
Voices of the Past

The Letters of Jane Robison

Civil War

1863

Washington, D.C. 2d July/63

Dear Brother: -

I suppose you have been wondering what has become of me. On the last day of June I moved to 411 F street between 6 + 7. I had been to two of the Hospitals in the morning as it a very warm day I did too much and was sick the next day and the next I went to see what had become of my ambulance. As it did not come the first of July I supposed it was because the driver did not know where to come; but when I went up found they had been taken off. As I was not able to go out I came back worse than I went. and was not able to go out for several days; in the mean time the battle of Gettysburg came off and if I had been well enough I would have gone up. Before I was able to do any thing Gen. Meredith of 24th came here wounded and I could not go out for several days I say by the bed and kept ice water to his head. Mr. Holloway was not here and Mrs. Eddie had no girl the nursing fell to me. He had a colored boy who did all the running as I was scarcely able to walk owing to the heat Bell knows who Meredith is and I believe knows him; he was Colonel of the 19th Ind. Regiment and is now Brigadier Gen of the first Div. of the first Army Corps. He left for Indiana to-day in a special car. He was struck in the side of the head by a piece of a shell which stunned him. His horse was killed at the same time falling on his right leg holding him down and when the horse made his last gasp he threw his head back striking Meredith in the left side mashing in two of his ribs and injuring him internally. Dr. Clymer ordered him to be kept perfectly quiet and see no one. So many persons came to see him that I had to say until Mr. Holloway came from his office. I then went to see _____ patients at Douglas and Armory Hospitals. At the Douglas is Sergeant Barnes of Co. D 28th + at Armory Eberle whom you saw and Baker Ario's Cook he has a very bad leg I wrote to his friends and since that he has been gradually improving or rather sometimes he is better and sometimes worse he had had several abcessed in his leg. he is from Philada. Poor Barnes, _____ he was very nicely fixed at Aquia Creek in the 12th Corps hospital with his sister to take care of him but when he came here. the Sisters at the Douglas cannot have any one about + she could not afford to stay at a boarding house consequently obliged to go home. Barnes' wound is a shot just below the knee While in the Corps hospital he had it in a box which kept it straight. Just before they left the nurses took the box off and _____ here almost killed him and since then he had not been able to straighten it. and about a week ago erysipelas set in and he was in an exceedingly nervous condition which his Physician attributed to a visit from his father they both became alarmed and of course it did him no good. He is getting better and I am in hopes he will soon be able to go home on a furlough he is from Philada.

I am going to make an effort to-morrow to obtain an ambulance and if I do not get one I do not know what I shall do as I cannot do much by walking. Since Meredith has been here I

have gone in Mr. Holloway's carriage when I went to the hospitals but I cannot expect to have a carriage furnished me. Mr. Holloway has gone to Delaware to bring Mrs. H she will be here next week. She goes to the hospitals a good deal when she is well enough and if I do not get an ambulance I can go with her for the present. They will probably go do housekeeping if they can find a house.

I see that Stock of mine is going up and perhaps I better sell it who can I send it to in New York that you know? I do not know any one there and there will be no use to sell it here.
Love to all from yours affectionately Jane