

left side pocket of your coat. You little thought then that the same shell that took your arm off carried with it the entire left side of your coat, including the pocket and its contents. I was therefore unable to find anything of the papers. If your commissions were in that pocket they are gone. You will have to get duplicates from Governor Seymour, which you can do when you get home without any difficulty.

"I sincerely hope to hear that you are getting along well. I am very anxious to hear from you. Of course you cannot yourself write a letter. You can dictate to others, however, which I wish you would do for my sake.

"I wrote to your father as soon as you were wounded. I suppose he is with you now. Remember me to him. I will send to your home the remains of your coat and also your other things. Before you will be able to rejoin us again we may pass through very many changes. *You must not resign.* You can serve me in many ways with one arm.

"How is Surgeon Mandeville? Do you know that the same shell that struck you struck eleven different persons. Keep up good courage. Don't fret yourself. You are inconvenienced by the loss of your left arm, but it is a mark of honor which you may always be proud to wear. My best wishes are with you.

"All the officers wish to be remembered. Church is acting in your place. Charley Clarke is clerk.

"We are now in our old camp under the bower [at Bermuda Hundred]. I hope we may stay here yet awhile.

"Very respectfully,

"ALONZO ALDEN."

The healing of his side and shoulder was rapid, and, on November 21, Lieutenant Swartwout was permitted to leave the hospital to return to Troy. He was exceedingly desirous of serving again in the army, and went some weeks later to Washington, and solicited a physical examination. The surgeon-in-chief, however, would not certify to his fitness for active service, and, on December 31, 1864, he was honorably discharged on account of disability caused by the amputation of his arm.

On November 21, 1865, Governor Reuben B. Fenton conferred upon Lieutenant William M. Swartwout the rank of brevet-captain of New York Volunteers, for gallantry, at Dutch Gap, Va., on August 13, 1864.

The regiment in the mean time had been winning the fame entitling it to be recognized as one of the three hundred fighting regiments of the union army. On August 26, it again entered the trenches in front of Petersburg, whence, after a month's service, it returned once more to the north side of the James River. In the engagements at New Market and Fort Gillmore, in