

8-26-1861

## Letter from Josephus Thew (Baltimore, Md.) to his father and stepmother, Daniel Thew and Betsey (Lobdell) Thew, August 26, 1861

Josephus Thew

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The Hope of the World.

August 6<sup>th</sup> 1861

6/3/1

Dear Father mother  
and brother I now take  
the opportunity to let you know that  
I am yet alive and in the land of the  
living I am a soldier of the united  
states army for three years I have  
been all over the newing land & I  
rate now new Jersey and Pennsylvania  
and now am in Baltimore sitting  
with the Massachusetts 21 regiment  
in camp in Baltimore there is 6000  
all around us there is ten thousand  
of us in Baltimore and two hundred  
thousand in Washington we are  
used well and we are enough to eat  
I have ben where bullets flew and  
men of all by my side and I am  
not dead yet but it may be very  
soon next and the sooner the better  
for I have got no friends to know  
for me come alone in the world.

I wone had a father but he was  
deserted me and turned me out on the  
wide world my Mother lies moulder-  
ing in the grave I wone had a wife  
that I could love and cherish  
and if she lies in the grave you can see  
the grave from your door but I cannot  
I suppose that I have a wife and  
child some where in this wide world  
but I have a duty to do my child God  
bless her tell her that if she has a father  
living and often times think of her tell  
~~my wife~~ if my wife is true to me  
tell her that I will arrange it so that  
she can have her living as long as she  
remains true to me I have been sick  
a good deal of the time since I left home  
in first man was very soon so good by  
friends good by foes for probably we shall  
all never meet again in this world but  
there is a place for us in Heaven or Hell  
dear brothers and sisters life is a hard  
life and dangerous life

∴ the Climate here is very warm  
the disease is the principal disease  
we are a tough & stout set of fellows  
Baltimore is a large city and two  
thirds of the folks are secessionists  
there is plenty of wenches & staying around  
at our Camp any time of day or night  
we went there new york city and  
it is a large city and nice & jovial  
folk and death on the rebels.

I cannot write no more now for my  
regiment is all in marching orders  
for pursuit of our company of rebels in  
the city