
Voices of the Past

The Letters of Jane Robison

Civil War

1861

Washington, D.C.
16th August 1861

Dear Sister: -

Your letter came to hand yesterday. I finished it and sent it on Boyd is above Georgetown too far from me to walk alone from the omnibus and as he cannot leave the Camp without a great deal of trouble I have not see him since he left here the fifth. When he started from here he was not well and as I did not hear from him. I began to feel uneasy. I wrote to the Capt. of his company + told him if he was well to scold him for not writing and if he was sick to le me know and the next day I received a letter from Boyd. In yours I asked him if he wanted to be out of the service if not there is no used of doing any thing. He seemed to like the life; but everyone to whom I have spoken says in the first engagement he will die without being killed. I have no doubt I can get his release if he wants it.

William Ricketts one of your pupils who is Colonel of the sixth Regiment of Penna is a few squares from here sick, he has had a severe attack of Typhoid fever and in the midst of it a hemorrhage of the lungs. He is getting better or was twos ago when I last heard from him.

Bruce Ricketts is in the Artillery Regiment and stationed at the Arsenal at present

I wish Mr. Purdee would send me that certificate of Rail Road stock immediately as the man of ___ we got it is here and has obtained an office. I want to try + get the money from him while that bond was given to secure. If I can get it I may go to Penna. on a visit. I have set no plan for any thing. I can not collect any thing and do not know now what I shall do. If I could go now and remain a few weeks in Penna. I would be glad to do so but I feel that I can be of service here if any of the boys should get sick as they no doubt will. You need not be surprised to find by the last of September that fevers or something else is raging as an epidemic amongst the troops here + elsewhere. Brought about by a damp murky atmosphere and improper food while all their marching, is done under a broiling sun.

I do not know how this paper came blotted but I have not time to write again.

The weather is cold + has been for three days.

Love to all from your affectionate sister

Jane

I hope Mr. Pardee will come to W. I shall be very glad to see him.