

[*Transcript of pages from Charlotte Forten's journal, pages 80 and 81, July 23-24, 1863*]

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and there is a ball in the stomach – it is thought that cannot be extracted. The poor fellow suffers terribly. His groans are pitiful to hear. But – he utters no complaint, and it is touching to see his gratitude for the least kindness that one does him. Mrs. G. asked him if he would like her to write to his home. But he said no. He was an only son, and had come away against his mother's will. He would not have her written to until he was better. Poor fellow that will never be in this world.^x Another, a sergeant, suffers great pain, being badly wounded in the leg. But he too lies perfectly patient and uncomplaining. He has such a good honest face. It is pleasant to look at it although it is black. He is said to be one of the best and bravest men in the Regiment. When I went in this morning and found my patients so cheerful some of them even quite merry, I thought it could not be possible that they were badly wounded. Many indeed have only flesh wounds. But there are others – and

^xHe has since recovered. I am surprised to hear.

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they among the most uncomplaining-who are severely wounded. Some dangerously so. Brave fellows! I feel it a happiness, an honor, to do the slightest service for them. True, they were unsuccessful in the attack on Fort Wagner. But that was no fault of theirs. It is the testimony of all that they fought bravely as men can fight and that it was only when completely overwhelmed by superior numbers that they were driven back.

Friday, July 24. To-day the news of Col. Shaw's death is confirmed. There can no longer be any doubt. It makes me sad, sad at heart. They say he sprang upon the parapet of that fort and cried "Onward, my brave boys, onward;" then fell, pierced with wounds. I know it was a glorious death. But oh, it ~~was~~ is hard, very hard for the young wife, so late a bride, for the invalid mother, whose only and most dearly loved son he was, that heroic mother who rejoiced in the position which he occupied as colonel of a colored regiment. My heart bleeds for her. His death is a very sad loss to us. I recall him as a much –