

In the woods near Front Royal July 5th

My Friend Anna

Again I take pen in hand to finish this. Yesterday while I was writing to you we had orders to go out and stand picket and so we left camp about four in the afternoon and came out here about 4 miles from camp and I spent the night of the 4th out in the field standing picket. I will tell you now Anna this will be a poorly written letter for as I said we are in the woods to day and I have a poor place to write. Last Thursday Company E was on picket where we now are and some Rebel Cavalry came up and they halted them and the Cavalry fired upon them and then turned Co E men returned the fire killing one and wounding two more. And to day our

Company stays here until 4 o'clock
standing 2 1/2 hours. and then we are
relieved. We stop in the village of
Front Royal and there is a rich old farmer
living about one mile from camp upon
a large hill he has numerous Cherry
trees and our boys had made it a practice
to go there and pick cherries and yesterday
the was sight Rebels went to his house
and were going to shoot us if we went
to get cherries so a negro that belonged
to this farmer stole away and came
down to camp and told us of it so that
Co G went up to lay and capture them they
got most to the house before the Rebels
discovered them but they succeeded in
taking two of them and bringing them
into camp. One of them we found had
been taken before and was let of on
Parole of Honor so you can judge how
the traitors keep their word. The Reward
for such men is Death and justice to
This place is infested with numerous

Guerrillas in small parties that
shoot at our pickets and do all
the mischief they can. It is said that
there is a band of Rebel Cavalry number-
ing about 400 that is encamped about
8 miles from here. I thank you Anna a thousand
times for that Bouquet you sent me in your
letter. It smelled just as fresh as though
it had just been plucked. It caused me to
think of times that have passed and
gone in the old 'Pine Tree State' whose soil I
may never tread again. I had a letter
from my Sister and it contained a few
verses and I had just read it before
Sargant Pratt got killed to him two lines
I have thought a great deal of since his
death it was this. (Do you ever feel as you draw
a breath) That the next may be the gasp of Death
Never did a few words - seem so true to me
as that did to see Grant sitting beside us
in perfect health and the next second
a lifeless corpse not a single breath after
the ball struck him passed his lips

Anna I know not where your next
letter will find us a great many
think that we shall go to Richmond
before many weeks It may be so we can
not tell They will keep us where they
need us most. It is my opinion that
it will be a hard time for our troops
at Richmond. But I can not make
it seem that we shall not conquer. How
many a home will be made desolate by
the terrible battle which in all probab-
ility will be fought before Richmond and
already Maine has many a son before that
City Ready I doubt not if it need be to
offer up their lives for the good of their
Country. As you say Anna what a blessing
kind and true friends are. Although I
think a true friend is hard to find still
when we do find one how we ought to
prize them. It is indeed a great bless-
ing to us Soldiers to recieve letters that come
from friends & home. Many a time have I
read & reread your kind letters when I have

felt lonely. And it always causes me
to feel encouraged to read them. You
spoke of the loss of your kind Parent I too
have been called upon to lose the kindest
of Parents a kind and affectionate Mother
and deeply can I sympathize with you
in your loss. Anna I will now try and
close this letter as I doubt not that
you will be tired of so long and pon-
derously written a despatch. But often when I
seat myself to write it seems as though
I could write pages such as it is and I
hardly know when to stop please write soon
so you receive this for I shall look impa-
tiently for an answer. Please tell me how
you passed the 4th. Please give my thanks
to your Sister for her many kind wishes and
also my deepest Respects. Anna do you remem-
ber a year ago this time we were both to work
in the same room together under the kindest
instructions of Overseer Breadwell and

aid will make But now how changed
many a mile intervenes between us

Please write soon and direct the same
as before I wish I had some flowers to
send you but you can judge how few there
are when you think of the two great armies
that had been in this valley all summer they
have left this place almost a barren waste

Don't get discouraged Anna don't think
I am near a going to finish this letter
for I will now close it as I have
got to stand guard soon

From your Affectionate Friend
Anna Conant Abiel H Edwards (alias) Chasly
Co K 10th Maine

P.S. If we leave here ~~where~~
we shall not leave until
I shall have time to hear
from you again as I will
take us some time to get ready
Charles