

Copied from

**Charles Marshall Stone (1833-1890)
letter to his wife, Sarah Fairbanks Stone
describing Washington, D.C., on the day
of Lincoln's inaugural, 1861**

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Mrs. C. M. Stone.

St. Johnsbury,

Cal. Co.

Vermont.

I wrote father
a letter last
eve. about the
length of this.

Opposite Willard's Hotel.
Washington, March 4, 1861.

My dear Sarah:

The long agony is over.
Abraham Lincoln is inaugu-
rated President of these United
States! I have just return-
ed from the ceremony, and
you may believe my phys-
ical system is glad that
it is over. It was a terrible
jam, but I went with the
H. delegation, which was as-
signed an excellent place.
We were quite near the
stand of the Pres., but of course
had a standing ticket, and
were continually annoyed by
having our ranks jostled &
crowded by the "roughs," and
by others. There was no ac-
cident or especial disturb-
ance that I am aware of,

though I presume the telegraph
has announced a good many,
and there may have been
some - very likely there were.
It was a most glorious
occasion. The weather, which
today has been threatening, came
off beautiful just as the pro-
cession was forming & remained
so till after the ceremonies
were over; but now it
has clouded up, & there are
appearances of rain. The
inaugural address was
splendid, and delivered in
fine style, and I judge ^{it will have} ~~with~~
^{an} excellent effect upon the coun-
try; though everything in rela-
tion to peace and union
looks dark here now. Men
are fearful that Virginia and
Md. will now secede; but I
hope not. I would speak to

you in this of the grand pa-
geant and military display
of today, but you will get
a better idea of it in the
Tribune & Journal. Genl
Scott has done everything
to guard against surprise.
A very large military escort
accompanied the procession
& stood guard about the
Speaker's stand & Capitol. The
Carriage containing the Pres.
elect & Buchanan was es-
corted in a hollow square
completely surrounded by
Cavalry. As we returned
from the inauguration to
our "hotel", we shunned the
great crowd in Pennsylva-
nia Avenue, and came
round by the City Hall,
where we found the light
artillery, with six horses
attached to each cannon,

Ms. Acc. 86.

and a man to each near
horse, ready to spring into the
saddle at a moment's
warning. In five minutes
after word should be given,
those Cannon could have
been placed in the Capitol
grounds, doing execution.
I saw this company reviewed
Friday, and it was almost
amazing to see the rapidity
of movement. The cannon
were taken from one part
of the field to another with
those horses upon the gallop,
and it was not half a min-
ute after the horses stopped
before they were detached from
the carriages, the guns were
loaded & fired.

There are
soldiers now in every part of
the city, much to the annoy-
ance of the secessionists. I
have wearied you I presume
by this lengthy story, a much

U
better one you probably read
Wed. night, (I suppose this will
reach you Thursday), but all
our party were out but me,
and as I was too tired to
more, I thought I would re-
lieve the tedium & drive away
the blues by talking awhile
with you. We might, by
great exertion, have probably
got away on the 3 o'clock
train to Phila. tonight; but
the train was shockingly over-
loaded, and aside from the
danger of riding on such
crowded trains, it was sup-
posed that these Baltimore
rowdies would return
at this time, & from such com-
pany deliver us! The next
through train to Phila. leaves at
6 in the morn., & that is so
early our brothers propose to

the one which leaves 7.40 -
bringing us to Phila. - if we make
time - at 3 P.M. So I hope my
next will be dated at the
Continental House - it would
be a great luxury even to
think that we should be
there tonight. It is pretty tough
staying here so long. The beds
are as hard as boards, &
there is such a hubbub in
the Avenue that it is impos-
sible to sleep. I must here
tell you that I have been
away from home eight
days, and have received
but one letter from you
- but I don't believe that
this is your fault, for you
knew that these eight days
seem like 8 weeks to me. How-
ard has come in, & we are planning
about getting home, so I will bid
you good night again - Marshall.