

Washington Sept. 5, 1863

Nat Bloom September 5- 1863

Dear Nat I wish you were here  
if only to enjoy the bright &  
beautiful weather we are having  
here now for about two weeks  
- then it is sufficiently cool, &  
the air buoyant & inspiring -  
Dear friend how long it is since  
we have seen each other, since  
those pleasant meetings & those  
hot spiced rum & suppers &  
our dear friends Gray & Chauncey,  
& Russell, & Gritschy too, (who  
for a while at first used to sit  
so silent,) & Perkins & our friend  
Raymond - how long it seems -  
how much I enjoyed it all.  
- What a difference it is with  
me here - I tell you Nat my  
evenings are frequently spent  
in scenes that make a terrible  
difference - for I am still a  
hospital visitor, there has not



passed a day for months (or at least not more than two) that I have not been among the sick & wounded, either in hospitals or down in camp - occasionally here I spend the evenings in hospital - the experience is a profound one, beyond all else & touches me personally, egotistically, in unprecedented ways. I mean the way often the amputated, sick, <sup>sometimes</sup> dying soldiers cling & cleave to me as it were as a man overboard to a plank, & the perfect content they have if I will remain with them sit on the side of the cot awhile, some youngsters often, & caress them &c. - It is delicious to be the object of so much love & reliance & to do them such good, soothe & pacify torments & wounds &c. - You will doubtless see in what I have said the reason I continue so long in this kind of life - as I am entirely on my own hook too.



Life goes however quite well  
with me here - I work a few  
hours a day at copying &c.  
occasionally write a newspaper  
letter, & make enough money  
to pay my expenses - I have  
a little room, & live a sort  
of German or Parisian student  
life - always get my breakfast  
in my room (have a little  
spirit lamp) & rub on free  
& happy enough, untrammelled  
by business, for I make what  
little employment I have suit  
my moods - walk quite a good  
deal, & in this weather the  
rich & splendid environs of  
Washington are an unfailing  
fountain to me - go down the  
river, or off into Virginia once  
in a while - all around us here  
are forts, & the score - great am-  
bulance & teamsters' camps &c  
- these I go to - some have little  
hospitals, I visit, &c &c



Dear Nat, your good & friendly  
letter came safe, & was indeed  
welcome - I had not thought you  
had forgotten me, but I wondered  
why you did not write - What  
comfort you must take out  
there in the country, & the river -  
- I have read your letter many  
times, as I do from all my  
dear friends & boys there in New  
York - Perkins lately wrote me a  
first-rate letter, & I will reply  
to it soon - I wish to see you  
all very much - I wish you  
to give my love to Fritschy  
& Fred Gray - I desire both to  
write to me - Nat you also my  
dear comrade, & tell me all about  
the boys & everything, all the little  
items are so good - I should Charles  
Russell visit New York, I wish  
you to say to him I send him  
my love - I wish you the same  
to Perk, & to Kingsley & Ben Knowen  
So good bye my comrade till we  
meet, & God bless you Dear friend

Walt Whitman

Walt