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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.

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March 15th

Harpers ferry Va

Dear Mother

When I wrote to you last, I thought I was about going into Battle, but the Enemy fled on our approach when I started from this place I thought there were 60 pieces of Artillery And 60.000 Men at Winchester, and the People along the road thought we would get whipped. And told us to go and that General Jackson [Thomas J. Jackson] would send us back a flying,, but They did not know how many Men We had Moving on to that place, for We only had 15.000 Men



The Constitution must and shall be preserved

62
March 15th
Harpers ferry Va
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in our column, but we had 3 other columns moving by 3 different roads, Making about 70.000 Men in all. And about 60 pieces of canon, We expected that General Shields column would get up first and commence the fight so as we marched along, I listened expecting every Minute to hear the roar of the canon,, And every Man thought in a little time to measure himself with a Traitor, but when our advance was about 2 miles of, we were halted And about 8000 of us sent back there being no use for us as the Enemy had fled, And our men were coming into the place in such numbers that there was no room for them so tomorrow we move for Annapolis or Washington.

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As We moved through the little towns We found all the white People had run off leaving the Niggers to take care of themselves a couple of Young Men left their Masters and came to Us And We have them for cooks, in coming through Charlestown the Master of one of them wanted to take him he was walking by our Company And we told his master to keep hands off And he left in a hurry We have had it pretty hard lately but it cant be helped for they cant always have provisions yesterday We marched 10 miles on a little coffy and buiscket and today marched 10 miles after we had a little coffy and no buisquets. for we had none, but we have just got some,

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we generally have plenty of good provisions but when we move so fast it is not always possible to have provisions enough, the other day the waggons reached 2 miles one right behind another,,

Yours affectionately

Edward A. Fulton
direct My Letter this way
Washington D.C. or elsewhere
Co N Capt Ellis. Philad fire Zouaves
72 Regt P.V.

when You get this Letter I would like You to send Me a Letter right of with 1 Gold dollar, I dont think we will be paid for some time and I dont like to get Much off the Sutter

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Mrs Mary Fulton
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