

N.Y., Oct. 9, 8 p.m., 1888

My Dear Letty: -

I am so tired, but I'll write a few lines. I've been at work today on the more practical branches - Anatomy, Physiology - Materia Medica - Therapeutics. I now see a few places I could have answered better, but I find by talking with the fellows that they fail where I succeed and I fail where they get along. Today I missed one question in materia medica almost flat and wholly. I may get about 5 or 6 on it out of a possible 16 2/3.

Each examination has six questions or divisions. I have been writing steadily all day: probably about 25 pages of foolscap. Tomorrow we have surgery and hygiene. Next day Practice and Obstetrics, Friday oral examinations, Saturday, hospital work at the Bellevue.

My cold is nearly well and, I feel first rate except being tired. My fingers are numb with the holding a pen.

I expect to go to Phila. Sat night or Sunday morning.

I do want to get something out of this trip.

I did not hear from you today. I know you'll spin out your salary as well as any one could. Don't deny yourself of what you really need. I hope the back pay may come by the bills you sent, I'll write to Cole before long and explain to him.

I suppose tonight you go to Cabanne, and 2320 Cass Ave. has no more claims on us. We had a lovely summer there and we never will forget our first housekeeping.

I am trying to keep my expenses down to a dollar a day but hardly succeed, I see by looking it up I've spent \$5.10 since I came here. That included a \$1 room for two days. I now have a 50¢ one. Not luxurious by any means, but it will do.

Tomorrow eve. I'll spend a little while in Brooklyn. I can not stay late for I must rest and sleep.

I love you very very much. Hoping we can soon be together I am lovingly

Yours,

Alfred

The men have dwindled from 16 down to eight now - in the ex. I mean. A.

N.Y., Oct. 11, 7 P.M., 1888.

My Dear Wife: -

I neglected to write yesterday but really I had no time. I was very tired but had written the B's I would call on them and in the P.M. with your dear letter I rec'd a line from Alice F. Lyon, asking me to spend the evening with the rest of the F'bg people in her boarding place. So I went to B's, took dinner (saved a 50¢) and from there we all went to Alice's. Had a pleasant evening. Played whist a little, some euchre and visited.

Maude starts for Syracuse today. They inquired after you and wished to be remembered. I left with Mr. and Mrs. Robertson early about 10 o'clock. Did not get to bed until 11. Too late - I had a little headache today to pay for it.

Exam. are Whew! Worse than any thing I ever before heard of. I am still retained however - not having been asked to retire as have several. There were six of us left tonight.

Written ex. is now finished. Tomorrow is oral, I dread it. It will be very trying. I don't mind it much except Literature. I am quite well satisfied with myself thus far. After the oral tomorrow those still who have not been asked to retire, go to the hospital for a final test. "I am working to win." I am doing my best, and I think at my best, but it remains to be decided how the board looks on my work. I am more anxious than ever to gain.

It is a good thing.

Provided I got an appointment in some good place, I can then work at private practice too I learn and as "Army Surgeon" make quite an advt. (advertisement) and good money and then it's an honor to any man to pass this Hon. Board and by no means a dishonor to fail. My Univ. of Penna. friend was asked to step out of the race tonight. He claims to be not disappointed, but he was working hard, I saw that. A amn who knew Ben. Cornwell in Buffalo failed yesterday.

The wear and tear on a nervous system is fearful. I'll be glad to finish. The books I brought are of little use. I'm too tired at night to study.

My fingers and hand and arm are about paralyzed with writing. Aboutt 35 pp. yesterday and today the same of fool's-cap! If they should tell me I'm successful wouldn't I be glad to light out for Frewsburg and send on for you!

Now Dear you must not deny yourself of things you need. Spend your money for whatever you wish, and want. Get yourself dresses and new underclothing. I did not expect you to collect any of these bills, but supposed ~~for~~ of course you'd draw of the house, or I would have insisted on your taking some that I had. I thought it would be \$3.50 to move anyway, and I suppose it's worth \$4. So never mind. I wish you'll soon be cosily fixed out there.

The board money (\$15) is all right, of course. Do you take any dinners

or go to the hotel. Oh yes I suppose the P's are cordial. Really I do not see why they should not be. I have no ink in my room and it's not so tiresome to me a pencil anyway, so I know if you can read this, you'll not object, Eh?

It has been a pleasant week here, but is beginning to rain tonight.

Ah! Did I tell you there were 2 vacancies and a prospective 2 more? There are, so with the men dropping out and the vacancies increasing things are brightening.

You know how anxious I am to succeed and how hard I am doing all in my power to do so, I am sure.

Your faith in me and your love for me are no little stimulus, I assure you.

I think father said "nut picks" but I am not certain - concerning the Anniversary.

I love you very much. I would you were here tonight, or that we were together anywhere.

A week ago tomorrow I left St. L. It seems an age. A literary age.

Lovingly,

Alfred

Direct Phila Hospital for next week unless I wire you otherwise.

B.

New York, Oct. 12, 2 P.M., 1888

My Dear Wife: -

We are now two. I have been through the oral test, and am still retained to appear at the hospital tomorrow. My competitor takes his oral this afternoon and I expect he will also be asked to appear.

They gave me a fair ex. this morning. But of course I flunked the Latin. They asked me to write in full a Latin prescription, giving the terminations and reasons why.

Of course I couldn't for I always abbreviate. I told them so but they made me try. It was very embarrassing but I did it. One turned to the other and said "It is evident he don't know any Latin." I said I have claimed no knowledge of the study, but I can write an intelligent prescription and abbreviate in an intelligent manner. I did so before them, but I felt sure they would drop me and tell me I need not appear tomorrow. My competitor will hardly fail there, but I don't believe he can better me on professional oral examination.

But tomorrow will tell the story. So I must patiently ~~wait~~ wait. I think I'll study some bandaging this P.M. and take dinner again with the Baldwins, and spend the evening.

Just think out of 16 men, all but two dropped on the morning of the 5th day, and I still ~~remain~~ one of the two! I am quite proud of myself even if I fail finally. ~~It~~ I think it probable that we'll know whether we are appointed or not before I leave here, so if I am, I'll not go to Phila. Oh! No! I don't want another week like this one if I can help it.

If I succeed I'll telegraph you as per arrangement, so this letter may be stale news when you get it. It is needless to say my hopes are high. Way up!

I heard from father this morning: he has a great deal of faith in my success, though I told him by letter how the chances stood as near as I could see.

I'll write him again this P.M. Should I be successful, be prepared to resign your place at any time, for you must very soon come East.

Oh My I do hope "I'm all right."

With much love,

Your affectionate husb'd

Alfred

Love to folks.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

sent from New York, Oct. 13, 1888 - received at St. Louis, 1.10 p.m.
addressed to: Mrs. Bradley Care StrausSad Co, 6th & Locust St., St Louis

APPROVED APPOINTMENT PERHAPS NEXT WEEK ON LONG ISLAND HOME TONIGHT

A E BRADLEY

Letter 1

New York, Oct. 13, 1888

My Darling: -

I am soon to be addressed as, Lieutenant A.E. Bradley, Asst Surgeon U.S.A. I am successful - the only one in the division. I feel more elated than when I graduated at Jeff. I feel I have acquired greater honor, and am deserving of more praise. Congratulate me - my Sweetheart - "I came to win". We won. Without your love as a stimulus, I feel I would surely have failed.

I telegraphed you the news about 12 o'clock. I do hope you'll get it before you leave the office. I sent it there.

The other poor fellow was dropped because he had had no practical experience (hospital work). So you see, I acted best when I went back to P. in April 87. I am a most fortunate man, and I am sure a happier one could not be found in this U.S.

I go home tonight. They tell me I will probably receive my commission and be ordered to duty next week. Also that probably got ~~six~~ six months or a year I'll be stationed on the Atlantic Coast; and that my immediate post will possibly be Willetts Point, Long Island about 18 miles on the Sound. Won't that be nice?

Now as to our plans - So soon an appt we hardly expected. Now what shall we do? Now don't misunderstand me in what I am going to suggest. I want you as badly as you can possibly want me but I think you ought perhaps keep your place for a time sufficient to get your self clothes. My salary will be mostly taken at first with buying uniforms, equipment of various sorts, sword, etc. I would like very much to have you come home with me immediately. But I am probably to be there but so short a time, and you are so ill prepared (poor girl) for clothes etc., I feel it will be best to delay a short time our meeting. When you are prepared come to F., spend a little time, with the folks, and then come to me. In the meantime I'll have had gained some knowledge of my duties and surroundings, my privileges, etc., and be better prepared to receive you, my Own.

I have thought the matter over carefully and it seems to me that this is about the best plan I can conceive. How do you like it? Now I want you to make suggestions and give your plans, or ideas. It will take us a long time to get fairly settled in our new life but I am certain we will like it. Oh! I

am so thankful I was found qualified.

Really I was disheartened last Monday to see so formidable competition, but I worked, oh - how I worked - and now I am happy to be able to report to you - my self. It means no more drudgery of office work for you Dear. That was what has prompted me from first to last.

I am sorry for your folks, to lose you, but parents lose their children thus, willingly. Think what loss might mean. Remember me to them kindly Eva and all. When you leave please puff me a little to Ben. The puppy - ride him hard and tell him what we think of him. The Roberts I think but little of, but in kindness to Mrs. J give them my regards, also Dr. Shaw. I wrote to Cole last night explaining matters to him. Don't bother yourself any more about those bills.

I rec'd your letter and stamps - and my notes today - I did not need the latter.

With all love Dearie, I am your husband "Allie"
Will write from home immediately.