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22nd Sept. 1862

Miss Sarah J. French

I was astonished this morning at receiving a mourning letter and supposed before I opened it that my Grandma was dead. I was happily disappointed at finding she was not and shall be most happy to communicate anything in regard to the last days of your brother that I can recall to mind. He was wounded at the Battle near Bulls' Run on the afternoon of the 30th Aug. His regiment was attached to our brigade when it retreated. I did not see your brother face to face and had no knowledge of him untill we met in the hospital. He was brought here on the same ambulance train that brought me which arrived early in the evening of the 3d Sept. after being two days on the road. Your brother lay two days on the battlefield and two days in an ambulance wagon. He probably received no in the field though he must have received on the ambulance. His bed was the second one from me in this ward and the ball was extracted the day after his arrival. It had entered at the back and entirely through his right lung, had lodged under the skin of his right . He was very during his illness and suffered much from pain in the back. Two days previous to his death he requested me to write to his mother which I was about to do when he explained himself too weak to dictate the contents of the letter and the writing was postponed untill some other time. I did not know that he would die untill a short time previous to his death. When I found that he probably would die I offered to write for him and told you the true state of the case.

We did not wish to have you know that he was very low. We eid not suppose that he would die but told me of the that he thought that he should lose the use of his right arm. If he could have used his right arm he might have written to you himself. He might probably have been backward about asking me to write. I formed a most favorable opinion of him during our short acquaintance.

He died easily caused by the constant internal bleeding from the wound in the lung. He suffered much from difficulty of breathing during his illness but his death was a quiet passing away. He was a good boy and God is just. I know that his thoughts were much on his mother and said once while suffering and "If my mother 'new' that I was this way."

I am very sorry that you could not learn his condition in time to reach him before his decease. But he was among strangers who knew nothing of him or his family and he was unable to write himself. If he had made any request it would have been immediately

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complied with. Everything was done for him that could be done by strangers but of course a mother would have anticipated his wants and smoothed his dying pillow with a love and tenderness that no one else could gratify.

I am gratified to be able to tell you this little about him who was your only brother.

Allow me to tender my respects to his mother and sister.

Chas. V. Sands