

the government of the united states  
has got to be sustained and the time  
has come when we have got a govern-  
ment or else we have not there is no  
half way work about, <sup>it</sup> every man  
that refuses to do his duty now at this  
time is a traitor to his country and  
ought to be ~~bound~~ branded as such.

I received your letter with Willis  
photograph and am very glad to  
have it so I can look at him and  
I should like the rest of the children  
with you and Father's if it is con-  
venient ~~to do~~ for you.

But I must close this time hope-  
ing this will find you all well as  
~~this~~ leaves me I remain your affec-  
tionate son

George W Gould

P.S. Please give my love to Father and  
the children and receive a large share  
yourself write often and I will try  
and do the same though I have had a  
good deal to do since I have been here.  
George

Wills Point Camp Pickett  
near Washington D.C. July 30<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Mother

you will see by this that we have changed  
our place of residence once more we are  
now about one hundred and fifty miles  
from Clumbern by water and thirty  
by land. we came here on the fourth  
we started the third and got to Washington  
on the morning of the fourth and  
immedately started for this place which  
is about eight miles from W it is a  
dreary lonesome place there is not a  
house in sight of our camp and none  
nearer than half a mile.

It is situated on a high point of land  
about thirty feet above the water it  
is a very healthy here being situated  
as it <sup>is</sup> on the river but that is all there  
is to it I cant say I like here it is to  
lonesome for me it will do well enough  
for any one that likes to be retired

There is no danger of our neighbors troubling us here unless the rebels should happen to come down and make us a visit and we are pretty well provided for a defence should they come we have got a breast work all around our camp excepting one side and that is protected by the river and gunboats we have three pieces of artillery of twelve pound calibre and I think we could hold it against a pretty good force. we are doing picket duty here three companies of us there are two more about four miles from here and the rest of the regiment are at Wabern.

There is nothing new in this department that I know of though there is good news from the army of the Potomac it does seem as though things look a little brighter just now and a few more such victories as we have had lately and I should think the rebels would begin to think they were

pretty well whipped but I suppose they will hold out as long as they can hold one place. I want you to write me if you have heard from James recently and if you know whether he is drafted on this call or not I see by the papers that they have had some pretty bloody work at the north on account of this draft I am sorry to see there is not patriotism enough there to help sustain the union I should have thought that the late victories would have sent a thrill of joy to the hearts of the people there and they would have been willing to turn out to a man and helped to close up this war but there is too many copperheads there for that I see it is just the worst time they could take to rise if it had been when our side was being defeated I should not thought strange of it but we must take things as they come but they may as well yield for they will have to