

Hospital of 12th Corps
near Gettysburgh July 17th 1863.

Dear Father

My last was written
from this place on or about the 4th inst.
At present my health & appetite
is verry good. For 5 or 6 days after
my being wounded it was verry
difficult & sometimes impossible for
me to rise from the ground without
help & I lay without any blanket
but the nights were mild & I did
not suffer from this last deprivation,
now I have a blanket left by one
of the patients & as we have had a
few cold nights I have found it verry
acceptable & it also gives me a chance
to take off my clothes, which I alway
do at night if circumstances allow.
Now by taking a little pains I can
I can rise to my feet without much

difficulty, the wound is nearly filled up & I am but slightly troubled by irritation upon the outside of the wound; in a few weeks I suppose I will be considered fit to rejoin the regt. Co. G, I suppose was about '35 strong on going into battle, 2 men were killed & 3 wounded (including myself) on the 2^d & 3^d & since, I suppose but little fighting has been done.

This Hospital is but a temporary affair; as fast as patients become able to move & arrangements can be made to transport & receive them elsewhere they are taken to general Hospitals at Baltimore, Philadelphia, or some other city. Possibly I might have gone off yesterday as before if I had stirred sufficiently in the matter but to day the Hospital Steward said that those who had

previously gone off had gone to
Baltimore & the rest of us would
go to Harrisburgh so on some account
I have perhaps gained by stay-
ing here & in a few days I will be
able to travel with comparative com-
fort; If I can manage it I will
try to leave on Monday if not
before & when I arrive at some
General Hospital will write again,
& hope to have the pleasure of
again receiving letters & papers from
you.

Yesterday I read the "Philadel-
phia Inquirer" of the 14th & was grieved
to learn that Gen. Lee had succeeded
in recrossing the Potomac with the
loss of only one brigade, for from the
rumors of last week I was led to
believe that we had beaten him
badly & that but few of his Army
would succeed in getting back into
Virginia. I have said little or

nothing about the two battles in
which I have been engaged & one
reason for it is that ~~I should~~
~~give a very different~~ I differ
very much from other soldiers
in my opinion of them.

It occurred to me yesterday
that I have but seldom made any
reply to different remarks in your
letters, this has arisen not from
design but from hurry or some
other cause - In your last you
speak of a sergt, by name Smith,
I cannot say I know the man but
I saw a tall corporal of that name
before the battle of Chancellorsville
& he may be a sergt, by this time I
imagine most of his time has been
spent in the Hospital & I have no doubt
he would go there again or get disch^d
if possible - we have too many such men
in the army, men, able bodied enough, some
of them for any thing but deficient in heart
or soul.

I also read in the paper about
the riots & hope the police & military
will punish those engaged in it
severely; probably most of them are per-
sons of bad principles & cowardly im-
puls certain they are on the strongest side:
I hope yourself & friends have suffered
no inconvenience & I propose writing to
Edmond & others when I get to Harrisburg
Your affectionate son
J. Mills Smith