

Great Falls Md Aug 26th 1861

Dear Williams

I am in regard to Frank Atkins came to hand some days since. The doctor will not grant furloughs or discharges unless for good cause shown. He can see no good cause why Frank should go home any more than the rest of us except that he is home sick. He says he is not. He had the measles hard, and like many others it takes him a long while to get stout again. - He fancies that he raised blood from his lungs the other day, but it was all fancy. - There are but two men in the company that in my opinion only ought to have discharges. - those are Jerome Rody and Charles Gilman. Charles was Sumner's. Rody has the heat disease. - they all need their funds might as well "dry up" on discharges or furloughs, they are not to be had for the asking as they used to be before McClellan took command.

We came up here last Monday to stay a - week quarantined the nine flocks. - Every man is detailed for duty every day, and they take it home plenty of fishing and they buy all the corn, grapes, plums &c they can eat. We have some two miles of river to guard. - It is done by squads under Lieutenants. - I have never had so easy a time since we left Burlington. We have got quarters in an old Hotel. - Sleep between sheets and on feathers. - Eat at the table like other folks, and only have two days work out of ten. - one as Officer of the Day and