

St Hamilton July 24 "1861

My dear Augustus:

I saw Sam Craighead to-day. He spent several days in Washington & has got the sum of things pretty well. He tells me that our Regiments will be raised, but that all the nominations will not be confirmed. Sherman & Wade he says will vote for me; if they do, I will be confirmed; if they don't, I won't. In this state of uncertainty, my majority will remain until the Senate has passed upon it. I want you to go on & get everything in readiness for a move & leave home as soon after you hear the result, as possible; that is, of course, if the result should prove favorable. The late affair at Bull's Run may destroy my chance, which now seem good & send me home a plain civilian with an unprofitable investment in military traps. So far I have bought nothing which I could avoid, that is in the military line, nor shall I buy any thing more, if I can help it. For, if I fail I shall be a good deal out of pocket any way.

Sam C. is getting his portrait painted by Mr. Fisk-
er. I saw the commencement this morning &
think he will get a good picture. Charles Soule
is here, but the artists do not estimate him
very high. I have not seen him & hope I
shall not, unless he is sober. —

Didn't the news of the retreat from Bull's
Run make you sick? I have not felt so
badly for a long time. When the news was
worth May. Smith said he felt "heart-broken"
& I suppose the word expresses my feelings
too. — Schenck appears destined to suffer further
mortifications. Fisk his men almost men-
tioned rather than go into battle with him
and after they did go in they cursed him
more bitterly than ever. He was courageous e-
nough, in fact rather reckless, but he was
continually going to a knot of Congressmen
and newspaper reporters, ~~continually~~ consulting
with them & acting upon their advice. A good
deal of their censure of Schenck, however,
grows out of their desire to screen themselves.

I hoped to receive a letter last night, and as I
was disappointed then, I hope I shall not be to-day.
I have my mind fixed much more strongly on
receiving one. You do not know how much pleasure
your letters give me. Although I can not in reason ask
you to write any more than you do, I am sorry my
dearest one, that I can not hear from you every
day. Soon I hope we shall be together again not
to be separated for several ~~weeks~~ months, at least.

I stopped writing to read your dear good
letter of the 2nd. I feel better all over since
reading it, — the pleasure being allayed only by
the recollection that it must be two or three ^{days} be-
fore I can hear from you again. You will
receive a letter from me before you get this, which
will mollify you to some extent and induce ^{you} to
answer that one this corner to hand. I hope this
will furnish you some Sunday Reading — we
have no mail on that day, so if we
miss on Saturday we must wait till Mon-
day for our letters. This is provoking; you
have a chance of getting one and I get

really try to send one that will reach you about
Sunday as well as write one to start on
its affectionate errand the next day.

I should have written you a longer letter
than this, if I had not been interrupted by
a fair which has been held in the park
yesterday and to-day. It was a poor thing,
but as I was in the City last night I
had to report myself to-night & good
away some of my money. They didn't
get much out of me, tho.

Col Burke has come here and cut
all the officers of our Regiment out of
the command. He comes to take charge
of certain state prisoners who are to
be sent here. Two have already ar-
rived & I believe an attempt will
be made to release them on habeas
corpus. So we are likely to have an
excitement. Tell the children that Papa
is very sorry to learn that they are not
as good as they ought to be. - You see I have
answered y^r questions. - Kiss y^r good bye
Yours only Luther