soon; if the rebels really undertake to move to the north then we shall probably have a battle with them, but it is more likely that their activity is merely a ruse to cover some other important movement. Our Camp is in a beautiful situation and we have not suffered at all with the heat yet though the dust from the land side blown up by very heavy winds has troubled us much for the past few days, the ground is very dry and rain much needed. Col. Price of the 14th Md. has been tried and acquitted, his strongest evidence was the certificate

us regimental Surgeon who said that the "mental effects" produced by such a wound was serious enough to justify his absence, The Dr. has since got the nick-name of "mental effects". The Lieut-Col. who was dismissed the service has been re-instated and is now in command of the regiment, in the Col's absence at N. Y.

Since leaving home it has escaped my mind what evening we agreed upon to think of each other and the family and unite in our prayers, I believe it was Sunday Evening.

I find that this comparatively indolent sort of life induces great neglect of religious thoughts and duties, and all the time I find myself cold and indifferent about those things, where there is nothing whatever in the way of religious associations or services to encourage or cultivate serious thoughts.

In the Battery there are now three officers, Lieut. Muhlenberg Commanding, Lieut. Rugg next and myself last in rank. Lieut. Rugg has come lately, he is an old regular army soldier promoted, and I think a good officer.

Sadies letter came day before yesterday.

Our Battery is in Excellent Condition now and ready for another fight. A few days ago one of the men went out of Camp & went aboard a raft to some Canal boats quarter a mile from shore, in the night, for whiskey he drank too much fell overboard & was drowned, several Comrades were with him but failed to save him, this is the second time I have known a soldier to go out of Camp at night & get drunk & next day be dead, it is very sad indeed we buried him with the Episcopal service, without any chaplain.

I must mail this letter & bid you good bye, Do not be surprised if we move soon, or stay here months. Do not direct your letters to any Division, merely to the Battery in the 12th. army Corps.

Your loving Son