U. S. Hospital at York, Pa.

July 25th, 1863

Dear Father,

I last wrote from Gettysburg. I left there on the 20th & arrived here at night.

I would have written immediately but have only just succeeded in getting writing materials. For during the last few days I have felt stiff & sore & have scarcely gone farther than from here to the dining room, about 100 yds distant; day before yesterday I had a headache all the afternoon & most of the night, owing I suppose principally to the heat for the day was very warm & the air in
The room very close. To day I am feeling well and Tecumseh doing well.

Our hospital is empty a piece of ground in the form of a square containing perhaps 20 acres bounded on two sides by a double row of one story buildings and on the other by a high and close board fence. It was originally designed to be for a camp ground and barracks for soldiers and consequently in accommodations and comfort is supposed far inferior to most or all regular General Hospitals.

The rooms are low and ill ventilated, there is not a tree or bush on the ground, the number of seats outside the buildings is very small. When I first arrived here
we had about 1150 patients. Now we must have many more and consequently on many accounts we are worse than we would with fewer patients, pre
versed to the battle of Gettysburg. The number was 160. Fortunately for wounded men we have had cool cloudy weather most of the time since the battle. There is a Post Office and small hospital library on the ground. In about the center of our enclosure there is an open shed under which they have lately conveyed a few benches, and religious meetings are held there in the evenings and on Sundays. York contains about 8000 inhabitants and seems to have a fine agricultural country around it. Our hospital buildings are
divided into wards & the wards into rooms. Our rooms contain 40 patients, none of them very badly wounded & most of them doing well. We have 3 nurses to take care of us & the rooms, & this Dr. comes around occasionally. Every man who is considered well enough can obtain a pass to go (out) into town once in 3 days, between the hours of 11 & 1 P.M. In other hospitals I am told furloughs can be easily obtained & passes can be easily obtained & passes more easily frequently & for a longer time than here. Here they say it is useless to ask for a furlough but I did not design to ask but would have much for one. I preferred to have gone to some hospital in Philadelphia or New York. It is now nearly 5 months since I have seen any pay, & being in hospital will have to wait until the indefinite period longer. I spent my last money to day for writing materials. I would like it if you could send me $2 or 3 in poss. a post mon. in directing letters please state regiment & then 'U.S. Hospital 5th Ward.'