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John C. Ropes

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Committee of the Gen. of Officers of 70th Regt. Col. Inspry.

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Head Quarters, Solina Heights,
September 30th 1862.

My dear John.

I have not got letters from home for several days, and have nothing to write to you about. I am still quietly living along here at Head Quarters. I have almost nothing to do. Col. De- is better, but still rather feeble and quite unable to endure exposure, should he be called upon to do so. I have just heard of the death of Robert Lee, aide to Genl. Rodman in the late action. It will of course be a dreadful blow to his parents, especially his Mother.

I have thought for a day or two what a good thing it would be for you to come out here and spend a few days. You could be perfectly comfortable at some house in the town here, close to us, and you could ride over from here to the battle field and get a most excellent idea of the battle.

Then of course it would be delightful to me to see you again and talk over everything and tell you anything about the battles &c. You could probably get a pass at Washington which would take you round everywhere. If you came now you would be a good deal here at Head Quarters, and would see Col. Ball of the 7th, Col. Sully and others. Col. Sully is a great man, and is now often here, and I know you would enjoy hearing him tell of what he saw

and did. You get more military Knowledge in ten minutes out of him,
than in reading a book. He is about as truly jolly a man as you
ever saw. Then you would see and perhaps get acquainted with
Dummer, Howard and others. I know you would greatly enjoy
the trip, and I need not say how delighted beyond measure I should
be to see you. I have plenty of time now and the use of a horse,
and you would be very comfortable.

Do think seriously of this.

Your affectionate brother
J. Perry.

Head Quarters, Solim Heights.
October 5th 1862.

My dear John.

I have before me your two letters received October 3^d through Lieut. Wilkins, with \$10.- enclosed. Much obliged to you for sending them. I am very sorry your eyes are still troublesome, and very much obliged to you for sending on my things by Express. I shall probably get everything together now.

As to the battle, I cannot begin to give you a good idea of things by a letter, you must come on and have a talk and see the ground yourself. The enemy had an immense advantage of position. As to our attack on the next day, I can only refer you to the list of losses, especially to the loss of General Officers, which was tremendous and which would have greatly crippled us in an offensive movement. A shattered Army can often hold our disposition when to attack would have been impossible. It took the whole of Thursday to re-arrange the Army, to place the newly-arrived troops and to assign the different Generals &c. As to the enemy's crossing, why the water is so low, even here, that we could march across in line of battle and not wet our knees. They could cross anywhere, and in any number of columns. As to your ideas of the rapidity with which troops can be moved and ~~formed~~, I can only say that you have as yet no conception of the vastness of great movements, and the time it takes.

Why, suppose Sumner's Corps to be drawn up in line of battle on the Mill Lane, opposite our house, fronting Cambridge bridge, and the right resting at the corner of Charles and Beacon Streets, and you find it necessary to change front so as to make a line of battle on Charles Street, the right resting on the New Jail, and fronting toward Brookline and Langwood. It would take from day-break till 11 O'clock for the men to march steadily by together with the batteries and the necessary Ammunition, wagons and Ambulances, without any halt or delay of any kind beyond the absolutely necessary halts for rest. I feel perfectly unable to describe to you what is so perfectly plain to me, for we seem to have no starting point.

You write of this and that delay and length of time employed &c. &c., and it seems to me perfectly natural that such should have been the case. I can only decide it by an example, as if one should expatiate on the immense time, viz: one year employed by the earth in going only once round the sun. Yet we know how tremendous is the earth's speed although the daily change of climate &c. is imperceptible to us. Or as if I should wonder at the long time, say several months, taken up in deciding a most important and difficult case of law and wonder why enough lawyers were not employed to do it up in a morning.

Now, besides all this I acknowledge that the notion of some Officers high in command is generally acknowledged to have

been reckless, to say the least; and if I could have a talk with you I think I could explain to your satisfaction why Mr. Clellan's most admirable plans were not successfully carried out. I do not care to write everything. Of course, do not on any consideration repeat this or give my authority for the statement. I write in perfect confidence.

I have never seen Wolcott. Macy was sent to Washington to arm and equip the recruits arrived there, a few days before the battle. He was unable to get up till the next day. He, however, heard the tremendous fire, 30 miles off, at Rockland, and hurried on so fast no his poor broken down horse could go. He said it was awful to him, the suspense and his entire ignorance of how the day was going and where we were, and all day long from dawn till night the tremendous roaring of Artillery. He met a man riding back from the field and hailed him: "Is Sumner's Corps in?" Answer: "In! yes, in all over." He said he probably suffered more by suspense and anxiety, than if he had been wounded. As to whether the battle was fought well, I should say most undoubtedly yes. Both parties closed up and took and gave the most destructive fire at very short range, and both parties remained under fire from batteries at short range, till almost destroyed. I doubt if soldierly qualities were ever better displayed. I believe I have now answered everything in reference to the battle that I feel at liberty to commit to writing. I do not know whether anything I have written commends itself to your judgment or not, but I wish

here to repeat in the most positive and emphatic manner that the English language can express, that it is my earnest wish that no part whatever of this letter, or of any subsequent or former letters be in any way ever printed, published, or proclaimed. I am and always shall be delighted to write to you and to my relatives and friends generally, about everything of interest that I see here, and to answer any questions whatever respecting battles, &c., but I cannot bear the idea that my letters should be printed or used in any way but the way in which I write them to be used, to viz: for you to read, and if they wish it, for any others of the family or of our familiar friends, to whom you may choose to show them. Excepting always the one case where my letters state facts in reference to the safety &c. of Officers and others whose friends may be anxious about them.

I hope you will not think I have written too much on this point, for I wish to make it perfectly clear. All well here. Mrs. Lee came yesterday P.M. quite unexpectedly, and has lodgings in the town. She looks perfectly well. Colonel better. Love to all.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Camp 2nd Regiment, Bolivar Heights
October 18th Saturday 11 A.M. 1862.

Dear John.

I returned about an hour ago from the expedition on which I started just after I bade you good bye. We drove in a small force of Rebels and occupied Charlestown, and left it at noon yesterday, because a large force of Rebels were approaching. Porter, I hear, crossed above, and we heard his guns. Our Regiment, of course, was in the advance as much as possible and picketing the whole time. No Infantry fighting. The usual amount of hard marching and exposure. The affair very well managed and on the whole as little disagreeable as is possible for these most unpleasant of all military movements. No news.

I shall send your pipe by Col. Revere's servant who leaves in a few days for Boston. I enclose the Power of Attorney. Nothing yet of the boxes or valise. No letters from home. Write soon and tell me about the boxes, tent, &c., and if the box is lost please order a duplicate copy immediately. I hope you had a pleasant journey. John Gray came to see you the day you left, thereby proving that you ought to have staid a week longer, at least.

Please not to worry if he can make me a case for my overcoat, and if he wants the measure. There must be 5 button holes, one in the

middle, behind. Let the Cape be only long enough to reach the waist,
that is, about $\frac{1}{2}$ way between waist and elbow. Cape must nearly match
in color, of course. Please send me some time when you have a chance
1 lb. best green tea. I am told it is very good for a night of picket & guards,
and very nice. I hope you will get your valise all right. Give them
all my love at home, and tell them to write. I shall acknowledge the
receipt of the boxes &c., when I get them.

Please let me know if convenient whether Mrs. Dr. Jeffrie
ever got my note of thanks for the Ginger. I fear very many letters
have miscarried of late, for a letter thief has been found at Division
Head Quarters. Genl. Hancock is a good Officer, careful
and wide awake. Mr. Clellan came up to Charlestown day before
yesterday. We took 1 gun, some prisoners and 3000 bushels wheat,
which last was carried back by a special train sent up from the ferry.

All friends here desire regards. I hear another expedition
goes out some where to-day.

Your affectionate brother
Henry

20th Regiment, Sunday,
19th October 1862.

Dear John.

I have just got your letter dated Baltimore 19th and am delighted to know that you found your valise. I have not yet got the bundle. I wrote you of our safe return &c. Had you staid one day more you might have seen John Gray and a battle, and then driven over to Charlestown with Genl. Mc. Clellan, and finally got to Washington and home as soon as you now will. But you would none of our counsel and advice, and have reaped the bitter fruits. I want my Buffalo and the blanket awfully. It is horribly cold at night, although so warm in the day time that we enjoy a bath in the river.

A number of us want to get quite a supply of preserved meats, fruits, pickles, &c. &c. from Boston, better than those we get here. Can you call at W. K. Lewis & Co., or Davis Underwood & Co., (whichever is the better and cheaper) and get one of their printed catalogues and make some enquiries as to price &c. in case we should order a quantity to be sent on by Express.

I am perfectly disgusted with my position here. That little cocky fool, Curtis, is my first Lieutenant. I think this is shameful considering I have been more with the Regiment and seen more service and been in more battles than any Lieutenant in the Regiment,

1st or 2^d. I think now Capt. Shepard is acting Major Prescott
to have command of my Company. I have spoken to the Colonel
about it, and I think he will make some change in the appointment of
Officers, but he of course does not see it in the same light I do. My
friends here, Herbert, Macy, and Milton, all say it is abominable
to treat me so, &c. However, I shall hope for the best and at present
of course I must only endure. Time generally brings all right.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

25th Regiment Bolivar
21st October 1862.

Dear John.

We very likely shall advance soon. Everything looks like it. We of course may not go, but Milton, who generally knows, says we shall. It is awfully cold and I have suffered very much for want of warm clothing for the night. I most earnestly await the arrival of the box containing Knapsack &c. Please send on as soon as you can by Express 2 very large and warm blankets, or 3 if you cannot find any very large and warm. Also another pair of my thick ribbed drawers, another woollen shirt, 2 moderately thick undershirts, and 3 pairs blue woollen socks. All these in addition to the Buffalo Kin and the other things I have written for. Also send the extra pair dark blue pants left in the large trunk. As to the blankets, any white ones would do as well. Better get coarse ones, only warmth wanted.

If we march I shall need money, for we shall not get paid. Please, therefore, send me by mail \$25.- say \$10.- first, then \$5.- at a time. Send, if possible, U. S. ones and small change.

Pierbut is much obliged for the contents of the bundle, and desires you to tell his father he has received them.

On the whole, better send also the thick dress coat sent home,

in my trunk from Morris's Landing. These things cannot reach me
before we are in winter quarters, and then I shall need everything.
No news. I hope we shall be settled soon.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Enclosed letter for Louisa.

Camp 2^d Regiment Solina
October 28th 1852.

My dear John.

I have received news of the 24th and am delighted you had such a pleasant trip home, and that you have received the Box of Utterwey, &c. The man by whom I intend to send your pipe has sprained his ankle and will not go for several days. I shall send probably a small parcel by him. I shall inquire to-day for the trunk. All the Expresses converge into Adams & Co. here.

We have had a very heavy rain, and I find that my rubber tent lets in water in the seams which fasten the canvas to the top of the tent. I never saw Rubber goods before in which the seams were left in this way. Any man could see at a glance that water would leak in. Always the seams should be covered with the India Rubber in the gum state and allowed to harden. I shall cover the seams with wax or tallow.

Do not let the new tent be made in this way. Let every part be waterproof. If it is not too late let the back be made whole in one piece with a hole for the ridge pole. If necessary to bring it within weight, reduce the size to 5 ft. 2 inches each way, instead of 5 ft. 6 inches. If still Rubber cloth will be too heavy, let the tent be made of common cotton or linen cloth, whichever is lighter,

and more waterproof. Let the back be whole, not divided. In every respect like the rubber tent would be.

I cannot but think \$20.- an enormous price for the tent I have, but I suppose one must pay for experiments. As it has turned out I have already had \$20.- worth out of it. Whenever you send an order put in a bottle of dark Brandy Hennessy's such as you sent lately. Boxes are often delayed and the Brandy rarely comes amiss.

Curtis is changed to Company I and I now command K., and we are now full of business. Regular drills and Company duties well occupy the time.

Last night we had $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of Ice. Rather tough for shelter tents and an insufficient supply of blankets. Everything is comfortable now with this exception. Send me some more stamps. I never got those you sent nor the legal letter nor the \$2.- (or \$4.-) Father sent. Send the \$25.- I wrote for as soon as possible.

Captains Macy, and Shepard, Herbert, Murphy, Milton, and others send kind regards, &c.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

20th Regiment, near Paris, Va.
November 5th 1862.

My dear John.

We have now been nearly a week on the march, beautiful weather, though cool at night, and a very beautiful country to travel through. We have so usual been worked to the advance and been often on picket, and day before yesterday we drew up to support a battery, loaded and primed, and there was considerable Artillery on our right, but we were not engaged. The enemy seem to be retreating, and we advancing on every road. I have appreciated fully the value of the Buffalo, in which I have slept comfortably every night, although my rubber blanket has often been covered with ice, from the dew frozen. I hope you will succeed in getting a light and dry tent. I wonder if it would be possible to get oiled silk, a coarse kind, but strong and light. I should think this would be excellent, if not too expensive. However, I have no doubt you will get the best thing.

I have written to you of the disposition of the things that came in Mr. Tolson's box. I shall try to send home very soon several books to be by Express. Do not let them send out any more solid books till we come to some stopping place. I always like some small books to carry, but as I have on the whole little time to read, I prefer to read only the most important books. I have not yet read the best novels,

historics and books of poetry and therefore do not care to have any but such standard books sent out. I should very much like a "Kuchnitz" Edition of Scott's Poems (or a part of them), or, if possible, a volume of Napier's Peninsula War, or some good history of Cromwell. I am rather poorly posted on both these important epochs. I have heard of a "Camp Kettle" sold at home consisting of an iron pot of moderate size, inside of which plates cups, a frying pan &c. fit. If you happen to see such a thing, please let me know and tell me the size and contents.

As to the delay in my letters, it may have been partly ^{owing} to the direction. No need of putting on "Davis's Brigade" as the letters are taken by a Division mail carrier, who knows every Regiment in this Division and does not leave letters at the different Brigade Head Quarters. Better always direct "Lieut. Ropes, 2nd Mass. Regt. 2^d Corps, 2^d Division, Washington, D. C." I have no doubt "Washington D. C." is generally enough, but I often get letters thus directed endorsed in pencil "Sedgwick". Perhaps "Sumner's Corps, Sedgwick's Division" is better than the number.

But love to all. Thank's for the \$13.- received all right. The people about here are real Rebels and often refuse to sell anything for our money. Gold and Silver however are most eagerly sought after. Can you send me a few gold dollars in a letter? I dare say they would go a great way here although they may cost at home \$1.²⁰. Some 5 and 10 pieces of silver would be very convenient. You must tell all to excuse my not writing while on the march, it is very difficult. The people

have are mad for tea and coffee, and will give you a sheep for a pound or
two of either.

Your affectionate brother
J. Perry.

Camp 2^d Cth Regiment, Harroton, Va.
November 9th 1862.

Dear John,

I thank you for your very interesting letter of the 31st October and 1st November. I am delighted to hear of the prosperity of A. D. P. Please inquire if any of the \$10.⁷⁵ received from C. B. Porter belonged to Herbert, and, if it did, let me know how much, and I will pay him here, and you can credit the whole to me. Perhaps part (for coal) is to be credited to Father. Please see to this. As to my tent, I see every day the necessity of its being as waterproof as possible. It occurred to me that to save weight, the back might be of cotton or linen, and the sides only of Rubber. If you find a material light enough, you can have not only a whole back, fastened to the sides, but a front also, to open just like the back of my present heavy tent. I dare say you can get a kind of coarse oiled or prepared silk, like a balloon. I give these directions all in case you have not yet decided upon a material and given orders, not by any means to interfere in case you have already decided on style and material. I feel sure Adams' Express will soon run to the Army. I shall be delighted to see Abbott again. I hardly know what to think of the Regiment now. Deher was drunk the other day, when we were before the enemy, and in line of battle, and Shepard had to take command. Macy is detailed as

Brig. Quarter Master and no doubt is glad to get into a decent place. (Do not mention that about Decher, of course). I believe I did not tell you that Col. Hall, Commanding Brigade asked me to be on his staff, but I declined on the ground of duty to be with my Regiment and Company, especially as we expected active service. Do not mention this either. Herbert, Abbott and Patten are my only friends now in the Regiment. I am exceedingly sorry to lose Macy, but he came and had a long talk with me, and I know his reasons are good and he does right. I do not dare to consider the future of the poor old 20th. Col. Lee, I suppose, will never return to us. Col. Telfrey laid up for months. No Major. Bartlett gone to another Regiment, and the probability of Decher, a crazy drunken Dutchman, for Major, and Commanding Officer! If we have another fight, and the Lord deliver us, we have one good thing, however, as good a Brigade Commander as there is anywhere, a young man with a clear head.

I am much interested in what ^{and Mary Ann} you say about Mr. Bourgeois. Perhaps he would like to visit the Army when we come to a stop. I should be delighted to show him round, and do all I could for him.

There is a terrible feeling against England in the Army, especially among the Western troops. I believe that if we put down the Rebellion this Autumn, that an English war would be hailed with joy by the great body of the Army. With the Irish there is a settled

determination to have a Rebellion against England as soon as this war is over, and they really seem to consider this war as a sort of preparation. I feel very sorry for this, but it is true.

Give my love to Kalua, if you see him. I am glad he is recovering so well. He had a bad looking wound. Send me some stamps and the rest of the \$25.- I wrote for. I have now received \$13.75. If possible, send a little gold and silver.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Camp 2^d Regiment, Warrenton, Va.
Wednesday, November 12th 1862.

My dear John:

I have been so busy with my Muster Rolls &c. for the last few days that I have been unable to write home. I received to-day the "Atlantic" for November, and 3 papers, no letters for some days. I have received a most interesting and able letter from Margaretta dated Vinces, Va.

The whole Army is depressed and broken spirited, and full of dependency and indignation at Mr. Clellan's removal. He bade us farewell, and I thought he never looked better, though very sad. Burnside is no doubt an able man, but I have never yet heard of his doing anything on a very large scale. He seems to assume the Command unwillingly, and I hear he only is to hold it until Hooker gets well. Everyone feels gloomy and reckless of what may come. When I consider this in connection with the recent elections, I almost despair for the Country.

The Regiment is in a disgusting state. Decher and Shepard make fools of themselves every day, and the poor old 2^d is the laughing stock of the Brigade, whenever either attempt the simplest movements. A letter has been written to our old Major Dyer stating our lack of Officers and begging him to resume his old Command. I have signed it most willingly. He is our only hope. Decher and Shepard are

furious at the letter and would not sign. Murphy goes with them. Beside
this letter which is a perfectly respectful, proper and public one, another
letter has been written privately, which only Cabot, Mason, Wilkins,
Curtis, Forten and I have signed, stating the true case, and plainly
setting forth Diehr's ignorance, violence and conceit, and Shepard's
foolishness and (of late) insufferable self-confidence. I hope these
will succeed. If they do not, we feel that any relief would be eagerly snatched at. I mean to stick by the 20th to the last, but the present
horrible state of the Regiment is unendurable. Shepard and Diehr
know how much they are despised by the old Officers and are both un-
civil and overbearing to the last degree. I suppose this is a gloomy
letter, for so I feel. However, I keep heart, and hope for better
things both for the Regiment and the Country. I do not anticipate
an advance or a great battle. A "Winter Campaign" is no impossible
as an Army without food, and amounts to much the same thing.
Love to all.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment (Mys. Volunteers)
Warrenton, Va. November 14th 1862.

My dear John.

I have been so busy as not to have had time to write anything but a hurried note to you for some days. I received last evening yours of November 8th: enclosing \$5.- and 12 stamps, but no agreement about the mortgage you spoke of. This I suppose you omitted to put in. I shall expect it in your next. In consequence of our march, the pay-rolls are again delayed, and although 2 months were due on November 1st, I suppose we shall have to wait a long time yet for our pay. So please continue to send small sums say \$5.- or \$6.- in your letters. U. S. money, gold or silver, is the only kind which passes here. Send ones or twos, or postage currency, if possible. Food is very scarce here, and very dear, but if we stay, the Commissary will soon supply us quite well. I have now received \$18.- in all. Please send up the \$50.- In a campaign one must guard against every risk, and it is of course possible to be taken prisoner, when to be without money would be very awkward.

James is now quite ill, and like all simple fellows as he, thinks he is about used up and probably will never recover. He has a slight fever turn and is getting along nicely. I have had some trouble with him of late. He is, as you know, a very foolish, simple, "green" fellow, and of late he got into a way of neglecting his duties and loafing about with

the man, and occasionally quarrelling. Then he became surly, and finally I told him that he might either leave or change his conduct, to which he promptly replied he would go, only wishing to remain till pay day, to collect some debts due him from men in the Regiment. I then found he expected me to pay his passage to Boston, perhaps \$20.- and said you made a distinct agreement with him to the effect that whenever I should discharge him, I was to send him back. Now, I never understood this to be the agreement, especially when a man is discharged for bad conduct. I have sent back among my private papers, the written agreement with James signed in your Office, and I think it is there distinctly stated that I should not agree to pay his passage home, that is of course unless he returned with me. Of course, I shall abide by any agreement you made, but I wish you would write to me what the stipulation was, and if you like, open my box, and take out the original agreement from among my papers. It seems to me absurd that a man can at any time behave badly and be discharged and then get his passage paid back to Boston. The only hold I have on him is the fear of discharge and this takes that away. Since James behaved so badly, however, he seemed to repent come to me and said he was very sorry indeed to have to leave, and ^{then} set about his duties in the most active manner and showed by his energy and faithfulness that he wished to atone for past defects. I saw this and had determined to keep him after all; but since then he has fallen sick and I may be obliged to part with him. If I do now, I shall pay his

way to Boston after all, because he fell sick in my employ, and was at the time doing well, but I wish to know what the agreement was with him.

Please send by mail to me, when you can, some writing paper and envelopes. Cannot you fold them square instead of rolling them up?

I understand "Cassidy's tactics" are now adopted. Please send me a copy. I also want (when you send a box) 4 pieces soap, ball Twine, my "Army Regulations" (in trunk), a box shaving soap and a pocket penholder. These things, I suppose, will reach me in some winter quarters, if at all. I have written you what I think of McClellan's removal. Still we must support the Government. At present my confidence in Lincoln and I believe is about gone. Tell me what you think of the "Peoples" party and of the recent Democratic victories. I hope the Country will sustain the war at least one year more. For my part I can see no way but war. ^{or} Peace means twice, nothing more. The South must be crushed, or the North, i.e. the Country, the Republic will perish. If the South conquer, I see nothing but war forever, unless indeed we become so far demoralized as to consent to be the South's servants. They will rule or perish, and as they have placed this as the issue, I see our duty clearly to utterly destroy them as a united people. The governing class destroyed and their places filled with Northern emigrants, the two would unite and become with the old North a great nation once more. We must look solely at the end to be accomplished, the total subjection of the Rebellion, and

overlook everything between, no matter what expense or what sacrifice of life is to come. The more I see and the more I think, the more I am convinced this is so, and the more willing I am to help to gain the great end.

My situation here is very uncomfortable, but we hope for better things. How are the Colonel and Mrs. Lee?

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Camp Picket, near Falmouth, Va.
Wednesday, 10th November 1862.

My dear John.

I wrote to Father yesterday, giving an account of our march to this place. Capt. Holmes and Lieut. Abbott have just arrived, safe and well, and I have received from the latter your letter of the 11th and Father's of the 12th, enclosing \$25.- in Government money. Please thank Father for sending this. I am very glad you have at last got the tent. Tell me if there is a "whole back", as I wrote about in one of my last letters. I have received no letter about the Estates. As to Mc. Clellan, I have begun to feel a little as you did. As far as we can now judge, I think Mc. Clellan should either have advanced as ordered, or refused and resigned. I can hardly account for his delaying and not refusing, especially as you seem to think he intentionally delayed. Since we came here vast columns of troops, I hear 5 Corps in all, have moved up. Burnside passed this morning, and the troops are still passing, 3 columns abreast. It is a heavy rain storm, but warm. It rained all night and much of yesterday. No signs of clearing off. It looks like an advance beyond the river, but I still hold to my former opinion that nothing will be accomplished from this side till spring. I hear old Sumner says a "winter campaign" is possible. No one else I think would say so.

Summer has his old Corps again and leads the way. I think the Army has got over the dejection caused by Mc. Clellan's removal, and it is in good heart for anything, but in case of serious reverse, there would be a great want of confidence. Of course, in one sense, I know no more of Mc. Clellan than you at home, but I still retain and shall retain this feeling, that I am perfectly satisfied with him as Commander, and only wish to see him left to himself and untrammelled. I do not care much for Mc. Clellan's complaints about the Quarter Master Department. Delays may easily have occurred which would make both his and Halleck's statements true. I think Mc. Clellan is a far-seeing man. He knows another year is necessary, and prefers a good Army next spring to a smaller and poorer one for a few weeks this Autumn. The people say the war must be finished in 9 months. Mc. Clellan lays his plans merely to finish the war, whether 9 months or 9 years are required.

I am very glad to hear Mr. Bourgeois' health is improved. I hope he will succeed in getting on some good staff. He had better try for some Major General's Staff where the staff is large, but I dare say he will meet with difficulty, on account of the feeling against us, and the claims of Line Officers to Staff appointments.

Please send me some gold dollars and silver change, if possible. The \$25.- are full enough for present need, but in this country gold will buy what no paper will. People will not sell at all for paper

often. I should be glad to pay 25 per cent premium for \$1000. in gold.
If you can some time ^{send me} a small true pocket-compass, please do. I
wonder I never thought to ask for one before.

I have many letters to answer which I must postpone till we get
to some sort of settled camp. I will write you as often as I can
and tell you everything I can about matters. My own opinion is that if
a winter campaign is attempted, it will signally fail. This I say
not without fairly thinking of the matter, and I think not influenced
by a desire for comfort and a dislike to face hardship and danger again.
We shall soon see. Did you ever place \$30.- to James' credit at
the Savings Bank? Let me know. I am much interested
in a book I have borrowed here "Tom Burke" by Chs. Lee.
Is it a fair picture of the era of Napoleon? It seems quite so to me.
I hear Col. Lee is to return to us, and I am amazed beyond
measure. Can it be his intention? I thought he had gone home.

Your affectionate brother,
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment near Edmouthe
Va., November 22^d 1862, Saturday.

My dear John.

I have received yours of the 14th enclosing 20 stamps. The lantern, hatchet, &c. were all right, and so were Herbert's bottles and hatchet. I hope you will be able to send on the shelter tent very soon. I received the \$25.- all right. I have asked for a small amount of gold and silver. I find it often is of great value, and paper when no paper money will. Abbott's baggage has not yet come, but he tells me he had Schalk's work, and a shirt for me. I have received no letter or agreement whatever about the Estates. I see you allude to the sale of the Hanover street Estate. When I get your letter I will fully consider the matter.

As to the Kettle stove, I think I shall not want it this autumn. I do not believe the stove part is of much use. I am astonished to hear that Col. Lee expects to return. I am sure he cannot stand it. He was really very ill at Bolivar. I am very glad for Stone, though I look upon joining that Regiment very much like joining the Boston Cadets, for there is small chance of their ever seeing service, and Cavalry service at best in this war is a mere sham. Herbert is much obliged to you for promising to get him the blanket &c. Capt. LeDuc has been made Corps Quarter Master to Sigel, with

the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. You do not appear to know that we left Capt. Schmidt sick at Bolivar. He never did 2 days duty but fell ill immediately.

We have moved our camp $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to an excellent place on a hill and have begun to make ourselves a little comfortable. I see no signs of a move. We have had tremendous rains for 3 days, and the mud is very deep. I have no doubt the river here is very high. I am glad you did not order a cape for me. My old coat is pretty well worn out now, and I think I must have a new one. I enclose a description for Newton's use. It ought not to cost more than \$22. but I dare say you will have to pay as high as \$25. or \$30. My old one, made very large and thick and with a tremendous Cape was \$26. only. I have found by experience that a great coat should be very light in the skirts for marching, and close at the waist to allow the belt to meet.

Herbert has just reminded me of the Class photographs. Please get for me a complete set, including every one, Tutors, Professors, and all the extras such as buildings, trees &c. Let me have everything. Better ask Jeffries about it. Herbert has a splendid likeness of himself, class-book size in uniform, bust only. He promised me one of these which he says you can ask his father for, and then have framed and kept for me. Many of the fellows here ask me for my pictures. I hardly know what cards you had taken of me. Please

send me on a bar, including at least one of each kind. Abbott wants one without whiskers, if you have any. Please send me about 12 sheets post paper, and 1/2 doz post paper envelopes. I think you had better send (when you send a box) 1/2 doz pocket handkerchiefs and 1/2 doz small towels. Also a nice leather stock.

I am very sorry to hear from Abbott and Holmes that the general state of feeling at home is so unfavorable to a continued support of the war. They both say that the eventual separation of the country is considered certain by almost all, and that they hardly think the country will support the war a year longer. I, too, I am disappointed in the American people. I had thought the country was in earnest, but I fear the effect of party division. The Army absolutely needs a rest of 3 months, needs it just as tired horse needs rest, needs to get into comfortable quarters, will get well of sickness and wounds and become ready for another campaign. Without such a rest the troops will be fit for very little when spring comes. If the country will not endure this, it is a very hard master. No General in his senses would undertake a winter campaign in this country against an equal enemy. We ought to be allowed a rest after what we have done and suffered. It must be, and the country may as well make up their minds to it first or last. The Army is all right for another year, if the people at home back down, they are a pretty poor set.

I believe I have no letters to acknowledge. Please do not

send any more books but what I ask for; I can hardly find room for them and do not like to throw them away.

It is more pleasant here now Abbott and Holmes have returned. Both and several others send regards &c. to you.
Best love to all.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Calumeth, Va. November 27th = 1862
Thanksgiving Day.

My dear John:

I dare say you are getting up an appetite for a most excellent dinner while I write this, in a room of our old house in this town, where the Court Marshal sits, during a recess of the Court. It has been found impossible to get a turkey, the nearest approach is a chicken, obtained by Capt. Corbot and Lieutenants Curtis and Wilkins. For my part, after the Court adjourns at 3 O'clock, I intend to go to Camp and dine on a can of sealed Oysters and a can of sealed tomatoes, the most extravagant bill of fare I can get up. However, perhaps I may enjoy a better Christmas dinner that is if we go into our long wished for winter-quarters. I shall try to be with you in spirit and have no doubt you will think of me.

I hear that the Colonel has got home, and am very glad of it, and hope he may now have a season of rest and be comfortable, which I know he cannot be while he is constantly expecting to return. I see no signs of a move here, but we have twice had preparatory orders issued. We had a heavy rain day before yesterday, and I hear the roads to Aquia Creek are in an awful state. I do not see how we can make any move till the Railroad is completed, nor of what use a move will be when the Railroad is made, except to

hold the city which might be used to quarter part of the Army. The Rebels are easily seen on the other side and have erected batteries.

I have received, as you know, the \$25.- but still wish you to send on some more, for you know we may possibly move, and I like to be well supplied. If convenient send a small supply of gold or silver.

Have you continued to take for me Copies of the "Pictorial History of the War?" and the "Rebellion Record"? I hope you have. As to my new Coat, if the light blue is hard to get for any reason, let it be of the dark blue. I have little preference but prefer light, if the color and quality are good. The Coat ought not to be a heavy or bulky one.

I have really no news to tell you. I am very busy on the Court Martial, and shall be for several days to come. I get letters very irregularly now, and I fear that letter of yours about the "Kinnor Street property" is lost. I have perfect confidence in your judgment in the matter.

Best love to all.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment near Falmouth
Va., November 23rd 1862.

My dear John.

I have this evening received yours of the 24th November and the 3 packages of paper and the 2 envelopes of envelopes, for all which much obliged. Do you intend to send me for James any receipt (or copy of the receipt) for his \$30.00 deposited in the Bank? I think you had better send some proof for him to have. Did you give also \$5.- to his sister?

When do you intend to square up my accounts? I want often very much to know how much money I have at home, if any? I am delighted to hear you have succeeded with the tent. How is a back? Do you remember how wide it is? i.e. the base of the triangle of the back? I want a sponge when you can send me, about as large when swelled as a small Cantaloupe Melon. Perhaps you can send it by mail.

How is Col. Lee really? Does he think of returning to the Regiment?

We are much better off now Abbott and Holmes are back, but still we look a Commander fearfully. I have almost nothing to say to Shepard now, although we are not openly at sword's point.

I really can do nothing whatever for Mr. Boulevois, although

I should be delighted to aid him in any way. Can you not see Col. Rives (our old Major)? Perhaps he could help him to a staff either with or under old Sumner. I heard a very good story of him the other day. In one of the late battles, an Aide rode up from one of the Generals with the appalling news that the enemy had got round in his rear! "Then," said old Sumner, "tell the General to face about his rear rank and fight them both ways."

I have no news to tell you. It is cold enough to freeze about every night, and warm enough to melt every day. Roads pretty good here, but bad toward Acquia Creek. Railroad getting on last.

I envy you Thanksgiving but can only hope that we may all meet again at some future day. Still I believe we shall have another year of war, and the chances are very much against a man's getting through twice what I have escaped.

Your affectionate brother
Henry

Camp 2^d Regiment near Falmouth,
Va. Saturday December 8th 1862.

My dear John.

I have to-night received a letter from Mother & the 2^d, which is the only one I have got for some days. Mother really thinks I sleep in a house at Falmouth, but I really am under only a shelter tent, a miserable protection indeed. My log-hut is getting on, but is delayed by yesterday's severe storm. It is very cold, and 2 or 3 inches of snow on the ground, and we really suffer a great deal. The men will soon get sick unless we get log-huts or tents. They get little sleep on account of cold, and are up half the night hanging round fires. Besides, the scurvy has appeared. They get nothing but meat and hard bread, and must have potatoes or onions. I wrote you about sending me some more money. Please do so. We may not be paid till January, although 5 months are now due. Then you know they have reduced Officers' pay, taxed them and raised the prices of meat, sugar, &c. &c. I feel now sure we cannot move on account of the weather and roads, also because the enemy are in strong force and well entrenched, and a great battle would be foolish when, if we won, we could not pursue. So I intend to prepare for winter, and as I have been as a general thing deprived of the comforts of life since last Christmas, I want you to get Mother to place me on the widow list and give me a turkey for the celebra-

nion of this day. I want you to get up a box containing a roasted Turkey, a pot of Caulibury sauce a plum pudding with sauce and some mince pie. I can not modest you see, as to quantity for one Christmas Dinner, but you must imagine the fasting of a year. I know all these things will keep and I feel sure, if you send them, pretty soon I shall get them in time, as the Express will without doubt run them. If they do not have mince pie at home, order me — or 5 at some good confectionery and send them, and if there is room put in a bottle of wine. As soon as I am sure of the Express, I shall order a supply of vegetables &c. &c., but I have determined, if possible, to celebrate Christmas in a home-like manner. If convenient, put in a tongue, a duck, anything you like, a cauliflower, turnips, all are alike rarities here.

We are having great changes in the Regiment, but I will write to you fully when I have a better chance. It is so cold my fingers are difficult to manage, and I fear my writing is rather crooked. Yours here desire regards to you. The Court Martial is over, but I shall be 3 or 4 days in writing up the proceedings and shall then hope to have a house of my own, to write and live comfortably in. You may be sure a move is impossible. It would cost thousands of lives. Even here we are about as badly off as the English in the Crimea, and then we would be like the French in the retreat from Russia. However, in two weeks I expect the Army will be better, supplies will be abundant, and the men healthy and comfortable.

Abbott.

has a nice hut. Herbert and Holmes a tent. I am the worst off of the
Officers, but thanks to my Buffalo and big Rubber blanket I can sleep
warm. I hope you will soon tell me how my account stands. At any
rate I shall keep on ordering what I need. I expect to draw a large
part of my future supplies from Boston by Express. You can get nothing
here. Sometimes butter at \$1.-a lb. and Potatoes \$1.-a peck.

Write soon and tell me what you think of the President
and the Administration. I am in much doubt.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

P.S. You must excuse blots, for the ink freezes as I write. Thermometer
(I suppose) about 25° Fahrenheit.

Camp 20th Regiment near Salzwath,
Va, December 10th 1862.

My dear John.

I hardly know how to account for the long silence of you all at home. I have received the newspapers, the account of the campaign by the Prince de Joinville, and the sponge by mail, but no letters. I am now about through with my Court Martial. To day and yesterday are warmer than we have had for nearly a week. My log house is done and only wait for the Quartermaster to get some better tents to draw some to cover it with. We have had 3 days of awfully cold weather. I hear that several men have frozen to death, and all but those in log huts have suffered awfully. The Army will be dreadfully reduced by illness if we attempt to move in such weather, or if we longer keep up this state of constant expectation of a move. Only 2 days ago we got quite positive orders to build huts, and the Artillery were ordered to build Stables, and this morning I hear from the best authority that we move to-morrow morning across the river. Yet only 10 days or a week ago positive orders came in the same way, rations and 60 rounds ammunition were distributed and the order was to move at 11 P. M. At 10^{1/2} however, it was countermanded, and here we are still. I dare not believe that the enemy have fallen back but, unless it is merely a small force to hold the city. I do not see any use of crossing the river.

I cannot think a regular advance on Richmond, with the necessary scouting, picketing, & communications &c, is contemplated. The roads are very bad but still quite hard frozen and so passable. A rain storm, however would make them impassable, and we must now expect and calculate upon rain, snow and cold weather the greater part of the time. Still I dare say the Army will advance before you get this, for I hear it to-day from really undoubted authority. The Regiment is to-day gone on picket and I stay to write in the Court Martial proceedings. If we do not move my house will be most comfortable winter quarters, and if we do move, I am perfectly sure we must soon stop. The weather may be unusually favorable, but 3 days such as those we had would disable $\frac{1}{2}$ the Army on a march.

I do not despair of getting my boxes by Christmas yet.

As to the Regiment, you know Tracy was ordered to take command. Since then we hear that Deher is made Major. His resignation for physical disability is however now gone up and I dare say accepted. I do not know how it will turn out. Abbott, Tilden and Curtis are Captains, but their Commissions have not yet come. Curtis a Captain. I should very much like to see a statement of the principle on which promotions are made. I think it would puzzle anybody to state it. It certainly has no reference to date of Commission, length of service or faithfulness to duty in the Regiment. Shepard keeps to his tent, and is reported sick. I have not seen him for several days.

I cannot get over this moving just after one has got a little comfortable. I am all in uncertainty, and of course feel very uncomfortable, not knowing whether to go on or to stop and pack up. I wish I had the tele.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

P.S.

12th December 3 P.M.

We had a terrible fight yesterday. I am unhurt, Gebel killed Wilkins, Shepard, Mc. Kay and Curtis wounded. We occupy the town. Our Brigade stormed it. Desperate fighting in Streets. Our loss heavy. I was bruised very slightly by a spent ball. We are now in rear. Many troops crossed.

In great haste
Affectionately
Henry.

Camp 2^d Regiment near Falmouth
Va. December 18th 1862.

My dear John.

I have determined to write you a tremendous letter, giving a full account of our late battles and answering your letter about my expenses, the Estates &c. received by Col. Lee. And first the account of the battles &c. The Regiment went out on picket, on the 10th and I staid in camp to finish my Court Martial proceedings. I heard of our expected move, but did not in the least anticipate what was to come. The Regiment came in from picket at 4 A.M. on the 11th and we were ordered to march at 5. About that time the firing began at the river, and at 6 A.M. we marched down to a point about opposite the Northern part of the city. It was still very dark, the valley of the river was filled with smoke from our batteries along the bank, and the noise was tremendous. We staid on our open plain which was filled with troops. Our Brigade was to cross first, the 7th leading as skirmishers. They put a pontoon bridge half over and then the Rebels in the houses and from the cellars which they had made into rifle pits poured in such a hot fire as to drive our men off. The river here is about as wide as Chamberlons Square is long, and the banks high and especially steep on our side. The 2^d Michigan and the 10th were deployed as skirmishers along the banks to protect the laborers on the bridge, but they could not do so,

for the smoke and fog were very thick. The weather this day and for the 3 following days was mild. Occasionally the Rebels would throw over a few shells to where we were, but not much damage was done. After a little time the guns were directed to the City to clean out the Rebel sharpshooters, and the bombardment lasted steadily till about 4 P.M. The City was now on fire in 3 places, and this smoke added to the darkness through which our guns' juice bravely washed. We were close to the batteries. The sound was tremendous. We had now lain all day here and still nothing was done. Several of the Officers were lounging on a pile of boards, I was rather tired and almost asleep when Col. Hall rode up and said the 21st Michigan had volunteered to cross in pontoon boats. This was indeed a desperate thing, but in a few moments some one said they were across, we heard a sharp firing and some cheers, and then that they were across and had occupied the nearest houses. We were ordered to fall in at the same time, and in a few moments marched down the bank and followed the 10th across in pontoon boats. The 10th, as I said, were already at the foot of the bank, deployed. Some of the 21st Michigan wounded were being brought back, among them the Lieut. Colonel shot in the shoulder. The Michigan then made a rush at the nearest houses and took quite a number of prisoners. The orders to the whole Brigade were to lay out every armed man found firing from a house, this being, I believe, contrary to the rules of war, but it was not of course



shaped. In fact no prisoners were taken but the few the Michigan took, and the wounded who lay about struck by our shells. The Michigan were deployed on the left and a short distance up the street at the foot of which we landed, and the 10th on the right, both holding houses, fences &c. and exchanging shots with the Rebels who were a little farther back. The pontoon bridge was hurriedly finished, and the Rebels then opened on it with shell, doing little damage, but somewhat disturbing the troops crossing. When a good many troops had got over, we were advanced up the street in column of Companies eight in front and Macy was ordered to "follow the Killishers", that is the Michigan, and advance into the town, at the same time the 10th on the right and the 1st 2^d which had been deployed on the extreme left were ordered to advance also. I can explain our position best by a plan.

The 20th advanced up the street, and when the head of the column got to where the Michigan men were, on the left, in a kind of alley way, and occupying a house, Macy called to them to go ahead. Capt. Hunt, their commanding Officer was there, and he hesitated and refused. Macy was obliged to halt and urge him to go forward. Capt. Hunt still refused, saying he had no orders, and Macy, much irritated, told him his orders, which were very plain, to go forward and follow the Michigan. Orders came from the rear to press on, Hunt still hung back, saying the Rebels were there in force, and "no man could live round that corner", or some such words. Macy was of course

terribly angry, and turned off saying: "Go to hell with your Regiment then," or something like that, and gave the order to advance. All this occupied but 2 or 3 minutes, yet it was very troublesome, as the rear was pressing on. My Company was close to Abbott's, and we entered upon the main street within a moment of each other. That instant a tremendous and deadly fire swept down from the front and left. The Rebels occupied the houses and were behind fences, and could not be seen except by the flash of the guns. It staggered the Column, but in a moment they pressed on, led by Abbott in his usual fearless manner. At the same time my Company was ordered to left wheel, and Capt. Shepard gave the first word, and the Company swung round right across the worst line of fire. Capt. Shepard rolled over, hit in the foot, and shouted to me to take command. 1st Sergeant Compton fell, and 2 or 3 more, and before I could get to my place, they had fallen into a momentary confusion, and it was with no little difficulty I could bring them into line and open fire down the street. The Rebels evidently took good aim. Almost every ball struck, and a very large proportion were killed outright or desperately wounded. The 3^d Company had wheeled to the right but had found the fire coming from the rear and left to them, and had soon entered the houses on the left and fired to the front. The men were killed and wounded so fast that the rest of the Regiment was immediately called up and supported the Companies first in position. In this way Companies D, C, and

Came up and filled that part of the Street my Company could not cover
The central place was heaped with bodies, and although night was coming
in, the Rebels were not silenced, but still fired, and even got into a small
house on the left of Company I, from which Abbott valiantly tried to dis-
lodge them by entering a house on his left. Our guns were getting
clogged, our fire slack, and Macy sent back urgent requests for
help, and for the Regiments on our right and left to advance, and alto-
gether to clear the Rebels out. The 50th New-York were sent up
to relieve us, but as soon as they got under fire, gave way, and ran back,
and were only rallied by the efforts of our Officers, and their own Lieut.
Colonel who seemed the only decent man they had. Just before they
came up, I was struck by a spent ball in the upper part of the groin,
a very severe blow which cut completely through my trousers. I fell
backwards, and was assisted by a Soldier. My leg was completely
paralyzed, and I almost lost my consciousness, and felt sure I was
shot through. I left the Company to Sergeant Clark and limped
to the rear, suffering considerable pain. Just round the Corner I leaned
against a fence, and now felt better and found I could move my leg.
Just then the 50th gave way and came running back, and I made
an effort to stop them, and after a few minutes they were rallied, and
I then found I could stand, and got back immediately to my Company
which was still as I left it. My leg was pretty stiff for 3 days but
is now perfectly well. It was now getting dark, my Company had

diminished down to about 8 men and the rifles were so foul they could hardly be loaded. We had fired about 30 rounds. Macy had sent up other Companies and the left of the street was left open, the men who were left firing from the right partly sheltered by the brick building. The 50th had been got up and were ordered to relieve us, and my few men were allowed to go to the rear with Conway D under Perkins. I did not mention that Capt. Dreher had been ordered to support me with his Company and had come up, but he almost immediately withdrew his Company and they fell entirely back. The color-bearer, however, was shot. Abbott had suffered terribly and the 50th were sent to relieve him, and as it was now dark and the firing less deadly, they stood about the corners and kept firing while our Companies were drawn a little back, but only to the head of the street, where were two stores. In a few moments, however, they all came running back in terrible confusion and were only stopped by Abbott, Herbert and myself who placed ourselves across the street and fairly forced them to halt. They could not be brought up and so (as we had received orders) we got back our men to the houses and stores at the head of the street and the firing gradually dropped off. We got in our wounded and helped them to the rear as well as we could. Just as the 50th gave way the last time, I went forward to where two men were carrying back a wounded Captain of the 50th and helped him off. His blood was pouring out in a stream which

I could hear, but not see. He was mortally wounded and was I think their best Officer. Lieut. Mc Kay was shot first by me, at short distance behind Company I near the corner, just before we fell back for the night. He was one of our very best Officers. We occupied these houses all night. The enemy fell back, and there was no more firing. On the whole it was about as trying a fight as could well be. Abbott says it was far worse than Ball's Bluff.

December 20th.

Dear John.

I was obliged to leave off the other day and have been so busy with necessary Company matters since as to have been unable to continue till now. I heard yesterday of Major Willard's death, and I assure you I feel it most deeply. I saw him for the first time since he came out the day before his death. How dreadful for his wife!

Well, I suppose it has been worth 13000 men if the wretched Government at Washington is now convinced that it takes a General to fight a battle. The state of feeling against the Radicals at Washington is tremendous, and they will deserve it. Thirteen thousand men uselessly butchered to satisfy them of their ignorance! We who are out here feel this. It is very easy to cry "forward" at Washington. There is but one thing now that can restore the Army, or rather

prevent a total demoralization, that is the restoration of Mc. Clellan
with full, unrestrained powers, and the utter overthrow of Halleck and
Stanton. That and that only can give us an Army that can fight,
and whether war or peace is to follow, that is the most important thing
now. It is all humbug to say that the troops fought well, they never
fought worse so far as I know. The Pennsylvania troops and the new
Regiments behaved miserably. There was no head, no definite attacks,
a mere slaughter. We were 4 hours without any support. I never saw
so many men streaming to the rear in total confusion. Nothing but the
old Pennsylvania troops saved us from rout, and they did so at fearful cost.

I hear every General, including old Sumner, opposed the assault. What
Sumner wants to hold back, others had better not venture. You see by the
lists that Sumner's old Corps, the 2^d, lost 2 or 3 times as many as any
other. The papers give generally poor accounts. Howard's Division was
held in reserve, except one Brigade which assaulted the works without
support.

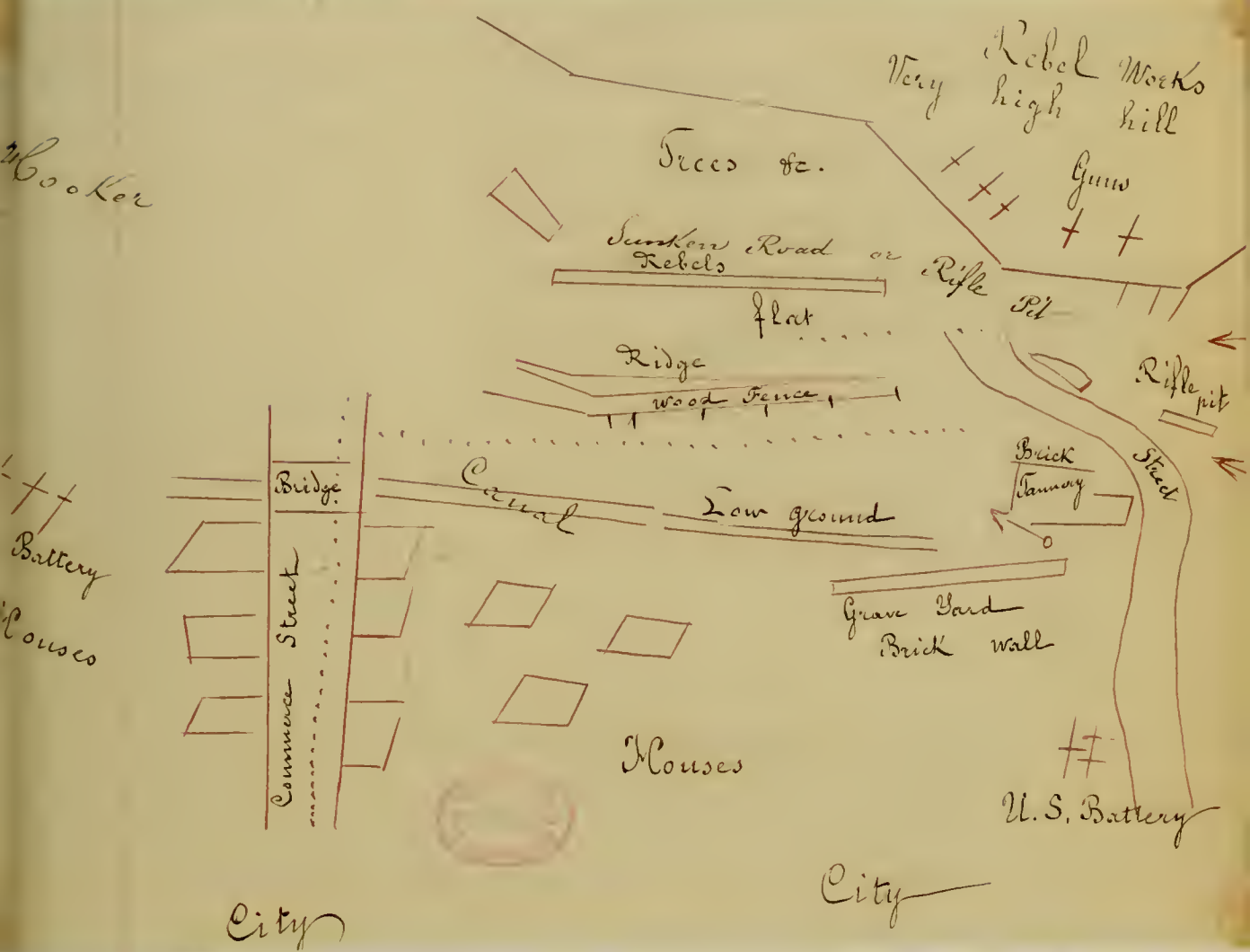
I left off at the end of the fight of the 11th. On the 12th
there was no battle, troops constantly crossed the bridges, greatly harassed
by the Rebel shells. We were in the streets and houses all day. Freder-
-icksburg is a fine city. It was evidently hastily evacuated, houses
left with everything just as if occupied. As the City was defended
against us, of course it was given up to pillage. Everything was ransack-
-ed, Clothes, Furniture, Pictures, Silver, glass and China ware
scattered about everywhere. There was an abundance of flour, meat,

All poultry &c., wine, pickles, preserves, sauces &c. were brought out and eaten. You would see a Mahogany table brought out with 2 or 3 velvet covered chairs, and soldiers eating off them with silver or fine china ware. Articles of female dress were scattered about; soldiers cleaned their guns with silk dresses and lace veils. Many safes were broken open, and watches, jewels and gold found. Several packages of Gold coin were found. Almost every house was riddled with Cannon shot. In one was found the body of a young Lady shot in the breast by a shell. A few inhabitants remained in the cellars, particularly in the South part of the town, and were unharmed. I saw very little property wantonly destroyed, that is such things as pictures &c. which could be of no use to the men. Many pianos were in the houses, and the men got up concerts and sang and played all day. All this time we were under fire whenever the Rebels chose to throw shell at us, which they did whenever they saw a party together. We kept behind and in the houses. It was like what one reads about to see this sacked city. The men took what they pleased, but of course could not carry much except small articles. Books were carried out by the Rebels, read a few minutes and thrown down. You would see splendid Copies of Byron or Milton, or Scott, King about in the mud.

While we were waiting in the streets about noon, Nancy came up to us and said: "Here is some one you would like to see, Ropes." I turned round and saw Major Willard, looking the same as ever.

I need not say, how glad I was to see him. We had a very pleasant talk for some minutes. He took me aside and showed me the portrait of his wife, which he took from his breast. He spoke of her a moment and then we walked back. Soon he said he ought to go back to his Regiment, which was quite near, and I started to walk along with him. There had been no firing for some time, but just as we turned a corner a shell came, and bursting in the house where we were passing, scattered the bricks and dust almost over us. I said we might fall in it there was to be an attack, and therefore bade him good bye, to return to the Regiment. We shook hands most cordially and parted with best wishes for each other's safety. I returned across a small rear garden, being the shortest way, and had hardly left him when another shell burst very close to me, within a few feet, the pieces striking all round, many not 10 inches from me. I never was so nearly hit before, and I think few people have had so narrow an escape as that was. After a short time the Rebels ceased firing. The next day we were kept back till about 12 O'clock, although there was very heavy firing, especially of musketry, and we knew that a battle was going on. Then we fell in and marched to the front, to the outskirts of the town, crossing a small canal on a bridge. Here we came under fire of the Rebel Artillery in direct range. The streets were filled with dead and wounded. A shell burst in my Company and knocked over 2 men, mortally wounding one. Two more I missed

from that time but do not think they were wounded. Our Brigade was marching by the left flank, and the 2nd the right Regiment last.
 I will give you a plan.



The dotted line represents our march. We were under a tremendous Artillery fire when we crossed the bridge, and here my Company lost. Marching by the left flank we formed on the left by files into line, our Regiment getting last up and forming the extreme right of the Brigade. The order for the Brigade to advance was given before we got up. The 11th had

already got up the slope enough to get under fire from the Rebels in the pits, and as we formed were driven back in confusion behind the ridge and fence where we formed. I understand that none of the Generals who ordered the charge knew how great was the Rebel force nor anything in fact about it. Col. Hall commanding Brigade saw what a desperate undertaking it was and protested in the most earnest and solemn manner, but received positive orders to assault, or rather to advance. Just as we formed, the order to advance was given. None knew against what we were going, we only saw the Rebel works towering high above us and felt the shot and shell and musketry almost shake the ground. As we got up the slope, the fire was indeed awful. No man could stand up against it. Only the 10th and 20th advanced at all. The 10th gave way in disorder. We had got $\frac{1}{2}$ way to the pits, the men began to fire and could not be got to advance, and only by the desperate efforts of the Officers could they be made to stand and close up the fearful gaps which were made in the line. Part of Company I was deployed on the right and behind the brick house there, and were not exposed to this fire much. The ridge was completely swept by every gun and musket which could be brought to bear. At last an order came to retire. Macy ordered the Regiment to fall back to the fences. The men fell back hastily, eager to get under the cover of the bank, and the instant the retreat began the enemy suddenly opened a fire which I cannot describe. so tremendous was the storm of bullets. They must have had a second line in reserve, the ground was torn up,

and it was like the drops of a heavy shower striking the ground all round you. I distinctly felt the balls strike my coat, hat and knapsack. A ball passed over each shoulder, one just touching my whiskers and cutting my knapsack on either side. We rallied at the fence and expecting an instant attack of the enemy, fixed bayonets and determined to hold the area and ditch. The men lay down and we advanced a few who lay flat close to the top of the ridge. Those deployed on the right kept the Rebel rifle pits busy on the right. A battery was now sent to the road in rear of our right, and this was the first support we had had. The Rebels still raked us at long range from guns which came from the direction of the arrows (→) I have made, one striking the corner of the brick house. This house was a tannery. All this time we were under a heavy shell fire from the advanced redoubt, but now our battery near the bridge played so accurately as to silence and at last dismount the gun. They, however, got up another. This gun was so near we could distinctly see them load and aim. I should think it was no more so from the State house to Charles street. At about 3 O'clock Sully's Brigade came to our support, and advanced beyond the fence, just under the brow of the ridge, leaving us in the 2^d line. A part also were placed behind the brick tannery. Not long after a very large Brigade, I heard it was Tyler's Brigade of Pennsylvania troops, came up from the road, and formed behind us, filling up the field. I heard they were to assault the same place. The Rebels opened fire on them and killed and woun-

ed a great many and soon the whole Brigade broke and ran in total confusion, the Rebels playing into them all the time. They were finally got off somewhere in the town and we did not see them again. It was now perhaps 5 P.M. and still the fire of musketry raged on our left, swelling and then dying away, and the Artillery continued without interruption. Our attack had evidently failed, the bridge and road were covered by a constant stream of fugitives, and the plain in front of us heaped with our own dead and wounded. The cries of the latter for aid were dreadful, but they could not be got at, for the enemy shot at every one who appeared. Every brave fellow, Duquesne, of Company F crowded out and brought in Alley's sword, although he was shot at and narrowly escaped. At last, night came on and we put our vedettes, lying down, just on the crest of the hill. The Rebels did the same. We could hear their talk and snore. Having got the range they drew in shell about every 5 minutes till perhaps 10 P.M. and then all was still. It was pitch dark. We got Alley's body, and sent it in, and got off most of our wounded, but Gamelay, so far out we could not get to them, and they groaned all night. At about midnight we were relieved by Syke's Regulars; ~~perfect silence~~ in perfect silence we were drawn in to the city and lay down in the streets greatly exhausted. So ended this great slaughter, for not producing which Mc. Clellan was removed.

You see that on the whole our Brigade has done a great deal, crossing the first, &c., and that our Regiment has done nobly and

exhibited the first quality of a good Regiment, perfect steadiness. The day after the battle Genl. Howard rode up to the Regiment, called for Capt. Macy, and said: "Capt. Macy, I have come to thank you and your Regiment for your noble conduct in the late battles. You have done nobly, the Regiment has done nobly. Massachusetts you always do nobly! Be assured not a life shall be uselessly sacrificed. To-day you are in reserve of 2 corps, and will not be called upon but in the last extremity. All I ask for now is constancy, constancy, and that is enough to say to Massachusetts men." These are nearly the words as I can recollect. Genl. Howard then rode off amid tremendous cheers and half a dozen shells which the Rebels immediately pitched in by way of being on the safe side.

Now, you know, I have told you not ever to publish my letters, but now I want you to do this: Make up a short piece giving an account of this event, and stating that Macy led the Regiment in the noblest manner. Macy did splendidly! So we all say, and we say it ought to be known, and we are the ones to tell it. Macy's good judgment, bravery and perfect steadfastness deserve the very highest praise. I want you to write a short article for the Advertiser, just stating how Macy did and what Genl. Howard said. Do not of course use my words, or make any allusion to me, but let it be known for his sake. After Genl. Howard's speech we were taken to the rear near the river, out of the fire of shell, and staid there all day.

Col. Lee joined us here, quite sick and perfectly unable to endure the trials of a soldier's life. I received from him a package of silver of Ten Dollars and several letters. Thank you for the shoulder straps, and for your congratulations on my promotion. The next day (Monday) was quiet, not many shells thrown. They began to remove the wounded and we heard we were to be withdrawn and then that we were to throw up earth works and hold the place. About midnight we marched quietly across the pontoon bridge and found troops pouring over in silence. It was dark and cloudy. We marched straight back to our old Camp, and I found my hut in a good state of preservation and 2 sick men of the Company there. They got me something to eat and then turned in and slept. It rained hard till about noon of the next day and has been fine and cold since. I am now well housed and look forward to winter quarters here. The day after we got to Camp Genl. Howard made a speech to each Regiment of the Brigade drawn up to receive him. He complimented us in the very highest terms, and said the 2^d Regt. would be always near his heart. He spoke well of the 1st but blamed the 2^d because they were driven in from picket on the place where we fought the next day, and he blamed the 120th Pennsylvania, a new Regiment, because they ran away in battle. He praised the Michigan 1st for its gallant exploit in crossing in boats first. On the whole the 2^d is on the very highest shell!

I believe I have now given you a correct though rapid account

of the battles, and will now answer your letter. First, my account. I was indeed surprised to see the sum total \$630., but I have no doubt it is correct. If it is not too much trouble, please send me a list of the articles and the charges. You acknowledge the receipt of \$490.- and you have before acknowledged, I think, some \$10.- from C. B. Porter which I think was from sale of some of my private property at Cambridge. So, I still am \$130. in debt. Government will in 10 days owe me about \$970., of which I can send home \$300., leaving a balance on hand of \$170.- In all probability, however, we shall be paid for 4 months only, now, i.e. \$450. or so. In that case I shall send home \$200., more than enough to make me square. I feel that I have ordered nothing I did not need; and with all my expense, I have no doubt been much more comfortable than a day laborer at home; and I suppose the increased cost of everything on account of the taxes has raised prices. When for 9 tenths of the time a man has to endure a great deal of hardship, he ought to live well the other one tenth, and if he does not, he will suffer for it. I think perhaps you have spent rather more than necessary for my things, not supposing economy was necessary with me. However, I shall need no more clothes this winter, and if the Paymaster would only come, I should be well off. My income is raised \$120.- per annum by my promotion, and the same in addition, as long as I remain in command of the Company. So, knowing I can eventually discharge all obligations, I shall run on Father's Kindness

to the extent of advances, to pay for whatever I may order (which cannot remain charged till I remit the money).

I find that Henry Burckmeyer's expenses in coming out were \$22.⁵⁰, and that Mr. Pearson besides brought \$11.⁵⁰ to me, in all \$34. - I enclose the new account which you sent me before.

James Mc. Behan went to Boston yesterday with Lieut. McKay wounded. He went at his own urgent request and at his own expense in going and returning, to see about the money and effects of his sister who has died. I allowed him to go, and got a man in his place and advanced him \$15. - which I borrowed from Quartermaster Tolson, giving him a note for the amount on you which he will send to his brother and which you will please honor and charge to me. James promises me to bring back for me as much as he can carry. Please send by him a strong pocket knife. Capt. Colbot lost the ones he brought on for me. Also the small things sent by Col. Lee which he did not have here to give me, and which I suppose he will take home. Please also send the following things or as much as he can take. 2 boxes yeast powder, 2 cans preserved peaches, and 2 cans Strawberries from Davis & Co. or some equally good place, that is cheapest and best I think, 2 cans roast turkey, 2 cans green peas, 1 bottle Worcestershire (or Club) sauce from some place; 2 bottles Brandy, 3 lbs. Raisins, 1 doz Lemons, some Apples or pears, if convenient. Also please give him \$5. - to buy for me in Washington or Turkey or some ducks or chickens, in case he can carry them.

It is hard to get meat here, except Government beef. Do not burden him with unnecessary things. Please ask Mother to give him a small pot of her nice Cranberry sauce. He can carry some small things for Quarter Master Johnson, Mr. Robert and Abbott, but, besides this, I think he owes me all the rest of his transporting power. I want him principally to carry food, i. e. something better than beef and bread, almost all we get here. I send by him my watch to be repaired. It keeps miserable time and constantly stops. I send a cup from Fredericksburg, a sample of what was kicking about the streets. Please give it to Mary Ann. I send enclosed for you an address delivered at some Church there. One of my men found several in a house there. Also a little drawing of a L. Stone. Please give it to Louisa. It is of no particular value but as a relic.

I expected to contribute to the usual Christmas presents, but the alarming state of my finances stares me in the face. As soon, however, as I get paid I will send home enough and wish you and Mary Ann and Louisa each, to have a present from me, say \$3. each; and I wish also to have a share in Father's & Mother's presents. I should be very glad if you could arrange this so that I need not be left out of the list of things. Perhaps I shall be paid in time yet.

I believe I have finished this tremendous letter. I expect James back in a week or so. I wish I could pass Christmas with you. I shall remember you all, and think of last Christmas and hope for the next.

also sent by James a flock and note for Mrs. Lee. It is part of the Colonel's property. Reading this over I have not given our loss. The 20th went into action the 1st day with about 320 men and 15 Officers including Morcy, commanding, and the Adjutant. They lost altogether in both days 168 men killed and wounded, a very large proportion killed and badly wounded, and the following Officers:

1st day (11th)

Killed:

Capt. Carbot.

Wounded:

" Shepard foot

Lieut. Wilkins Arm - bad

" Mc. Kay shoulder

" Curtis slightly

2^d day (13th)

Killed:

Lieut. Alley

Wounded:

Capt. Dreher

Lieut. Beck with very badly

My Company, K., crossed the river with 23 guns and 2 Officers, and returned with 9 guns and one Officer.

I lost first day 1 Officer wounded

Killed:

2 privates: Donnell and Coover

Wounded:

1st Sergeant Champion, right Arm amputated

" Privates: Blake, Dillon, and Morrison, legs amputated

and Gano

in foot slightly.

3rd Day

Killed:

Private Hastings

Wounded:

Sergeants Crowell and Blankenburg, both mortally, and
" since dead
Flannigan leg

Missing:

Privates Keenan, Wentworth, and Collier. the last may be wounded.

Total both fights: 1 Officer wounded
Existence men.

Killed:

5 including mortally wounded

Wounded:

6

Missing

3

14

Returned

2 and 1 Officer

Went over

23 and 2 Officers.

This statement will show you what kind of a fight it was. Write soon and tell me how you feel.

Best love to Mother, Father and all from

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

December 10th 1862.

Dear John.

I send James who embraces this opportunity of getting home about some money matters of his own. I have no time to write much; am writing a long letter to you. I send by him several books, your pipe and a cup, taken from Fredericksburg, which please give to Mary Ann from me. I will write what to send him back with. All well.

In great haste

Your affectionate brother
E. Curry.

James takes my watch and some private letters.

Lancaster 20th 1862.

Dear John.

In my long letter to you which I finished to-day I entirely forgot to tell you what I think of your plan of the sale of the Estates. I entirely approve of it. It would be indeed very unpleasant to be left with such a little income as \$ 3500.⁺ I think it would be wrong for us to wish to deprive Mother of the comforts of a liberal income for the sake of a possible future advantage which we children certainly would be the only ones to enjoy. Still we must remember that this state of things was brought about principally by Father, and I do not think we or Mother should be made to suffer, on account of his bad management, more than is absolutely necessary. I should be in favor of selling and discharging every legal obligation, but hardly like your quick and perhaps too liberal way of paying off obligations we did not incur. If the whole question, will and all, should be brought to a settlement on perfectly just principles, then of course meet halfway and allow for every claim, ^{but} since we are to suffer by an exceedingly forced and unjust representation of our property and claims, I see no reason why we should give up any claim not legal, or waive any legal right. At all events, I leave it in your hands to act for me. I am decidedly in favor of selling and putting beyond question the certainty of a decent income. Please

let me know what Father thinks of my expenses &c., and how money
and business were. I intend to live strictly within my own income,
but even if I should draw, to some small extent, on Father, I
really think it would not be improper, considering how little expense
I run to him compared with the rest and how much I am enduring
and how much greater the chances of my death are. Tell me plainly
how it is, and whether I had really better not draw at all beyond my
remittances.

Please let me know what packages are now on the way to me
by Express, or otherwise, so far as you know. Please send a little
post paper.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

20th Regiment
December 24th 1862.

Dear John.

Just received yours of the 19th. Major Willard's death is indeed a great blow to us all. Yet I think out here, though we feel it as keenly, it makes less outward impression, and we go on and laugh and talk just as ever. If ever I get back home I shall then miss my friends more than now. War does not harden one permanently, but makes one less to be influenced for the time by the misfortunes of others and the death of friends. An evil which at home would completely upset a man, does not do so here. I shall never forget my last interview with him.

As to the Christmas box, I dare say James can bring on some things, and if he can only get them as far as Acquia Creek, I can probably send for them from there. It is shameful, after all we have been through, not to allow us to get such little luxuries as we can from home. Officers, especially, should have the privilege, instead of being obliged to pay exorbitant prices here. I believe I have given you a full account of the battle in my long letter. I cannot at all agree with you as to Mc. Clellan, or as to the policy of the present movement. I know (from Col. Hall, privately) that Mc. Clellan's plans were ripe when he was removed. By his apparent delay in the

valley he obliged the enemy to keep a large force under Jackson at or near Winchester. At Warrington Junction heavy reinforcements met the Army, and Mc. Clellan had calculated on this, and intended having so it was passed Jackson to fall immediately on Lee at Culpepper and overwhelm him by his immensely superior force, then turn on Jackson, and then on Richmond. We never before had succeeded in getting our entire Army between the divided Rebel Army, and never was a plan more certain of success. Just at the moment of completion, Mc. Clellan is removed. I have no words strong enough to condemn the President, the Government, and the whole Anti-Mc. Clellan or radical party. Every day increases my confidence in Mc. Clellan, and I think him the noblest patriot and the best General the country has had since Washington. He is the only man who can now restore this Army. All the newspaper talk about our still being anxious for a fight is miserable falsehood, and the Government and the Country had better not deceive themselves with it. Do not think I am faithless, for I am not. The 20th will fight always, whenever ordered, as long as the Officers are alive, but the Army, as an Army, is a thing of the past. They can fight a defensive battle, if attacked, and do well, that is all. It seems to me that we are very near the end, and that a very unpromising one. I can surely wait and see. Peace would be hailed with joy on almost any terms by the Country, and the Army feeling a consciousness that it has done its

duty, does not care. I still hope, but it is a hope founded on nothing. If I see Halleck superseded by Mc. Clellan, I shall have confidence, not till then.

Mr. Boulwies has just arrived, with Charles Whittier, and Gen. Sedgwick. Sedgwick is to have one Corps. Mr. Boulwies has come up to Brigade Headquarters now, perhaps to dine. I shall do everything I can to make his stay agreeable. His baggage has not yet come. Abbott, Tracy, Murphy, and all desire regards.

You may meet Capt. Shepard possibly. Do not be anxious to show him any attention on my account. I believe I wrote to you that he had treated me unkindly in a Company matter, and that we were no more of friends than necessary. I have lost about all the very little respect I ever had for him.

I am again out of stamps, and must ask for some. I have quantities of letters, now about killed and wounded men to write. One of my missing men has turned up slightly hurt. That makes me 4 wounded and 5 killed, out of 23, and 2 missing. Do not let James stay too long at home, and do not let him be burdened so as to risk losing all. He cannot of course carry much for others.

Write often.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Enclosed letter for Mary Ann.

Camp 20th Regiment
December 30th 1862.

My dear John.

Yours of the 26th just received. Mr. Bouchais is still here with me. I like him very much and he is a great favorite with everyone. He has seen a great deal of the Army and the Generals. I am deeply grieved by what Mr. Bouchais tells me of your Anti-Mc. Clellan feeling. Every day I think more of that man. I am now by recent revelations, perfectly convinced that he has twice been on the point of utterly destroying the military power of the Rebellion, and that his plans had been interfered with by Government. Look at the testimony in the Mc. Dowell case, it is overwhelming. Burnside has proved himself a weak man and a miserable General. In Mc. Clellan the Army has confidence, and certainly the judgment of an Army like ours ought to be of weight. Then he has held his peace although he had only to come out openly and raise a tremendous opposition to the Government. He is a noble patriot, indeed. As to the demoralization of the Army, I am perfectly willing to leave my statement to be proved by events. Mc. Clellan alone can restore the Army. We hear it is to be consolidated. The Government altogether appears to me, weak and inefficient. I can only hope for better things. As to the Regiment here, however, we are in good spirits as ever, in fact I consider it a duty to keep in good spirits,

but my judgment remains the same and my opinion as to the state of the Army. We are going to move, where? I cannot tell yet. I hear that we are to exchange places with Meitzelmann's Corps at Alexandria, and that our Corps is reported unfit for service. Also that we are going to Suffolk. I do not know what to believe, but I feel sure we shall march in a day or two. Rations are issued and marching orders have come. If Richmond is ever taken, we must return to Mc. Clellan's old base, the James river. The greatest blunder of the war was Mc. Clellan's removal from Harrison's Landing. The troops that have since been uselessly slaughtered would have enabled him to take the city and end the war.

I am very glad to get the shirt, handkerchiefs, towels, soap &c. sent by Abbott and Boukwois. Tell Mother the shirt is just the right size. My old ones have become much too small. I want now drawers (ribbed wool) and socks, both which I wrote to Mother can be sent by mail. There are plenty of mine at home. Please send two drawing needles by mail, and don't forget post paper. I may not write till we get settled down again. James received \$15.- from me when he started, and he had \$30. in the Bank at Boston, so there was no need of Father's advancing him the \$20.. I made a special agreement with James that I should not be at any expense for his trip to Boston and back. I have to supply his place while he is gone, and for this he agrees to bring on as much as he can carry for me. I am to pay him his regular

wages without deduction for the time he is absent. Do not let him get the whole amount due him, else he might not return. Do not let him come on loaded with a great bag of clothes for himself. I'm glad you think I do right in drawing on Father and in my way of living here. I have no doubt you have done for me exceedingly well as to my expenses &c. I hear from Abbott of the tremendous rise in prices for clothing &c.

I am sorry not to be able to contribute to the Christmas gifts, but shall not forget you all when I am paid. Tell Mary Ann to write me most fully all about Christmas &c. What do people at home think of the battles? They appear to be thirsting for more blood. You may as well make up your mind that you must wait till spring for an Army. The old Regiments must either be recruited or consolidated. You have no idea what a glorious name the 20th has here.

I am very glad you have determined to sell the Hannover Street Estates, and hope you will do well. Mother's comfort is the first thing of course, and anything which would annoy her should be avoided, even at some cost. Thank Louisa for her letter. I shall answer soon. I shall rewrite anxiously your letter on the war, the battles &c.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

January 3^d 1863
Camp 2nd Richmond.

Dear John.

We have not marched and I hear the orders are countermanded. Weather now cold and clear. Bouhuio still here. He has received a letter from you. I am getting somewhat anxious about James. He has not yet come. I hope you have not entrusted him with too much money, nor advanced him much. He ought not to have asked any from Father. I hope you saw to it that he was supplied with some sort of pass or order by which he could get from Washington to the camp. Capt. Putnam or Lieut. Riddle would probably have given transportation for him. I can get him a pass here and send it to him at Washington, if I knew how to find him.

Write and tell me if he has started on and how he expected to get here. No news. All well.

Your affectionate brother
Henry?

P.S. Send any boxes for me on to Washington by Express. I have got a way of getting them from Washington here.

H. R.

20th

January 5th 1863.

Dear John.

I have just seen the Advertiser of Friday and the 20th article. I am vexed that there should be 2 errors and cannot think how they got in. 1st it says Macy commanded because of absence of Colonel, Lieut. Colonel and Major Decher. Decher had not then heard of his promotion, and, besides, Macy was placed in Command by order of Genl. Howard, over the heads of Captains Decher and Shepard, his superior Officers, on account of their incompetency. Decher was in the fight with his Company, on my left across the street, and withdrew without orders behind the shelter of a house. Then, in repeating Howard's words it should be "in reserve of ^{two} Corps", i.e. the 2^d and 12th Couch's and Wilcox's, not of the 2^d Corps. Neither of these may be of much importance, but I should be sorry to think I wrote so inaccurately. On the whole the fellows are greatly pleased with the piece. What do you think of the letter to Col. Lee? Columbus wrote it.

I have written to Father what I fear about James. Still I have no particular reason to doubt him. Thank you very much for your selection of the books, blankets, &c. received by Express yesterday. If you could send a barrel of vegetables &c. to viz: 1 bushel Apples,

1 bushel Cabbages (or cauliflowers); 1/2 bushel Turnips. I should be very glad.
Also a bag Buckwheat to make Cakes. If the Express is in good running
order and not extravagant in price, I should be very glad of a box of
meat, say 30 lbs. Mutton and Poultry all freshly killed. I think
it would keep, and it would be cheaper for me than to buy here.
Very much pleased with tent, have not yet pitched it. Please send
a few stamps.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Thursday evening January 3rd 1863
Camp 20th Mass.

My dear John.

I have had no letters from home for 3 days, but the papers have come regularly, and to day I received by mail the bundle of clothes, viz: 1 pair drawers, 1 pair socks, 1 scarf, and in the socks some post paper and envelope. Please thank Mother for sending them. They are very well to have, but as I received drawers &c. by Express in the sack with the blankets the other day, I did not absolutely need these. However, when I wrote I did need them and had no prospect of getting any by the Express. I found I did not need all the blankets I now had, and therefore let Father have one of the thick yellow plaid ones lately received. Please write me what they cost as he is to pay me the exact price you paid for one. I am now beautifully supplied with warm clothing of every kind.

I am very anxious in regard to James. I fear he has absconded. He ought to have been back long ago. I am sorry to lose the valise Father wrote about, and hope nothing else was entrusted to him. But, perhaps he never came to you, and so never started to come on with my things. I feel very sorry he got Twenty Dollars from Father. He protested to me in the most solemn manner that he would certainly return and bring every thing. I hope you gave him a proper pass, in case

he started ^zearly. I am very anxious to hear from you about it. Please tell me what packages are now on the way to me. I think of but one; Mother alluded to sending certain articles of Brochery, some linings, and I suppose they are coming in a box. Then there is James' "Valise", as Father writes, and perhaps a Christmas dinner box. Let me know exactly what has been sent. Sister Anna speaks of Lique Brandy Peaches &c. What are they in?

Rodolphe has been at Corps Headquarters enjoying himself very much for 3 days, so I have seen little of him. I got one or 2 old letters from you and from Mary Ann in the boxes by Express. By the way, I observe my new tent is served as the old one was, and I fear the seams will leak. Have not tried it yet. What did it cost?

No change in matters here. All quiet. Weather colder. Have had some rain.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Enclosed letter for Hazelting.

Camp 20th January 11th 1863.

My dear John.

I hasten to answer your letter of January 7th enclosing the key to the valise and the Express order. I see by your slight reference to James and by a like reference in Mary Ann's last letter, that I never received a letter written on about January 1st by you, telling me of James' sickness and perhaps many other things I should be very sorry to lose. Your letter (O^h) does much to relieve us all from extreme anxiety about the new Colonel reported to have been appointed. The appointment of any man whatever from outside would be an insult to the Officers of the Regiment which could not be borne and would lead to the resignation of every one of the Officers who have made the 20th what it is. We heard the report several days ago, and the indignation was intense, not only among us but at Head Quarters as high up as Genl. Sumner. Genl. Howard immediately wrote most earnestly, and advised a "manly and earnest protest" to be sent in by us, saying to prop one Col. Polfrey was most shameful, and even if his health would not allow him to take it, that he could "make half dozen Colonels out of the Officers of the 20th". In case Governor Andrew should appoint a new man and the Officers here take any action, we are assured that such action will be approved at Brigade, Division, Corps and Grand Division Head Quarters.

publicly. With such backers on our side. The only reason which Governor Andrew could possibly urge against Collier and Tracy is their political views. Their ability is too well established to be doubted.

By the way, you sent me 2 second vols. of *Dombey and Son*. Please send the 3^d before long. The coffee in the box does not seem to be like that we used to have at home. It is of a very light color and has an herbey flavor, and cannot possibly be made strong. I think it must be Mocha (or) not Java. Please, when you send next, put in a little of the old black kind. The tea is most excellent. As I may not be able to get the valise for some days, please send in an envelope 2 or 3 oz. yeast powder. I use it constantly and run nearly out. You know by a recent order, you must now prepay the entire postage.

I am very sorry to hear of Col. Lee's illness; yet I expected he would be ill after he got home, he seemed so weak when here. I am a little anxious about the coat strapped to the outside of the valise. I am sorry to tell you that Bouchois is quite unwell and thinks of returning soon to Boston for proper medical treatment. He is now at Corp's Head Quarters, in a house. I am going down to see him to-day. In case he returns in say a week and there is no sign of a move, I want you to come ^{on} again and spend a month with me. I can get a pass which will bring you from Washington with as much baggage as you like, from my friend Major Mallon, Provost Marshal of the Grand Division. It will do you good and wake you up. Perhaps you

can get over with a flag to the city, and at any rate you can see a good deal here and enjoy yourself in the Regiment. I do not consider that little call at Bolivar a visit worthy of the name. You can be very comfortable in my hut, and by the time you will be here, we shall have food enough to satisfy your civilian delicacy. I will let you know when you had better come. When next you send any books, please let me have "Scott's Poetical Works" and some good history of Cromwell or else "Napier's Peninsular War". I want to read upon both of these important eras. I shall be obliged to leave you to pray for my letters until I get some stamps.

5 P.M.

I have been to see Boulnois and found him about, but quite lame. He fears some letters to his bankers in London miscarried, by which I believe his funds are not sent as he expected, and I believe he has sent to you for some notes. I remember about 9 months ago Father sent me 2 drafts of \$50.- each on Washington, one of which I used and the other I accidentally sent back in a parcel of private letters. It seems to me that a draft of this kind would be very convenient for Boulnois, as he could draw the money when he got to Washington. This, I suppose, you could easily send to him in a letter. Everybody here is out of money, owing to the long delay in paying us off. It is really shameful to make the old troops wait for so. Sumner has returned. Col. Ball's report of the late battles praises our Regiment in the very

highest terms. I will try to get you a copy.

I hope you received my letter acknowledging the receipt of the blankets &c. Be sure to tell me instantly if a Colonel is appointed. Could not you telegraph in case ^{of} Alfrey has it? It would call down blessings on your head here.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

P.S. As to James, he has now been away since 20th December, although he was to return by the 2nd or 3rd January at farthest. I know nothing of his sickness or the cause of it, and as he did not fall sick in my service but in a pleasure trip on his own account, I am not going to keep on paying him wages for time I get no good from, especially as I must pay the money I now have for all this time. I am exceedingly sorry Father gave him \$20.-. It was by no order of mine. I wanted to keep him a month behind to ensure his speedy return. Be very sure he gets no more money, certainly from me. The agreement was that on my part I was to give him a furlough as it were, of 10 or 12 days and in return he was to bring on a valise or bag for me. The expenses of the journey both ways he expected would be defrayed by the money his sister left. Unless he comes back immediately I wish him to understand that I shall stop it from its wages, and if he does not come back at all, that I shall only pay him up to the date of his departure. I do not know anything about his illness as yet.

I never was quite satisfied with him and feel under no obligations,
as I should to a faithful and tried servant.

M.R.

Camp 2^d Mass. Volunteers, near
Falmouth, Va. January 13th 1863.

My dear John.

I have received this morning your letter of the 10th giving your views of the Circumstances Campaign, and am very glad indeed to read it and very much obliged to you for giving yourself so much trouble. In my letters to you I almost never sit down to give anything more than a occasionally clear narrative, and rarely draw out but the most hurried deductions. And indeed it is hard for men to agree calmly about what concerns themselves so very nearly. If your property had been placed in the hands of a firm who had shamefully misused it, you would hardly be yourself an impartial critic of their management, much more so if the firm had power to maim or kill you and had so done to others you knew, all by some mistake they never ought to have made. So I feel I must of necessity be a less impartial observer, because the decisions of Generals who any day affect my life and happiness. Still, if I could free myself from these influences, which tend to make me too earnest and to blind my judgment, I should be a remarkably good observer, because I cannot but feel that out here I have had unusual means of information, and have picked up a good deal of practical knowledge of war and the art of fighting battles, just as any man who goes to sea picks up a good deal of

practical seamanship, if he is observing and enquiring. For instance, I saw in a moment, could not help seeing the tremendous fault of our recent attack on the left of the enemy's position here, and just as much expected defeat as I felt sure of victory at Malvern Hill, where I had a very extensive view of the field.

Now I have just read over your letter with Abbott, and we both agree perfectly as to how to answer your objections and to clear (as we think) Mr. Clellan from all blame. I have read many strictures on Mr. Clellan's Peninsular Campaign, but I think yours altogether the best and fairest. I have seen You do not attempt too much. Only I might observe if Mr. Clellan was fool enough to violate all these fundamental rules you speak of without sufficient reason (as you imply) he could hardly have been the General he has proved himself to be in his Maryland Campaign, and indeed on his great retreat. I have carefully read the Prince's paper and am exceedingly pleased with it, and have made small notes in the margin (wherever I felt perfectly sure I was correct) to explain or alter some statement. I did this for my own advantage at the time, but perhaps I may have noted several small things I have not told you. I will try to send the pamphlet to you as we both take so much interest in the matter. For my part I make a point of enquiring of almost every Officer I meet about the battles and movements we have been through, and every day come to a clearer

view of the matter. One thing I observe in every book or article
against Mr. Clellan I ever saw. Many facts are stated positively,
some of which I know all about myself, personally, and these I gener-
ally find utterly untrue, and therefore conclude that other important
facts stated are untrue. The matter of transports for instance, I know
^{there were not enough.} I know we had to wait days for transports and they were crowded
so as to be very unsafe. I know that troops could not have been
hurried up to Williamsburg, for Phil. Mason, who was there, told
me of the awful state of the roads which I myself saw a few miles
back. Now, when I read an account which says that Mr. Clellan
wasted time at Washington and Fort Monroe and omitted to
hurry up troops (Sumner's Corps) to Williamsburg and such things,
I am tempted to disbelieve other equally important statements.
It is impossible for me to present more clearly than the Prince does
the dreadful consequences of taking Mr. Dowell's Corps from Mr.
Clellan just at the critical moment, but merely to remind you of it
and to pass on. One thing I would say, after a General's excellent
plans have been thwarted, he cannot begin again and do as well as
if he had never been interferred with. His confidence is gone.
He must make few plans for the future for he cannot depend upon
them. I mean if his plans are to be divided into 2 classes, one
certain, the other contingent, he must make few of the latter and these
not important, and do as well as he can with the certain plans. Supposing

Wellington had received notice a few days before Waterloo that Blücher had been ordered to fall back and protect some large city after he had calculated upon his coming up on Napoleon's right, do you suppose that he or any man could go to work and arrange the army he had left just as well as if Blücher's army were had existed? This was Mr. Clellan's case. His advance had already crossed Botta's Bridge before he was sure that Mr. Doell would not cooperate with him. Now you say he might to have resigned &c. For himself and his own glory he ought, for the country he ought not (I think). Mr. Clellan never showed his patriotism more than in bearing everything, keeping silence and pushing on the work without complaint, though he knew he could have resigned, published his grievances (thereby exposing the plans of the Campaign to the enemy) thrown himself on the country and instantly raised a howl of indignation against the Government and set himself at the head of a most powerful opposition. But this would have paralyzed the Army and destroyed every hope of success, and this he would not do. Like a good soldier he obeyed orders and held in his just anger, as long as to let it loose would have worked injury to the cause; Besides, even as late as Fair Oaks it was supposed that our force was greatly superior to the enemy, and Mr. Clellan probably expected to be able to beat them in some way as it was. As to crossing the river, of course it is foolish to

suppose that Mr. Clellan did not know all about the rules of war you refer to, and therefore the question is not "why did he violate the first principles of war?" but, "were his reasons for violating these principles sufficient?" And I reply that they were. But, first let me correct a mistake of yours. There were more than 2 bridges. Sumner's, the Railroad bridge, Bottom's Bridge, Long Bridge and Alexander's and the New Bridge away up on the right. Besides these, I feel sure there were others. At any rate, when the Army got to the river a part must cross on the heels of the flying enemy to preserve the communication. Had we waited this side, as you suggest, the enemy recovering from his first flight, might have so fortified the farther bank as to make it impossible, and then we should have been obliged to march round to the North and attack the City on its most defensible side. In spite of any dangers and violations of rules, the river must be crossed and no more men could be thrown over than could be fed, and this depended on the state of the roads and bridges. I think Mr. Clellan intended to hold the West^{ern} Side till he could complete the roads and bridges, then being all over but Porter's Corps, make an attack to allow Porter to cross above, and then attack mainly with his Centre and left, leaving Porter to make a feint and to cover the Railroad and communication. I say he was obliged to cross the river at the very first, and that he could not cross all for lack of bridges and roads through the Quagmires on either side of the Stream. To postpone crossing would have been

to relinquish the idea altogether. His intention undoubtedly was to build in a few days plenty of bridges, but the difficulties were tremendous. The troops and engineers were employed the whole time. The rains were tremendous and the mud was so deep that in many places the engineers were obliged to give it up after wasting material and labor enough for a dozen common bridges. Then the enemy attacked at Five Oaks before he had his bridges done, and although every effort was made to prevent it, almost every bridge was swept away by Sunday night. The freshet was perfectly unexpected. A man who came over Saturday night told me the water was nearly to his chin on Sumner's bridge and he only got through by a miracle. Henry Burch arrived to come round on Monday morning by the Railroad to bring me food, and he said he saw the tops of wagons just above the water in the road near the river. How any bridges could have been thrown across during Saturday night and Sunday, I cannot see. This, to my mind, perfectly accounts for Mc. Clellan's failing to pursue after the battle of Five Oaks. The men were dying for food. As we now know (which he had no reason then to suspect) the enemy were much demoralized for 2 days, and perhaps a bold attack by a small force might have been successful, but it would have been madness to have tried it then. Now that time the enemy were constantly receiving reinforcements - which we did not then know of. As to Grimes' Mill he could not have reinforced Porter safely then, for you know the order to fall back

to the trains had already been given, and besides, it would take one day for troops to march from the centre to Porter, and it was not till the middle of the second day Porter thought himself in much danger. McClellan might certainly have thrown his whole force against Jackson, and attempted to turn the Rebel left, and, if unsuccessful, to fall back on White House, and I could never see any great objections to this course, except that to retreat there would have exposed him more, and put him in a bad place to resume operations. The Ferry at White House was small, and few gunboats could operate there, and the roads to White House were awful, much worse than the more sandy roads to the trains. I rather think by the time of Porter's battles McClellan had become convinced that the enemy had received reinforcements which would enable him to successfully resist any direct attack, and that his best course was to get as soon and as safely as possible to the best base from which when reinforced himself to renew the attack, and that Jackson began the fight early enough to force Porter into doing with loss what he had intended to do quietly and safely. The enemy had certainly made great preparations to resist an attack by us from the right, and expected it, and had it been attempted and been unsuccessful the Army might have been destroyed.

I do not know whether I have succeeded in replying to any of your criticisms, but I feel I am trying to defend a man who has every thing against him clear before the world, and whose proper defense is

still half hidden. See what splendid testimony comes out in his favor in these Courts Martial? & how we are sure he had not the transports he wanted. We are sure Mr. Dowell was included in his plans. For anything we know he was ordered to throw a part of his force across the Chickahominy, and at any rate we are sure his best plans were spoiled, his earnest appeals for more men and for Mr. Dowell's co-operation disregarded, and that he could be sure of nothing and was forced to wait in uncertainty and distrust and deprived of that vigor and singleness of purpose without which no General can achieve great success.

Now, I think that a very humble spectator, if he takes pains to observe, can see when things are well managed and when they are badly managed, and I can see everything went on better *in da cille*. Clellan. He attended to comparatively small things, such as the general cleanliness of the camp and roads, the load of the soldiers &c. Our men actually fed better before Richmond (except when actually on outpost duty) than they do here. Our men are now suffering from scurvy, all for lack of vegetables &c. which certainly could be brought up by this time. I have never seen the least sign of ability in Burnside. As to our crossing and recrossing, I cannot understand why the enemy allowed it, or allowed us to remain three days in the city. They might have almost destroyed us. The troops were jammed up in the streets and houses, Artillery would have had terrible effect,

and the bridges themselves were under the fire of the enemy's guns. A very few shells hitting the bridge would make awful confusion. I cannot see why the enemy did not attack us on Sunday, or at least open fire on the city and destroy it, and with it $\frac{1}{2}$ the Federal Army. Look at Franklin's evidence before the Committee on the war.

I think they allowed us to come so as to beat us, and let us go to save the city. Now, their defenses are doubled, and it would be impossible to cross here. As to Burnside showing any particular skill &c. I can't see it. The enemy gave him that day to remove his wounded from the city, and at night he marched back his troops, all without molestation.

As to Mr. Clellan's violating the rules of war by crossing the Chickahominy, what do you think of Burnside's crossing the Rappahannock with his very bridges under the fire of the enemy's works?

I think no reasonable man can say that we have a better General than Mr. Clellan, however low he may reckon him. Add to this that the Army trust Mr. Clellan alone, and I think his case and the duty of the Administration is clear. Mr. Clellan should be in Halleck's place and some one who would heartily co-operate should be Secretary of war. Perhaps we overrate Lee, Davis Jackson and the other Rebel leaders, but I certainly think Mr. Clellan has gone so far to prove he excels them all, as his limited sphere of action could prove it. Now, instead of one active mind and will to rule the Army, we have a Committee, and even Burnside submits plans to the President. Father tells

me I write too freely of my opinions, but I think those whose lives are daily depending on such things, have the right to criticize, if any have. I have not been more open than Officers of every grade are here. There is one great universal condemnation, not of Braxside in particular, but of the whole state of things which has brought us to this pass. It is not, as many think, that the Army is sick of fighting, but sick of fighting for nothing. When I think of Corbot and Alley and the others before, Lowell and our many friends, I feel that they were murdered, and I must put the crime at some one's door. In this last battle there was no hope or expectation of success. Now, I have just read Dr. Walker's sermon, and I believe, as he says, that from all this suffering and evil a better state of public virtue will arise, and I am daily looking for some great move on the part of the really patriotic men of the country, which will oblige Mr. Lincoln, a very honest and well meaning man, to turn over a new leaf, turn out his worthless advisers, restore Mr. Clellan, give him full power as it were, begin again and try once more what an Army can accomplish. The people must be content to leave the affairs of the country in the hands of the President and the Generals for at least one year. I do not despair, although I think we have lost 50 chances out of 100 since the spring. We may crush the military power of the South yet.

I have written hastily to you, and I think I have shown, how I feel. You probably see through all I say, a blind faith

in Mr. Cellan, and I dare say it is so, but I think I have found it fairly. I do fully believe he is the man for the crisis and no one else is. In short I believe in Mr. Cellan.

Now for a change of subject. Boudinot is quite sick and wants to get home to Boston for medical advice &c., but lacks the one thing needful with which I cannot supply him. I believe he expects drafts from you. I cannot account for the Commaster's delay. You know I have overdrawn about \$150. I have owing to me for pay about \$700., so you see I am not insolvent by any means. I hope you will send out some money to Boudinot in some way very soon. A draft on Washington is the best way, I suppose. Frank Raven wrote to Boudinot that he forwarded a letter to Boudinot through me, soon after Boudinot left Washington, but I never got it. Did you send it to Boudinot by Raven?

I have sent to Ketcher an order for a cap. Please see that it is wide across the temples. Those Knight vizers are apt to bear too hard there. I shall be delighted to get the boxes &c.

Our anxiety about the new Colonel has about died out. Tell me any news on the subject. I have a plan in my head (which probably is impracticable) but which I sometimes amuse myself by thinking of. In case we settle down a little more steadily here, or in case we should move to the rear, nearer Washington, I intend to apply for a very short leave, say 5 days, which perhaps I could

get, not intending to go home, but only at furthest to Baltimore, for a few days relief from Camp duty, camp life &c., and to feel free for a day or two. There, at Baltimore, we will say, to meet you, stay at some nice Hotel eat like a Christian, take a civilized bath, walk, ride, go to some concert, theatre, lecture, program, or some such thing in the evenings. Call on Keighley and Grinnell, if they were there, and try to spend a few days in rational amusement and innocent pleasure consistent with the dignified society of an eminent lawyer, and at the same time adapted to the wants of a blood thirsty soldier just returned from scenes of rapine and carnage. I think we could manage 4 or 5 very pleasant days. As to going home that would be out of the question. One or two days at home would be poor satisfaction, and then it would be hard to come back. I do not think it would be much pleasure to Mother and Father, and it would be bad about getting away. With you, of course, the thing is quite different. Women folks you know, can't look so easily at these things, and I am sure it would worry Mother dreadfully to have me make a flying visit and then go back to danger, her anxious mind would worry to an alarming degree. I would not consent on any account to go home now, but I think this plan about meeting you is very practicable. Of course do not speak of this, certainly to Mother and Father, for they would want me to come home, I am sure. Only if ever I saw a chance to get away, I want to have it all ready

arranged with you. Of course Sunday must first come, and then I should have plenty of tin and feel ready for anything. First tell me what you think of the plan. I have no doubt I could get a leave for 5 or 6 days, stating I was to go only as far as Baltimore, much more easily than one to go home. Perhaps I could only get to Washington, which would be less pleasant, for it is a very crowded place and seems almost like a camp.

I want to know before long what you have decided as to James. One thing I entrusted to him to buy for me in Washington which I so much need that (in case he does not return) I wish you would send by Express. It is a "spider", "Killet" or "oven" so called by the natives here, and is an iron instrument, merely a deep frying pan with short legs and a thick cover with a handle. Thus



The cover has a low rim. Sometimes there is no handle, then I believe it is called a "Dutch Oven". Its uses are these: with it you can boil stew, bake, fry and roast. With it I can have bread baked, instead of flour and water fried in grease, roast beef, instead of fried steak, baked beans, baked potatoes, and many other luxuries I am now without. It should be about 10 or 12 inches in diameter and 4 or 5 in depth. Its only objection is its weight, but as it does instead of a great many small things that makes little matter. Every house has one here, where they cook in open fire places with wood fires, but I understand they are scarce

at home. However, I think you can get one. They cost ^{at} 5[¢] or \$1.-
only. Try to get me one as soon as possible. We are again poorly
off for food. I find I get tired of nothing but beef, potatoes and
onions. Fried steak for breakfast. Boiled beef for dinner. This
has been the bill of fare for so many weeks now, that one gets tired
of it. It would be considered great on a march, but in a steady
camp I have discovered that it is necessary to live as well as you
possibly can. You probably would hardly believe it, but I am sure
that a steady diet upon wholesome food produces a steady diarrhoea,
one which almost every one now has.

Father wrote some time ago about sending on \$50. by James,
and I wrote to him I thought it better to trust it to the mail a little
at a time. I am not now in absolute want, because there is nothing
to buy, but should be glad to have a little on hand.

By the way some months ago June, I think, I took charge of
22 or 23 Dollars for one of the men, Whitman by name, who afterwards
died. I gave him a note at the time for the amount, and this Captain
Shepard now has and has written to me he would like, if convenient,
to draw the amount of Father, now he is at home, and pay Whitman's
family. So please ask Father to pay the money on my note and
charge the same to me. I have no doubt Whitman's family
need the money, and I should have paid it long ago if I had known where
to send it to.

Write soon.

Your affectionate brother
Kerru.

January 15th 1863.

Dear John.

I send herewith by Baudouin the Prince's narrative, some private papers, and a pair of old straps I want to keep. Baudouin will tell you everything. Please send at any rate \$5.- by mail without delay, as I borrowed \$15.- to advance to him. \$5.- I owed him, so I really lent him \$10.-. Please put the private letters away in the box.

In haste

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Camp 2^d Regt. Volunteers, near
Falmouth, Va. January 16th 1863.

My dear John.

I have received your letter of the 12th enclosing one from Curtis. You have probably seen Baulnois by the time you get this, and he will have told you how ill he is and how he stood the journey to Boston. I bade him good bye last night at Corps Head Quarters, where he has been several days. He expected to start at 6 A.M. to day by Railroad to Aquia Creek, thence by Steamer to Washington and right on to Boston. I sent a small package of private letters &c. by him.

By the way, it occurred to me the other day that you once sent me a letter which said that there was an "agreement" inside, and there was none, and so I wrote to you. Was anything of that kind ever lost, or was the document I signed before you at Bolivar the one you omitted to put in? Also was there any money or stamps in the letter to me which I suppose you wrote to me lately and which I never received? I know there must have been some such letter, for the first notice I had of James' illness was an allusion to a fuller account in some other letter. Baulnois was very glad you kept his important letters, as the mail has been irregular lately.

I was very much interested in your account of Major Willard's

death. As to the photograph, I leave it with you to choose the best likeness. I should be indeed very glad to have his picture. I never respected any man more than I did him. I hope you will see that whatever one you take is framed or carefully put up, so as not to be injured in any way. You say Mr. Mason's son is to send me a large picture of Herbert. If it is larger than a common card photograph, better keep it at home against my return. I could not take care of it here. By the way, I am afraid you will be unable soon to get me a full set of Class photographs. Had you not better see Jeffries, and ask him about it, and write to the artist who took the Class to preserve a full set for me. You know what a loss it would be to get too late. I suppose they will cost say \$20.- in all, but if ever I get back I would not miss having them for anything. No doubt the man will wait for payment till I get paid.

To-day we have marching orders, to be ready to-morrow morning with the usual 3 days rations and 60 rounds ammunition. Yesterday the pontoon train moved. I hear it went up the river. Last night was very stormy. It blew and rained furiously. I feel sure neither pontoons, wagons, nor Artillery can move to-day on account of the roads. Perhaps we are to try it again. On the whole I incline to think some movement is contemplated, but I do not think an advance of the whole Army is to be expected. I think that a demonstration on the main left is the extreme to be expected. The enemy have thrown up new

fortifications in front of Falmouth and dug more rifle pits, and therefore it is thought they have sent to the South and West a great part of their forces. I dare say the rain of last night has put all movements out of the question. Perhaps this is the beginning of a withdrawal of the Army, part (say the right) by way of Warrenton.

If another real attack is to be made, I cannot see what can avert another great disaster. Whatever move may be made, the sufferings of the troops will be terrible on account of the cold and wet and lack of food and tents. The roads have been very bad for some weeks and will grow worse and worse till Spring. This morning it has cleared off with a strong West wind and is growing cold. I will write again soon, if I can. It seems to be generally thought that Hooker is to advance, and that at any rate one Corps is not to be put forward. Burdick says that Sumner rubs his hands and says laughing that his Corps has lost thirteen thousand five hundred men in these two last battles, and seems quite delighted and proud at the thought. I shall be very sorry to lose my nice hut, but after carefully balancing all the chances, have come to the conclusion we (i.e. our Division) are not to move.

I hope to write and tell you how it turned-out soon.

Your affectionate brother
J. Henry.

Saturday, 19th January 1863
25th Regiment.

Dear John.

I received to-day your letter enclosing Twenty Dollars, for which very much obliged. I am sorry I could not have told Bouhuois of his drafts and set his mind at rest as to his letters. I suppose he will not go to the Post Office in Washington, but no doubt you can easily get them back for him. I hope soon to hear from him. Please give him my kindest regards.

Our marching orders were countermanded last night, and it was said the march, or attack, or whatever it was was postponed till Monday. I hear only a reconnaissance was intended, and that it will take place Monday, and our Corps is to go. I think the probability is we shall not move.

To-day was fine but awfully cold and we had a review by Burnside. I think I never suffered more than I did waiting in a plain over which a strong North West wind swept for 2 or 3 hours this morning. The cold was I suppose not really very intense, say 25° or 20° Fahrenheit, but after a warm spell it seemed very cold. I am sure I was almost frozen. After all this delay Burnside rode by. Here and there a feeble cheer was raised. I really felt sorry for him when he took off his hat as he rode down our front, but there was

a dead silence, and he put it on again. When he got through General
Howard thought he must get a little enthusiasm out of the poor
frozen men, and riding in front called out: "Now 3 cheers for General
Burnside!" one, two, three! "but not one single hand was raised,
not a single voice, and he rode back apparently much vexed. I heard
at a late review probably of a less disciplined Corps, the men yelled:
"Butcher" at Burnside, as he rode down. I cannot but pity the
poor man, for he certainly tries his best to please all parties. Now
the men will always cheer old Sumner, in spite of his recklessness,
but half of Burnside's unpopularity is because he follows Mc. Callan
and because his faults are on the weak side. An army can bear
any General but a weak one. I have rumors of our going back
to Washington still, but I cannot think we shall move in this
cold weather. Until you see it you cannot imagine what a dread-
ful thing suffering from cold is, and how quickly it sickens the
strongest men. I mean continued cold, no sleep at night and wear-
ing all day. I have seen it here, before the log huts were put up,
men crowding round a fire all night, with one blanket wrapped
round them, and perhaps wet too. We have had a man die here
from illness brought on by frozen feet, and another of diarrhoea
both the effects of cold. If we should attempt active operations
now, the men would die just as they did at Sebastopol. One day
is awfully cold and another pouring rain. Officers might get along



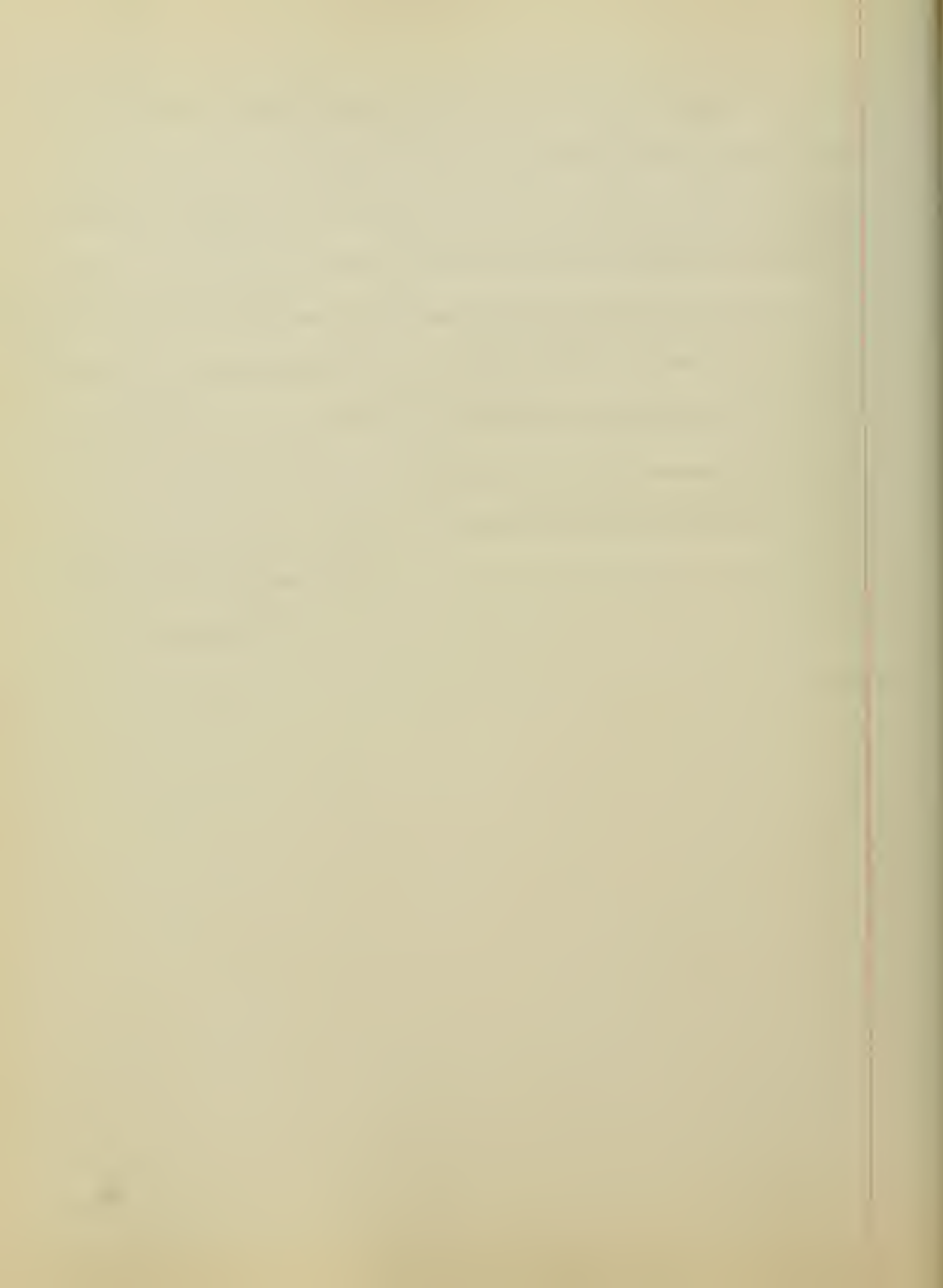
with good clothing and servants to carry blankets and food, but
for the man the suffering would be dreadful.

No news here. The Twenty Dollars very acceptable.
Tell me what has been done about James.

Cannot you number your letters and India^a? so as to tell
if any miscarry. I think you might devise some plan. I fear
the mail is sometimes robbed, but I notice a small, thin, unpreten-
=ding letter generally comes safely.

Please send stamps.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.



Camp 20th Mass. near Wilmington,
Va. January 23rd 1863 (1 P.M.)

Dear John.

We have just been drawn up in line and heard an order from Gen. Burnside read, which stated that the Army of the Potomac was again about to meet the enemy &c., and stated that the Rebel forces were weakened by sending men South &c., and hoping for a great success. Then we have orders ^{to be ready} to move at an "early hour to-morrow." So I rather think another attack is contemplated. Artillery is now moving by our camp in a North Westward direction, and I heard the other day that "ponies" had gone up the river, so, I rather think, it is expected to turn their left, and perhaps Franklin will attack their right at the same time.

As we achieved so much both at Fredericksburg and Antietam, I suppose we shall not be shamed in at first again. I should not at all wonder if our Corps was left here on this side, to await the attack on the enemy's left. As to the result I incline to think it will be successful so far as taking these works in front. But the Rebels certainly have had warning enough to get plenty of men, if they can spare them. Perhaps they will evacuate, but I incline to think they will make a good defence until entirely outflanked, and then withdraw, which they easily can do with their Railroad. I do not in the least anticipate a brilliant victory, neither do I think a great defeat at all

likely: Perhaps another Williamsburg on a larger scale. If we took
these works, we should be little better off, for in such weather and
on such roads a quick advance would be impossible. We shall see.

Best love to all.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

10th Regiment 21st January
Camp near Fortmouth (2. P. M.)

Dear John.

We have not moved yet. No orders have come. Franklin moved up a mile or so beyond us yesterday P. M. and an immense train of Artillery. Yesterday afternoon it began to rain and has rained tremendously all night and is drizzling still. Wind from the East, no sign of clearing off. Quite cold. The Pontoon train, entire Artillery and wagons are stuck fast in the mud about one mile from here. Roads awful of course and quite impassible. Troops exposed last night must have suffered dreadfully. I hear they have moved on but are of course without wagons, Artillery or Pontons. I cannot but think the attempt will be given up. The utmost dissatisfaction, almost insubordination, was shown by Regiments about here at the prospect of an attack. Regiments openly said they would not cross a bridge, the 42nd New York of our Brigade hooted at the order, even the 15th Mass. cheered for Jefferson Davis and jeered for President Lincoln. Our men of course were perfectly silent but almost every one expects utter defeat, if we cross again now, in such weather and after giving the enemy so long a time to prepare. The state of the Army is shocking. Our Regiment will not disgrace itself, you may be sure, but the Army is more demoralized and dissatisfied than I had ever thought before.

They have no confidence whatever in their leader. It is no use to attempt to disguise the fact. And this state of things is not unusual, nor only, but it is very well known that the leading Commanders do not work together, and that Burwidge is not wise enough to command them, and therefore takes principally the advice of Sutter who has more character than the others. You may be sure we are in a bad way enough now, and I only hope the enemy will not take advantage of it. If the move is entirely given up, and the troops are made comfortable, and well understood there is to be no fighting till Spring, they may improve in spirit and be fit for work in the Spring, but what with constant fighting, poor food, no pay, innumerable hardships, and defeats in battles, and now no leader, Officers of high rank all squabbling and almost talking treason, and the prospect of worse hardships and more senseless fighting the Army is completely used up, and I hope it is not treason to say so. At any rate, I must say so, or say nothing. Our Regiment as I said, is good for anything, but I do not know another like it.

It is colder now than it was, for the wind is more northerly, but while I have been writing the rain has set in heavily. I pity the poor fellows marching.

Received this morning Mary Ann's letter of January 1st enclosing notes

In haste

Your affectionate brother

Henry.

No. 1.

Falmouth, Va. January 23rd 1863.

Dear Ann.

Your letter of 1st of January 23rd received to-day. I have very little time to answer it now. Will write fully. Joseph is to leave early to-morrow morning. He was to have gone to-day, but Remondou's snow-storm prevented. Received duly all moneys to viz: \$10.- from Father, \$20.- from you and \$10.- from you.

Have been of course very much engaged with Joseph and in moving camp and on guard duty since I came here. My kindest regards to Boulnois. Shall write to him very soon. Received from Whittier \$2.- to give Smith's servant from him. I send home \$250.- by Joseph to you. How do I stand then?

Shall write you fully about military matters and Cove and Porter. I sent you a letter for Hazeltine lately, did it go? Glad you favor Mc. Clellan &c. Send me anything you can. To move is impossible. All well and desire regards.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Please ask Mary Ann to visit Fleming and, if possible, Mrs. Humphrey and let Mary Ann spend as much as she thinks well from the surplus of my funds for their benefit.

No. 2.

20th Mass. Volunteers. Falmouth
Vt. February 2^d 1863.

My dear John.

Your long and interesting letter No. 2 received to-day. I have not time now to answer you about Mc. Clellan, but agree with you heartily as to the trust due to Genl. Hooker, and that he is an able man &c. However, you probably know he is an intemperate man, and a man of low moral character. From his course thus far, I should judge him to be an ambitious man, rather unscrupulous, but sensible and energetic. He has begun by setting us at rest and granting furloughs, and has taken steps to get back deserters. He has also set about clearing up and burying dead horses &c.

I have read the two articles in the Traveller, the one a letter (I believe from Mr. Raymond) the other Bolt's review of the latter case. I consider the first a shameful libel on the Army. Many of his statements I know to be false. For instance, about the pontoons. They were moved 2 or 3 days before, there was no report of the matter. The day before my servant went to a house in Falmouth where I get bread and the man, a half Union man, whose wife is a bitter Rebel, told him the exact place where Burnside would try to cross, to viz: Bank's Ford. Then as to the pontoons having been got up to within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the ford, the rear of the train 5 or 6 boats,

were stuck in the mud not 1/2 mile from our Camp where I saw them, and I hear that they were thus left all along the way. Phil. Mason, who was there, says the enemy's works were very strong, equal to Fredericksburg, and to say the attempt was a surprise is more folly. In such weather and roads a surprise is perfectly impossible.

As to Generals &c. not doing their duty, and throwing obstacles in the way, I do not believe it, I saw no sign of such a thing, and have not heard of any such conduct. I think every one felt the thing could not succeed, and felt no confidence in Blairside. From all I can learn and I have taken some pains to find out the truth, it was a mercy that the storm prevented our crossing, for we could not have been successful. It was only the desire to save the city that saved us at Fredericksburg.

As to Fricklin, I have always considered him one of our first men. The testimony before the Committee which I read shows, I think that he attacked with as much of his force as was possible, and as well as he knew how. As to the absurd statement that his men drove the enemy and were on the point of success &c., I know it to be all false. I have seen those who were there. Dr. Cichore told me we gained no advantage to speak of, and never once got near the enemy's real works, and that at no time was there any gleam of victory. He also says that they lay under the Rebel guns and only wondered that the enemy did not see fit to destroy them

or at any rate inflict great loss.

As to Porter, the first thing that strikes me is the shameful unfairness of Holt's summing up. It seems like the plea of a lawyer of the prosecution. As to Porter's dislike of Pope, that is very natural. Pope had lost all character long before in the regular Army. He was despised by every regular Officer I ever met. Porter felt of course hurt at being put under such a man. Pope had got his Army all mixed up, and did not even know where the different Divisions were. This I learn from Sedgwick who went up with Sumner. Porter knew that Pope was utterly incapable, and that to follow his orders blindly was to risk the safety of his entire Army, and he therefore felt called upon to act on his own discretion. Holt's attempt to rebut such tremendous evidence as Genl. Sykes' and others with Porter, by the foolish evidence of Captain De Kay, for instance, about Porter's sitting under a tree &c., is really disgusting. This De Kay is a man who signs his name in immense letters six inches long at the bottom of Hospital Clothing returns &c. which I get every day. As to Holt's assumption that Pope really had a plan, and only lacked Porter's attack to bring about a glorious victory, I see no proof of it whatever. Still it is very possible that had Porter attacked, we might have gained a victory, also that by great exertions he might have attacked, also that Pope ordered him to attack, but the question yet remains how far is an experienced General bound to obey implicitly the orders of a

superior he knows to be a fool when he knows that by thus obeying he may sacrifice thousands of lives? We may have done wrong this time but I am sure I cannot believe he meant wrong. Then there is the most serious matter of all. The Army was packed. Holt was known as Porter's bitter enemy. Martindale was once arrested and tried by Porter, and only Van Allen was Porter's friend. The evidence was public, everybody read it, and yet the sentence took even, one by surprise. An honorable acquittal was everywhere expected! These are my present views, but I still feel I have not fully enough examined the matter. You speak of the insubordination &c. of the Army: It seems to me the Army is a mighty servant who has been most shamefully abused. Of course disaffection exists. You cannot deprive men of their due and lead them on forever to useless slaughter and expect them to shout out for more. The Army is the most noble and patriotic Army that ever existed, and if it is now disaffected, lay it to the President not on us.

All quiet now. Leaves are being granted and probably during the next 2 weeks I could get a leave of 6 to 10 days. You do not answer my Baltimore plan very fully, but I have spoken to Joseph about it, and he will tell you how it stands. As to the expense I expect you will be my guest while at Baltimore, and insist on this. I want you to come very much, I assure you, and if you do not, I shall probably remain here, although I should like a recess of a few days on my terms.

As to James, I am very glad you have got hold of the \$30., deposited, and beg you to pay him nothing more without an order from me. I consider his conduct shameful. I have paid him now as follows:

<u>Dr.</u>	<u>Cr.</u>
From Father	20.00
" You	2.00
" me here	17.00
" (Boots at Suttler's)	3.00
" Savings Bank	15.00
" his sister	5.00
	67.00
	67.50

If he wants the balance "50 let him ask me for it. Besides these sums, I believe I, at various times, gave him \$2. or \$3. more. Considering the poor quality of his services, he is more than paid now. Did you not pay for the Doctor? He left no property here, only a few bad debts from the man, none of which I have collected. I have a very good man from the rank's now, James Smith, and shall keep him at present.

Write me fully about Baltimore &c., after you see Joseph. If I get a favorable answer from you, I shall apply for 6 to 10 days, and if I get it, will telegraph from Washington to you.

Couch is a most excellent Officer, and very far from being a newspaper man. Smith I have heard very highly spoken of.

As to Mr. Clellan drinking with Wood &c., I do not like it, but attach little importance to it. Public men might be accidentally thrown together in a hotel in a thousand ways.

Thinking over the Baltimore schemes, I hope you will not do what you feel is not best, for my sake. I urge you, but you can judge best and if you should not come, I should know you decided rightly. You see I cannot judge as to your business, Father's views &c., and I know he is sometimes very set. I should be indeed delighted to meet you, and we could talk over things at our leisure and perhaps arrive at similar opinions on military matters.

I enclose a draft on the State Treasurer for \$17.00 payable to order of Mrs. W. Parker which I advanced the money on, to oblige my men here. Please draw the amount and credit it to me. I authorized Manning in a letter to borrow of my money in your hands \$20.00. I sent home by Joseph \$250.00. He was to spend about \$10.00 for poultry in Philadelphia, and I suppose my debts at home do not amount to more than \$150.00 leaving \$60.00 to you with which to pay \$10.00 to Mrs. O'Kearse, (as I wrote to you, and to settle for other things I may order. I wish you would let Mary Ann spend what remains, or as much as she sees fit, for the benefit of my wounded men.

I hope you will write me an early answer.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

No. 3.

2^d Regt. Volunteers, Falmouth
February 5th 1863.

My dear John.

I was sorry not to get letters from you either yesterday or today, especially as I hoped that on receiving my last letters and speaking with Joseph you would resolve to come on and meet me at Baltimore, in case I go. I now have to tell you that I have applied for 8 days to visit Baltimore, and feel quite sure of getting so modest a request. I expect to get the leave and start on Saturday morning or on Monday morning, and expect to be in Baltimore the afternoon of the day I leave. I have lots of Commissions to attend to in Washington about Express matters &c., and must spend some hours there either in going or coming, but shall without fail push on to Baltimore the day I start. Now I do not know what you may have written or decided upon, but I most earnestly hope you will come on and spend the 6 days with me. I had to apply now, before I heard from you, or perhaps lose all chance. The spring campaign will no doubt open by the 1st April or sooner, and then we have the promise of another year of danger and hardship, and laying aside the chances of battles &c., there is a certainty of my not seeing you or any of you for a long season. I therefore would press you to come on, and, if possible, after enjoying 4 or 5 days in Baltimore, return with me to Falmouth and stay with Herbert and me as long

as you like. We are very comfortable now in a house, and can get horses easily, and you would see a really big Army. Well, I leave you to decide, but be assured I shall look for you and expect you to come, if you possibly can so arrange it.

Already I find enough to do for others and myself to occupy me during a day and a half in making purchases. I shall get a pass to bring on baggage to Fort Mifflin.

I hope you have seen Mr. Clellan. I have thought over your last long letter, and talked it over with Abbott, but I feel sure I can answer it perfectly to your satisfaction. I want very much put before your mind all the facts which I know, and I feel sure you will then agree with me. I reserve myself for an after dinner talk at the Eutaw House, Baltimore. You cannot imagine how I look forward to this short release from the constant duties of camp, and freedom from Army restrictions &c. It is really a great thing not to have to get up by a drum-beat for 3 mornings. I shall telegraph from Washington, if possible, and shall "put up" at the Eutaw House in Baltimore. It is possible I may be delayed several days, but not probable.

Enclosed you will find a document of a legal nature. The facts are as follows: Thomas Carver, widower, enlisted in Company K. 20th last September, and was killed December 11th in action. He left issue Chas. Carver, now in Boston, Thomas M. Carver, private now in my Company, and Philip M. Carver, private in my Company.

now home sick furlough, and Stephen A. Carver, minor, now at home
in Boston. Charles is desirous of obtaining all the money left by his
father, pay, bounty &c. and appropriating it to his own use. The next
two children, Thomas K. and Philip K. desire to waive their claims
to their father's property in favor of their youngest brother Stephen A.
(minor). Thomas K. brought me just now the enclosed paper, stated
these facts and asked for advice, he not thinking the enclosed paper
a good legal one. I told him I would send it to you and ask you
what could be done to bring about the distribution of property the
heirs desire. Please send to me any paper to be signed and tell
me what is to be done. I suppose the 4 children share equally
and in accordance with their wish Stephen is to have $\frac{3}{4}$ and Charles
retains only his own fourth. Is not this so?

In Hoping soon to see you in Baltimore, I remain

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

you consider Capt. Shepard's note for \$23. for Private Wickman, Capt. Macy's note of \$40., and W. Polson's note of \$15. as paid. By the way nothing was ever said to me about Macy's note of \$40. Was it presented and paid? I have been paid ⁴ to include the 31st day of October 1862, and have pay due from that time to the present date, to viz:

2 ^d = Lieutenant pay to January 1 st	208.50
1 st = do. addition from October 2 ^d	15.
Command Company from December 12 th	550

This is what I expect to get every day _____ \$ 220.

Then from January 1st I draw at the rate of \$119.⁵⁰ per month, payment due February 28th.

Besides this I have \$50. or 60^o on hand.

Thank you for the vegetables. I will give Robins 1/2. Please tell me the total cost of my half as this will be for Herbert's and my wife. Glad you did not send meat. I will get some in Baltimore.

Do you have seen Mc. Clellan. I want to have a talk with you about him. I do not by any means share in the prejudice against Hooker. He has done well thus far, and he promises well now. But I still believe him to be an unprincipled man. I have heard of his speaking against Mc. Clellan in Washington. In this last battle I hear he did really nothing merely sat on his horse and let his routed troops rush by him. He probably saw his own rise in Burnside's failure. I do not think him anything like so big a man as Mc. Clellan, but a very

quick and ready man, and a man of experience, education and
courage. I think after so many failures he will do well.

There is an intense feeling of disgust at the raising of Negro
Regiments. It is foolish to attempt such an unpopular thing with
the Army in its present temper. They had better not bring any here.
It would create an instant mutiny. They will not fight (and Officers
will not) on an equality with the Negro. Right or wrong this is the
feeling, and it would be madness to resist it.

I hope the Radicals have had their day, and that wisdom
will yet appear in the councils of the nation.

Tell me what boxes or camp chests have come and what is in them?
I forget what I left in those boxes at Toolesville.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

P.S. As to James Mc. Cohan, do not give him one cent more. I find
he ran away leaving poor men here of whom he had borrowed money.
Also that he told some one he did not intend to return, although he
vowed he would to me. He is a swindler, nothing better. Better
transfer the \$15. in Bank to yourself, and do not pay him anything.
I never want him to return. My present man, Smith, does very well.

M. R.

Washington, February 10th 1863.

To John C. Ropes, 21 Barristers Hall, Court Square.

I shall be in Baltimore to-night. Hope to meet you there.

Henry Ropes.

Salmonville, Va.
February 27th 1863.

My dear John.

I have received no letters from home for a day or two. There is nothing new here. The river has risen very much. Weather cloudy and snow melting fast. Murphy has gone home and took my silver watch which is out of order again. That watch has given me much trouble. Please get it repaired, and send it back if possible by Murphy. Gatten expects to go off very soon and Herbert in a week. All well. Very comfortable. No Express yet. Joseph's present of Pauline is probably spent by this time. Captain Robinson and Gatten of the 2^d spent a day with us this week. Please send me by mail or few sheets of blotting paper. I may act as Adjutant while Gatten is away. Have finished the "Pilot". Think it good in nautical matters, but otherwise very silly and ridiculous. Enclosed is a letter for Hagan which please give him.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

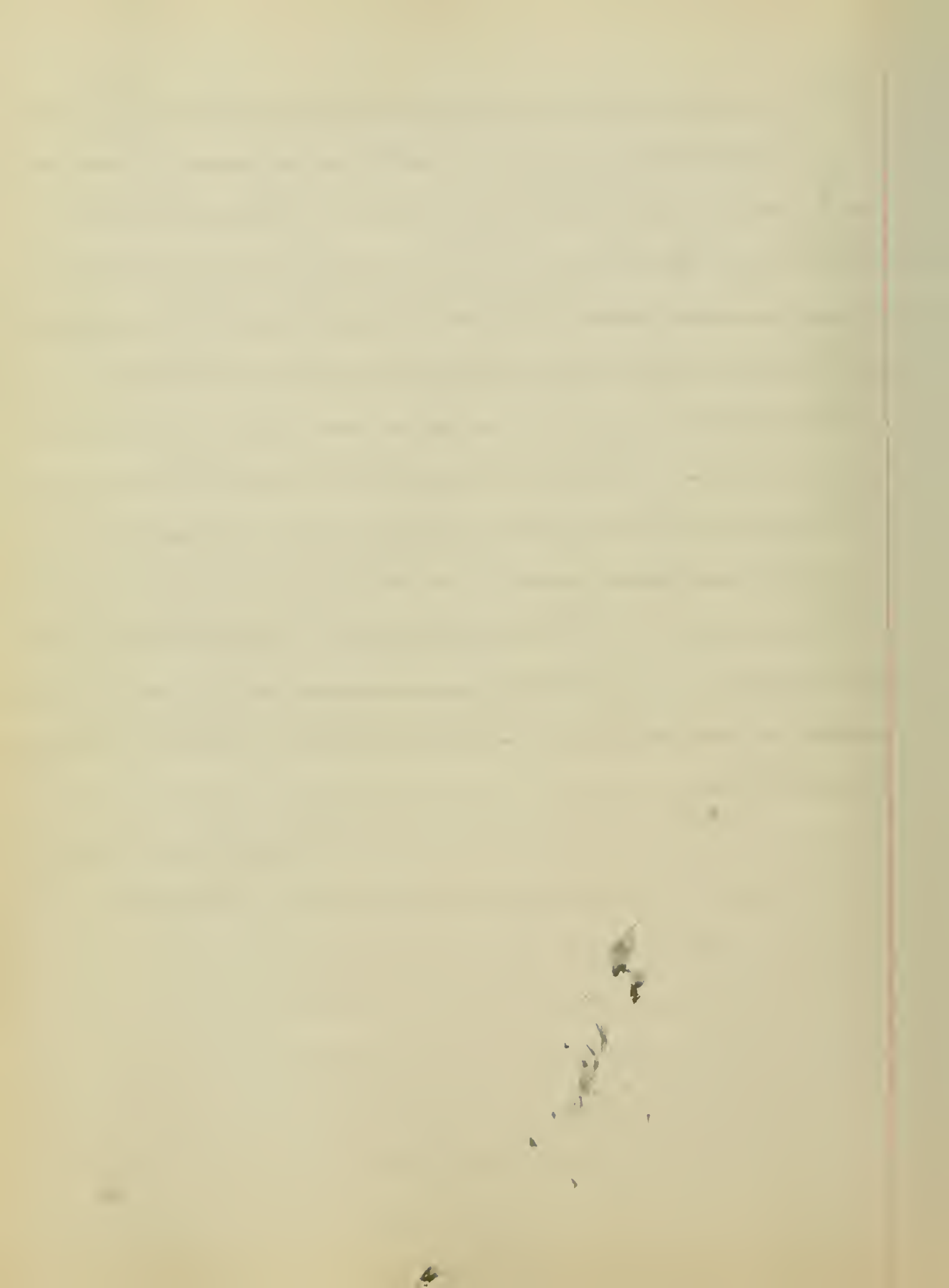
P. S. February 28th.

Cours 24th with Saviour's 21st, also Mother's 23^d received this morning. Please thank Saviour for the sweet meats in the milk which I did not before know were sent by her. They were very nice.

Father expects soon to leave for home. Murphy you have probably seen.

You must have enjoyed Philadelphia very much. Please send me by mail one of each of my photographs. I will send back the original ones to you soon. You can give them away probably and this save having more of the new kind. Remember as a general rule when you give away any of my photographs you should get one of the persons to whom you gave one, in exchange, and these please put in my book. I have just come from muster for January and February, so I have now ~~4~~ months pay due, and expect soon to send home plenty of money to pay for Clafs photographs and all other expenses. All quiet as usual. River falling but still very high. The Citizens here all agree that after such an open winter the roads will not be fit for travel till very late in the spring, April at least.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.



Head Quarters 20th Mass.
March 5th 1863.

Dear John.

I have received your letter enclosing a copy of Antietam. So many Officers are going home that you will not lack for correspondent news from the Regiment. Mrs. O'Hara lives No. 30 West Cedar Street. Mr. Donough money is all right. Please not Bro. Joseph if he delivered any money for private E. O. Groves, drummer of my Company. He tells me Mrs. Groves has not received it.

We had a grand Corps review to day. Hooker looked well. He is gaining in the confidence of every one every day. Such a change from Burnside. Men are now well fed, housed and clothed, and discipline is enforced. It seems more like the good old Mc. Clellan days again. The Army under Burnside was rapidly going to ruin. Hooker is energetic and acts like a soldier, not like a politician. There was no cheering whatever to day, and no attempt to force cheers. Everything is quiet. Herbert goes home in a day or two.

I read with great interest your business plans. It seems to me that with Mr. Trask's aid, and with the stimulus of self support, you will do as well at law for the next 2 or 3 years in New York as in Boston. Then you can learn every day much about the business, and after becoming well acquainted with it, judge whether and under

what conditions you would join the firm. I believe fully with you that you would do better, be more happy, and in fact live faster, that is we need do and learn more in New-York than in Boston. A home like ours, in fact so good a home no ours, sticks to a man and impedes him. Of course you only can judge whether a year's practice in New-York would injure your legal prospects, in case you should conclude after all to practice law and live in Boston. I do not suppose it would. I am decidedly in favor of the New-York plan on the whole. But I would explain to Father, or at any rate to Joseph, the exact state of the case. Father would not object long. Let him think it over a few days, and I feel sure he will agree to your plan. One thing, however, you leave Mary Ann, without anybody to put her through and keep her from getting the dunks, and the blues, which are bad things when they get to be chronic. Mary Ann needs you very much. If I was at home, it would not so much matter, but if you go off, she will not go anywhere and will get to be an old maid before she is a woman. But then she could come on once in a while and see you and stay at Martha's.

In spite of these objections (and these scarcely less serious one of leaving Mother, I really think you ought to go and not let slip an opportunity which is now presented to you, or at any rate now particularly brought to your remembrance. In New-York you would have your rooms, your friends, your society, and be perfectly independent. You would probably work hard, and play hard, and be better for both. You would

find plenty of men and of women too, and very likely if business or law prospects brighten you may see your way clear to a pretty little wife, for you have a good pick in New-York, and to be a first rate man from Boston is a great thing in spite of all they say and laugh about us. So I think you had better go and set up in New-York and leave the final decision as to entering the firm until you have seen a little into the state of things in Mr. Trask's Office. I hope you will write to me your opinions as they come up. I should be delighted to see you in the business for its benefit for mine and prospectively for mine!

Tell me if ever you got the Scho sauce in Washington. And whether you took home Gabel's those little things for me?

Best love to Mary Ann. Tell her to write whenever she feels like it. I hope you will see Father and Herbert of course.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

20th Miss. March 7th 1863.

My dear John.

I have looked over this map I send enclosed, and find it so entirely incorrect as to positions of troops that I thought you would like to see it somewhat corrected. I have rudely marked our positions. I am not certain as to where exactly we camped on the 16th, nor where we crossed the Antietam nor where we formed line, but you know this as well as I. The principal absurdity is in putting the Rebellings so far back. My Company picketed on the right, and my right post was the toll house. The enemy were in a cornfield kind on a hill $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile or less in front.

The celebrated Cornfield is put too far to the right. It was almost opposite the Church. The 3^d New-York was the left Regiment of Gorman's Brigade, and the Church broke them as it did our 1st New-York.

All quiet, no news. No letters.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

20th Mass. March 15th 1863.

(Sunday)

My dear John.

I have received yours of the 2nd inst. O. I find I shall have to give up the numbering of letters and therefore have not numbered this or the previous ones. I wrote you rather a long but hurried letter about your business plans, which I suppose you have now received. I did not know that law practice in New York was so different from that in Boston, and so thought it perhaps better for you to continue law for some time in New York.

Hooker is doing well, as I have written, and has got the confidence of the Army to a great extent. Still, by the time operations commence, the 2 years and 9 months men will be gone and we shall be inferior to the enemy in numbers. I do not believe the conscription will work, and the Negro Regiments are worse than useless. This is the most impolitic step the Government has yet taken. If unsuccessful in raising many men, still the evil effects are done by dividing the North and uniting the South, and if they raise men, there will certainly be mutiny in the Old Army. If Hooker fights, he must fight a doubtful battle, and if he wins it will be at the cost of his Army. This Army is all that is left to depend upon now, and if that is sacrificed, we shall be in a bad plight. Therefore I do not expect an active

campaign to open soon but rather a policy of threatening delay.

Glad to hear Boulton is so much better. Mary and Perkins are back. You must have had a very pleasant time at home with the young Ladies. Glad they are all so lively. It is rather dull here, and I like to hear of pleasant times even though I cannot enjoy them. I am very sorry to hear that Mary Ann is dull and is not well. Still I see no prospect of a change of life to her. You must get her to go out as much as she can, and visit often.

Steve Weld was here to dine yesterday. He has now alone on Genl. Benham's staff. The General expects soon to have a Corps. He was kind enough to ask me to come on Genl. Benham's staff, and he had the General's permission to ask any one he thought proper. It was very kind of him indeed, and I thanked him for it, but told him of course that I could not think of leaving the old 2^d. Please not to mention this. All well. Cold weather now, roads frozen. I miss Herbert very much.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Holmes desires his regards.

Dear John. I send "Several of the Pack" which perhaps can be bound sometime. Also Mary Ann's rest. The cold weather is about past and I take this opportunity of getting rid of every thing I cannot easily carry. Please have it carefully kept.

H. P. R.

Received March 11/63.

Salmon, Va. 18th March 1863.
Wednesday.

My dear John.

I rather wonder that I have had no letters from home for 3 or 4 days, but suppose you have sent them on by Herbert or Patten. I have received a letter from Flamingan whose wound has broken out afresh and who is now in Hospital at Alexandria. Will you please send him \$5.- in a letter and charge the same to me.² Direct to "Private Thomas Flamingan, Company K. 20th Mass. Volunteers" and enclose the envelope thus directed in one directed to "Thomas Flamingan, New Camp of Convalescents, Fort Barnard, near Alexandria, Va." Please be very particular about these directions. I would send him some myself, were I not rather short, just now. We expect 4 months pay in a day or two. Please send this to Flamingan as soon as possible, as he is in want of it.

I wish you would order for me at Mason's a ray thin light waistcoat, of blue flannel or thin cloth. He has my measure, only tell him that it is a little too large, in the waist. Also a thin sack coat, of dark blue cloth, very thin, or of good flannel, neither to be excessive. The coat to button up to the chin close, and to be cut in to fit the shape of the body, not a loose sack. In coat 2 inside breast pockets. No side pockets at all. Coat quite short,

Sleeves large at elbow, 5 buttons in front, one at each cuff. You can get a little bit of gold binding and put in a bar to my old 2^d Lieutenant straps, and they will do. Coat should fit neatly, so that the belt would not crease it up. I want it very thin and light and not expensive. Vest the same. Not too dark a blue. As to the Camp chest &c. sent from Bolesville, did you find there a pair of leather leggings? I should like to have them cleaned and kept for me. Please send on the Coat and Vest as soon as made. No wadding in any part of either, cannot be too thin. Of course they must be made on a smaller measure than thick Clothes.

Be very careful when you send on these things to have them in a strong box that cannot be easily opened. Put in a couple of boxes Yeast powder and a pot of pickles, if there is room. So much for business. All quiet, no prospect of a war. They think at Corps Head Quarters that Crocker will try a great dash before the 1 month and 2 years men are gone.

I have had another staff officer. Col. Morgan at Corps Head Quarters sent for me yesterday and wanted me to be Joint Marshal of the Corps, in place of Major Miller, who is to return to his Regiment, the Lieut. Colonel having resigned. I told him I could not leave the Regiment of course. It would have been a very comfortable place there, no doubt permanent. 100 Infantry and 50 Cavalry under my orders, plenty of transportation, several

horses, a camp by myself, always close to Corps Head Quarters, and a very easy, independent and rather swell time generally. On the march the duties would be arduous and in action sometimes so, although not of danger. I suppose there must be somebody to give up stragglers &c., but I do not like that kind of thing. The great temptation to me is the having one or 2 good horses to ride. I have ridden a good deal lately and like it very much. I enjoy this kind of rough riding across an open country better than a regular ride on a beaten road at home.

I am very glad you saw Fattow at the house. Hope you saw the Doctor too. Tracy is very sorry to have missed you. He is as well as ever and an exceedingly happy man. He left Men. Tracy in Philadelphia. We are all disgusted here that Lieut. Colonel Baxter of the 9th Michigan is made a Brigadier General over Col. Hall. Mr. Chandler of Michigan however, I understand, could not consent to have a man of Col. Hall's politics, especially a West Pointer, and as Michigan had not had her fair share of Generals, it was left to this worthy representative, and now Baxter instead of being a very ordinary Lieut. Colonel, is a miserably inefficient General. One of the most shameful things we have heard of lately is the sending home the 2^d New Hampshire Regiment to carry the elections, which they did. Their Colonel is a leading Republican Politician. They were nominally sent home

to recruit, but as they were about twice as big as the average Regiment
of our Corps, this time did not take.

Please send me a few postage stamps, and a dozen or two
large envelopes, such as Official business comes in.

Love to all. I hope to get letters to-morrow.

Affectionately
Henry.

Falmouth, 21st March 1863.

Dear John.

I have received your letter in which you asked for a horse to be sent to Herbert. Herbert has come all right, and Mc Kay and Murphy and Walker - too. The shirts are just the right size. Please ask Mother what the first ones cost, and let me know. Herbert has brought the books, blotting paper, ground ginger, hinges, locks, envelopes and tooth wash. You probably forgot I got a copy of "Nicholas Nickleby" in Washington. Also Herbert brought a very nice pair of slippers which I suppose you got for me. I do not need them, however as I bought a pair in Baltimore, I will not order another pair of shoes yet, for I think my present boots will be enough. I sent home by somebody, I forget whom, a parcel of Company papers. I have got some more papers and some Company Books which I intend soon to send home to you. Please keep them for me. I have written to Capt. Shepard that I shall send these to you and that there may be some private papers of his among them, and that he can get them from you at any time. So please let him have whatever he asks for. As we cannot tell when we may move, and as we certainly shall have but little transportation, I intend to reduce my baggage to the lowest limit, and expect soon to send home a box of things to you, to be kept for me. Please tell me if there was anything

I might want in those two boxes I left at Pooleville.

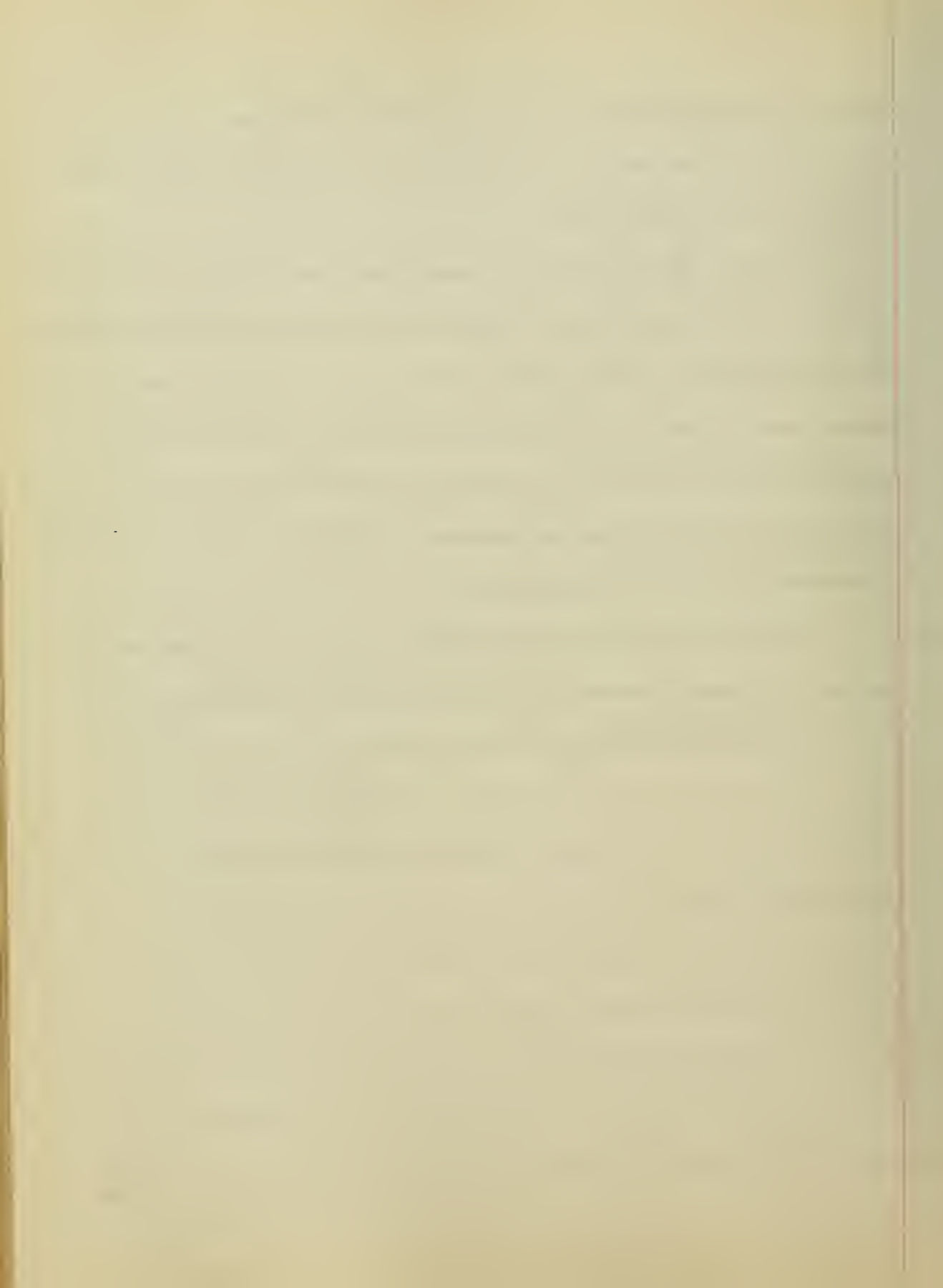
Herbert has had a delightful time and very favorable weather.
I envy him his sleighrides.

I really feel unable to say anything to you about your business plans. I feel unable to come to any very positive opinion, but incline towards the business plan. John Gray's reasons are certainly strong. You would have to give up all hope of a partnership with him, and this is much to lose. I know that you have presented the other side, I feel quite at a loss, but am sure you will decide rightly yourself and shall be glad when the question is settled.

Please send me out 3 or 4 of my own pictures, old ones, just as good as any, for some of the fellows here want them.

Letter for Mary Ann enclosed.

Affectionately
Henry A.



Falmouth Va. March 26th 1863.

My dear John.

I received your letter No. 3 of March 21st last evening. Herbert has paid me for the books &c. which are excellent. I shall be delighted to get the bag. On the whole I feel relieved to think you have determined to stick to law, a lawyer is an eminently respectable person. If I should ever get into the business, I should probably like to have you there, but while things are so unsettled by the war, I am glad you are not to change. Did you ever receive a letter from me about this matter?

North? As to the Negro Regiments, I never said that was the cause of the divided South &c., but one of the causes, and perhaps the principal. You say the Government has no idea of having Negro Officers. Now within a few weeks a number of White Officers have been put in arrest for refusing to report to a Negro Captain at New Orleans, and privates arrested for not saluting Negro Officers. The whole scheme is carried on by a party who believe in forcing the Negroes to an equality with the whites, and in the bill providing for the employment of Negroes as Soldiers, no prohibition of Negro Officers is made. Gov. Andrew has acted very wisely for the success of his scheme in having white Officers in his new Regiment and has picked these

Officers from the choicest Regiments now in the field. I will venture to say no Regiment was ever raised officered better than the 54th Mass. The leading Officers are Gentlemen, and besides most of them have seen a great deal of real service, have shown themselves able and brave Officers in battle and are taken from Regiments of special reputation for strict discipline. Of course with such Officers the Regiment must be at least splendidly disciplined and drilled, and will be splendidly led. But how are Negro Regiments in New-Orleans officered by Negroes and common white Officers? Capt. Cooper, Bank's Staff, Robert's brother, writes that they are a miserable good for nothing mob. I have no more doubt of it than I have that the 54th is a model Regiment. See then what a price we pay for a good Negro Regiment! We take away Officers capable of making a much better white Regiment. You make a mistake, I think, in saying that "they will do to garrison forts &c.". To hold a fort well attacked, requires soldierly qualities as to attack a fort well defended. If Negroes will not fight in one way, they will not in any way. I never saw the principle stated before, that inferior troops will do for defense. I do not believe this is so. If then the expression means anything, it means that "they will do to hold forts, not attacked". But, then the question is: "What need of any troops" or at any rate a merely nominal number of little consequence? In both cases, if the forts were

attacked, we should be obliged to send good white troops to defend them, and what a waste of money and of white Officers it is to keep such useless troops. But it is said that white troops cannot stand the climate. This I doubt, but if so, white Rebels cannot attack in such a climate. Then what is the use of the Negro troops? You reply: "We want men". I say: "We want soldiers, not men". My experience is that poor troops are really worse than useless, and from what I have seen of Negroes, I believe they will make poor troops. The great majority of them must be field hands, not worth more than Negroes, half white. I think then (for the sake of argument, throwing prejudice aside) that Negro troops are useless in the same sense that Regiments of boys under 12 years would be useless, or (if it were possible) Regiments of women.

— There is another and more important aspect of the question. There exists in our country (right or wrong) a tremendous, deeprooted prejudice against the black race. Not against their color, nor against them personally in their own station of life, but against the Negro taking equality with the white. I dare say I do not express myself clearly. I mean that an ordinary American does not hate a Negro servant or laborer, but a negro who tries (or whose friends try for him) to raise himself to his the white's position in life. This is the result first of the evident inferiority of the Negro race to the white; 2^d to the fact that the one race has held the other so long in slavery. Now nobody

objects to an intelligent Negro bettering himself, and filling any position he can, but people object to a party who have for so long striven to force the negro into social equality with the white. For this reason the majority of soldiers in our Army would consider it a disgrace to serve under a black Corporal, or Officers, and would never have enlisted had they expected so to serve. There is no difficulty in enforcing obedience and respect to a white Officer, however stupid, brutal or ignorant he may be, for there is no reason why he should not be intelligent, kind and wise but the strongest feelings men have are these feelings of nationality and social position. You can no more offend this and avoid an outbreak in our Army than you could abolish caste in India.

Now I believe I am no little affected with prejudice against the Negro, as any one can be, but I think it so plain as to need no proof that the Negro race, as it exists to day in the United States is utterly inferior to the white, as inferior as the reptile is to the bird or the animal. Exceptions of course often occur, and were it not for this antagonism of race against race, each Negro, like each white man, would rise or fall to the position in life he was fitted for, but this difference of race is a boundary which cannot be passed. Negroes and white men so naturally are separated as dogs and cats.

Now, in the South, while there is less repugnance to them as individuals, there is more hatred to them as equals. In fact they cannot acknowledge equality and support slavery, and to break up slavery

would not only cause a great convulsion but is what to attempt which
has been bred to consider the most horrible of crimes. With
them ^{the} raising the Negro to an equality with the white is perfectly
insupportable. Thus I say our raising Negro troops has divi-
ded the North and united the South. Divided the North by
breeding dissatisfaction and insubordination in the Army (New-
Orleans, Genl. Stephenson &c. &c.) and by offending the strong preju-
dices of a great part of the people. Uniting the South by making
the question of war not a political matter, capable theoretically
at least of being compromised and arranged, but a question whether
or not to stand by the old institutions of the country and oppose the
awful horrors of a slave insurrection. A Union man in the South
now is thought the same as a man who favors a slave insurrection,
i.e. worse than a murderer. Of course it is foolish to suppose
that I expect the Rebels will actually fight harder in battle
now than they did at Williamsburg or Fair Oaks, but now they
will not give in until they are reduced far beyond what was their
yielding point a year ago. The Americans fought so well at
Bunker Hill and at Bocktown, but the war of peace and com-
promise was open until by repeated acts of barbarity, not the least
of which in the public estimation was the employment of African
troops, had driven the Americans to a determination to have indepen-
dence at all costs, So I think it is now with the South. If

our acts had not been constructively "uniting" them closer and closer, they never would have stood what they have stood and are now standing. The best proof that the South is more united than ever is that they are still united at all. And as to the North. Where is the enthusiasm of this time last year? Where the confidence? Where, I might say, the patriotism? If you think there is the ten thousandth part of it left; if you think that anything but discipline influences this Army, you are very much mistaken. Among the better class of Officers there is patriotism, that is, a determination to stand by the Government and the Country; but I have not yet seen the least enthusiasm anywhere. The Army will fight better than ever, but if it had last year's enthusiasm combined with its present discipline, it would be the best Army the world ever saw.

There is one other view to take of this Negro matter. The Constitution speaks of the Soldier as an "able-bodied, free, white Citizen &c.", and I think it was a tacit agreement with every Soldier, when he enlisted, that this should be the Soldier and nothing else. To use an absurd illustration for the sake of example, suppose the Government should raise a female Regiment? Would not this cause mutiny? Suppose I am ordered to report to a female Captain for duty, suppose a female Colonel is put over me, what am I to do? Or suppose the Government should reduce the pay of the Soldier to \$1. - a month? Would there not be mutiny? Yet, no far as I see,

they have a technical right to do this. I ought to say finally that I do not think we are in such want of men as you imply, and that, if I did, I dare say I would consent to the enlistment of negroes, under two restrictions, 1st = No Negro Officers, 2^d = No Negro non-commissioned Officers ever to be put over a white soldier. These restrictions would obviate most of these social difficulties.

I think it is not a mere question of raising troops, but that this matter is taken as a means of forcing the whites to recognize the Negro as a social equal. The people of America, it seems to me, look on a Negro in much the same way as an English Nobleman looks on a laborer. Both are willing to acknowledge the other in his station, and give him his rights, but to force white men to salute and salute Negro Officers would be like forcing every English Gentleman to invite half a dozen laborers to dine every week, or in some other way to acknowledge equality of social position, which he would not do, of course.

I have written rather a lengthy and disjointed letter, but I dare say you will get from it my reasons for opposing Negro troops, which I do heartily. I do go in for a rigid adherence to the Constitution and obedience to the Government and for enforcing the draft and carrying on the war. But I detest this way of bringing politics into the Army. Men's lives are too valuable to be trampled

with so awfully, and I think it is an awful sin to place a miserable and ignorant General in command of men, because he is of this or that political party. Yet, this is done, even in our own Brigade. Probably Lincoln sacrificed hundreds of lives by detaching Blunt's Division a year ago "to satisfy the friends of Genl. Fremont", as he says he did.

While I am sick of this sort of things of which I see so much, and by no means so hopeful of a brilliant and successful Campaign, as you are, I hope I am as really patriotic as ever, and as determined to do what I can to carry out heartily whatever the Government determines on attempting with this Army.

Leaves are stopped from April 1st, so I shall not be able to come home, even if I thought it best.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

April 2^d 1863.

Dear Sam.

Abbott goes home this morning, and I send a letter by him because it seems as if the mail had completely failed. I have not received letters for a long time. Please say to Mother that the books she sent by Carver have come all right. Please ask Mary Ann to write again any letters she may have sent during the last week or two.

I hope you will see a good deal of Abbott, who will settle your Mr. Kellan heresies with Joanni and other Authorities.

In haste
H. R.

Wilmington, Va. April 6th 1863
Wm. W. W.

My dear Sir.

I have received your letter of March 31st. Much obliged to you, for taking so much trouble about the wear of my Company. I have sent 3 Company books and some more Company papers in the box containing my things and Roberts. Capt. Shepard will probably not call in this paper, as he expects to be back by May 2nd. The Slippers I do not now need but will send for them perhaps by and by. The Buffalo may be useful for a few weeks at home, and then had better be put away like any other skin and kept for next winter.

In addition to the Sock and Vest, I would like a pair of trousers, light or dark blue (the light preferred provided they are as strong and as cheap.) I wish a light, perhaps coarse cloth, serviceable and not expensive. A private of my Company, Fitzgerald, has gone home on leave, and returns by the 15th April. He will call at your Office and will bring on anything. All the prints are done soon. I dare say he would take them. I would be much obliged if you would buy 2 balls, suitable for playing "base-ball". I want them for the use of the Company. I am sorry I did not think to tell you of these things before, so that you might have sent all together, but I dare say it will now be in time for Fitzgerald.

Lieutenant.

Willard has left us for a Captaincy in the 54th colored. He
once \$ Co. - to the Regimental fund of which I am the Treasurer
and I asked him to pay it to you, to be credited to us, and when
you notify me of that, I will assume the debt here, and pay it when
we are paid, which will be very soon now. I suppose this \$ Co. - will
about half pay my indebtedness to you and Father.

I am now acting as ^{Post} Marshal of Belmouthe, while
Holmes is away. Do you know whether Joseph has received one
or 2 letters from me about the money matters of my Company, and
whether it is all right now?

I am glad to hear that Peris (24th) has a good appointment.
What does Jim Perkins think of Negro Regiments? Gen. Hallwell
is, I hear, in favor of Negro Officers. Willard said he opposed them.
We do not think Willard has done exactly the right thing in leaving
us, for he was strongly opposed to Negro Regiments until he was
offered a Captaincy, and then he suddenly changed.

By the way, have you seen a letter from Mr. Clellan about
the capture of Harper's Ferry and the Antietam Campaign? It settles
the whole question to me, and again Mr. Clellan comes out bright
from one of the things he was terribly abused for. The delay in going
to the Peninsula, the delay in returning, the evacuation of Herrington's
Landings, and the taking of Harper's Ferry are the things that
at the time did more to create distrust in Mr. Clellan, than any

others; yet we now see how perfectly innocent he was and how
sure victory would have been, had his advice been followed.
As you said in regard to Gov. Andrew the evil results remain
long after their cause has been shown to be false.

As to this Army, I heard from pretty good authority it was to be
broken up and sent West and South. I do not believe it; at any
rate it seems likely we are to remain some time here. We had a
snow storm yesterday, and much mud. Still I think the Roads
are as passable as they were when we moved last year. I have heard
something about Fair Oaks I never knew before. It seems that by
McClellan's orders a vast quantity of logs had been cut and fitted
for bridges, and piled up close to the Chickahominy in front of Por-
ter's Corps, and ready to be thrown across immediately, and also
logs for Corduroy roads, and it was arranged that these logs
should be carried over by Regiments as soon as the bridge should
be built. As soon as the enemy attacked, Porter was ordered to throw
across these bridges and cross and attack, and attempted to do so,
but the flood swept all away and in spite of his utmost efforts, and
every preparation, he had to give it up. This proves to me that the
attack on Insey was foreseen and provided for, and but for circum-
stances beyond human control, would have resulted in a awful
defeat of the Rebels and perhaps the capture of Richmond.
I am glad you have enjoyed John Gray's visit and have

taken his advice. On the whole I feel easier to see you as you are,
at least for the present. Please send me some stamps. If
it would not cost much, say 2 or 3¢, I wish you would have 100
of each of the enclosed blanks printed for me, on ordinary paper,
and in perfectly plain style. It is not a matter of very great conse-
quence, however. I think a few stamped envelopes with your
and Father's printed direction would be very convenient, and I dare
say not expensive. I give examples of the form for prices. The
words underlined are not to be printed, but room enough left to fill
in in writing. I should like 100 of each, if convenient.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

April 3rd 1863.

Dear John.

Yours de rigis received and will be answered. Please
order for me at Rice's a pair light Army shoes, like those last.
Some manner no boots, single sole, not heavy. Soles not to prot=
=ude, no toe-caps, made to buckle; same as buckle gaiters, Feb.
3rd 1863.

Yours in haste
M. R.

Falmouth 14th April 1863.
Tuesday A.M.

Dear John.

We have every reason to expect an immediate move, but in what direction, no one can tell. I incline to think it merely a demonstration to prevent the Rebels sending more troops South, and perhaps to cover the embarkation of reinforcements for Hunter and Foster. At any rate, as we may not now be able to see the Paymaster for a long time, I wish you would please send me instalments of \$5.- in each letter you write until I get \$50.- I have now nearly \$300.- due, and the Paymaster was to have been here this week; but this move may put him back.

All well. Cavalry and Wagner went towards the right yesterday.

Yours

In haste

Affectionately

Henry.

Ridgewood, Va. April 1st 1863.

My dear John.

I have just sent a box to Washington, to be sent by Express to Boston. It is directed to "Wm. Ropes, 92 Beccan St., Boston, Mass." It contains first 1 pair long heavy leather boots and one pair Rubber boots which belong to Colmes. and he would be much obliged to you to send them to his Father, Charles S^r. Also one wool blanket, one pair thin boots, (legs cut) or dress-coat waist coat, one straps and watch. This is all I think, but I made up the box in a great hurry and may have forgotten all I put in. I wish you would send to me, either by some - one coming over or by Express, My thin dress coat. It will probably come together with the shoes and trousers I wrote for last. The Straps I returned. I did not want these old ones, but the much nicer pair you sent out to me last June and which I always wore on my best coat. However, no matter now, for I have none. I sent back again the silver watch which is again out of order and will not go. It is no use trying to patch it up any more. it has always been a miserable watch and never went well for a month. Please get some watch maker to allow you something for it and buy me another. I must have a hunter, and a watch that will keep reasonably good time under all circumstances.

I do not in the least care for a handsome watch. No need of a second hand. I dare say this one is too finely made for an Army watch. I see it has a compensation balance wheel, and perhaps it will do very well for home use. I want a watch that can stand hard usage, go in any position, and will not stop when exposed to cold. I dare say a good Lepine watch would be best. Do not send out the new watch by mail.

I wrote to you for some money as the *Trymasta* has not yet come. I think it is shameful to leave us thus 6 months without pay. Did I or did I not send \$3.- to Corporal Humphrey in a letter to one of you, I think Mother or Mary Ann?²

Abbott and Malms are back. Abbott brought me some stamps from you. Received a letter from Father ^{yesterday} dated 11th. Father alludes to the box of Herbert's and my things, which I suppose came all right. The Apples came all fresh and sound, in the box, with the Orange Marmalade &c.

We are ready but as far as I know nothing has yet moved but a few Cavalry toward Warrenton. Day before yesterday and yesterday we had very heavy rains. The river has risen tremendously, say 12 feet. Roads muddy of course. We do not in the least know what to expect or when we are to go. Extra clothing of the men has been sent to Washington and extra baggage of Officers got rid of. I am sorry we were unsuccessful at Charleston, but

fully expected it, and fully expect repulse at Vicksburg. We shall meet with nothing but disaster till we turn over a new leaf. I hope you read Mc. Clellan's reports. Better read again his letter from the Peninsula about the evacuation and about the necessity of forces. This Army may win a victory but certainly cannot follow it up. Our Cross loses 3000 ² years and 9 months more by May 31st.

I am sickened by reading the report of the War Committee or rather of 2 men, one the great opposer of West Point, the other the vilifier of Mc. Clellan. What more can be said in his favor than that he is picked out for constant abuse by such a compound of ignorance and falsehood? I wish I had a chance for a long talk about the recent developments concerning Mc. Clellan and the Peninsula. I have read Everett's speech with great pleasure, and hope the Country feels with him.

Hooker seems to be about a great thing now, if the impossible order to carry 8 days rations means anything. If this is often repeated we shall lose half the Army by sickness; but it may be only for a great march and a great strike and then a rest.

Yours affectionate brother
Henry.

7
Tahawith, Va. April 17th 1863.

My dear John.

Yours of the 11th received last night. Am very much obliged for all you have done. Did 2 Buffaloes come tied together with the box? Mine is marked distinctly "M. Kops". I received the base-balls. Have no doubt I shall like the trousers. Rodgers of my Company was not wounded at Antietam, nor was he there at all to the best of my recollection. He fell out 3 days before on the march completely used up. He died of diarrhoea.

I am glad you got the \$ Co. - Does this pay all my bills? If not, how much is still wanting to make me square? Fitzgerald has not yet come, but I expect him daily. I dare say there is difficulty in getting to the Army now. I should think it not worth while to get any printed stamped envelopes. The paper will be very convenient indeed. I am very glad you all liked Abbott so much. He has written you a most excellent letter about Mr. Clellan, which I have read. I want to ask you a question. In case you find your arguments against Mr. Clellan overthrown, are you ready to come boldly out and stand up for him, and take back all you have said against him? I fear you are not. I fear you have a prejudice which nothing can remove. I fear that, when your arguments against Mr. Clellan are overthrown, you will content yourself with a silent acquiescence.

= cause in the fact that he was, really a great man and that it was pity
he was removed etc. and will not come out and lift up your voice
like a trumpet and show the people their sins and Abraham his trans-
gressions. Now I do not look for a blessing on our arms till this
terrible wrong is righted. God has given us a great work to per-
form, and a great and good man to do it, a man who will not stoop
to low truckling politicians who will not make the slightest effort
to gain popular favor, who does his duty before God according to his
own conscience, regardless of results, and who is therefore unacceptable
to the low masses of the people who hate him because he is an educated
Soldier and a Gentleman and despises popular applause. Mr. Cullam's
friends are not among the lowest of the rabble, but among the middle
and upper classes. If he had gone home like Butler and made
speeches and tickled the vanity of the populace and courted their
favor and talked a little violent radicalism, he might have now
had the Rebellion under his feet, and have been the idol of the people,
and because he would not do this, I like him the more.

Butler and Hooker are the men for the American people now.
Mr. Cullam is only called in when fear has overpowered everything
else and when the enemy is at our gates. Then they rush to him,
him whom they had abused, he saves them, they cheer and kick him
out again.

I have nothing to say against Hooker, as you know, but I

Do not expect to see the Rebellion put down till Genl. Mc. Clellan is in Halleck's place and is left with full control for at least 18 months. Perhaps we must wait till he is in Lincoln's place.

Your remaining objections against Mc. Clellan are true civilian objections. You have read of Napoleon falling like a thunderbolt &c., and you do not understand the real working of an Army. If Mc. Clellan had been let alone, it would have been said 20 years hence that Mc. Clellan dashed on Richmond, Mc. Dowell hurled his forces on the Rebel left, and you would have had the impression that it was like a boxing match. I really think that no one but a soldier can understand the movement of an Army, its size and the rapidity of motion possible is the great thing that it is impossible to explain to a citizen so that he will really allow for it.

Henry Watson was here yesterday and came to our Head Quarters and saw Tracy. No signs of a move yet. Perhaps the storm has frustrated Hooker's plans. Perhaps it is in consequence of our failure at Charleston.

By the way Col. Hall told me that the bridges in front of Porter were really put down and taken up again and piled up after being perfectly fitted. There were 3 or 4 of them, Col. Hall had charge of one. The enemy were constantly sending ^{down} flags of truce, merely to observe the bank, and it was not safe to let them know where the bridges were really to be, when the attack ^{was to be made.} So the bridges were kept for instant use. On the night

of the battle of Fric Oaks, Col. Hall had two entire Regiments in the water up to their necks trying to put down his bridge but could not. Everything was swept away by the flood. By his measure the water rose one foot an hour.

I have read part of the report on the war, and wish to call your attention to one lie, the statement that Mc. Clellan was not at the battle of Fric Oaks, June 1st. I saw him and his staff ride along and heard the tremendous cheer roll along the line, and I remember we feared he would be hurt, because the enemy would fire where they heard the loudest cheer. He rode right to the front, some distance to the left of us.

By the way in this last review, not one cheer was given for the President or for Hooker. At Bolivar the President was cheered loudly, but the recent trials and reports have opened peoples' eyes. This sending home a Regiment to vote the Republican ticket, when thousands of others have done and suffered more and are left here still, has stirred up terrible indignation in the Army. I hope to live to see the day when Abraham Lincoln is brought to an account for all this, but at present we must do all we can to bring Jefferson Davis to an account.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Palmouth, Va. Saturday April 13th 1863.

My dear John.

I have just received yours of the 15th enclosing one from Tom Curtis. Very much obliged for all you have done and very glad I still have some money on hand. I suppose Willard's \$60. - paid off everything. Do you mean I still have \$10.⁵⁰ after paying for my last suit, shoes, papers &c. &c., and my class photographs? I think you must not have paid for the photographs yet. I am very glad to tell you that the Caymaster arrived to-day, and will pay me about \$50. in a day or two. So you need not send me any money in a letter. If you see Willard, please tell him I have destroyed his note for \$50. and Willard's for him of \$10. - and charged the \$60. - to myself in the fund accounts. I do not know what to make of Fitzgerald's absence. I cannot think he has deserted. Of late he has done remarkably well. If you see Riddle you might mention to him that Fitzgerald has been absent without leave for four days now. Perhaps he may have heard of him, or may know of some else coming on. However, if he does not come, you might send me the thin dress coat, trousers and shoes by Express. I hear really nothing. I incline to think the movement is for the present given up, or at any rate is to be altered. The Rebels know all about it now and are shouting to our pickets in a derisive manner about the 3 days rations they are

to carry, just as they shouted to Burnside about being stuck in the mud. It would be strange if Hooker also has been stopped by a storm. The river has now resumed its usual size. I hear that Keitzelman has moved down to Dumfries with 5000 men, also that 40 loaded transports have gone down the river. I can get no positive news. I feel sure the move was to have been made last Monday or Tuesday. Some say the news from the South has changed matters. I have read the Committee Report with feelings of the deepest indignation. It is indeed a tissue of lies. I know about some things; the state of the Army at Antietam, 'Corrigan's Landing &c.', and I know the statements of the Committee are false. The misrepresentations are too numerous to mention. You observe they often say: "a number of" or "several" Generals testified in a certain way, and rarely mention who. One of the few they do name has come out and publicly stated that their report of his evidence is false (Corcoran John), so what may we conclude of the evidence of unnamed Generals? Then note the absurdity of saying the Army at Corrigan's Landing could not march "three miles", when a day or two after it began a march to Antietam. Also see the willy implication that the "heights" of Corrigan's Landing were not occupied till the day after the arrival of the Army (and works thrown up) and that the enemy came down and shelled us, and might have destroyed us. There were no "heights" there. Not a hill 25 feet high anywhere. The idea of digging on the day we arrived was absurd, and besides,

where were the tools? What greater activity could there be than begin-
-ing the works the next day? Our troops were in position by the time
that shelling took place, and the Committee seem to have forgotten
the best proof of it, namely that Mc. Clellan attacked and took
the entire Rebel battery which did shell us. The day of the arrival
there was indeed great confusion, for we had marched all night
in the rain, and in 3 columns abreast, through mud and darkness,
and Mc. Clellan truly says there were not probably more than 50,000 men
then with their colors, but 2 days after there were probably 75,000.
That very morning of our arrival Mc. Clellan rode among the men
and was received with cheers. It was that morning, you remember, he asked
me about the ration of whisky. This was July 2nd and we had a grand
review July 4th. The more I read and the more I think, the more I
believe in Mc. Clellan as the greatest General we have yet found, and
a man of very great ability, and able to handle well a large Army.
I do not claim for him the genius of Napoleon, I merely say he is the
best man we have, and he has been shamefully treated, and that he deserves
the post of Commander in Chief. I think B. Colleck has proved
himself a most miserable General. I want to see Mc. Clellan
in Colleck's place, and a Secretary of War who will carry out fully
the wishes of the commander in chief. That report will do great harm
to Mc. Clellan among people at home, but it will do him good among
military men, especially those who have been with him. If he is not now

embittered against the President and the Government he is not a mortal man. He must hate and despise them from the bottom of his heart.

We are still ready with our 8 days rations. Our horse will be very useful. Herbert desires to be remembered. So have Tritter, Abbott and others very often. To-day warm and pleasant - roads quite preferable. Col. Mason and Captains Robeson and Grafton (2^d) were over here to-day.

Our Corps is the only one that is not supplied with pack-mules. This may mean we are not to want them. But, on the contrary, I have heard that the old 2^d Corps is to be shoved ahead again, as of old. Couch is Senior Major General, no Summer war.

I hope you have read "Halleck's report reviewed in the light of facts" also Peterson's pamphlet "Military Review of Campaigns" in Virginia, Maryland, &c. The first I have read and like very much. The 2^d Herbert says is excellent. I intend to read it.

I believe I have nothing more to tell you.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Glad you are Clerk of Trinity Church.

Falmouth, Va. April 22^d 1863.

My dear John.

I have no letters to answer from you. I received a most patriotic letter from Charley Grinnell yesterday. He is to visit Boston soon. I am sure you will look out for him. You remember how kind his father was to us. I intend to answer his letter very soon.

We have been paid off and I shall send home but \$50.- to you, because I have not many debts at home. I shall also send to you \$30.- to be put in the Savings Bank for Theophilus Chase, private of my Company. Please send me back the receipt to give to him. The whole Regiment has subscribed largely to the relief of the Irish. As we have seen by the papers that Joseph is on a Committee to collect funds, several of the Companies have brought me their subscriptions and asked me to send it to him. I enclose a letter to Joseph about the matter.

I hear Fitzgerald has deserted. Quartermaster's Sergeant, Barker, has gone home on furlough and is to bring out several things for Mr. Polson, and his brother (your class-mate) will call on you to take any small parcel for me, which he will give to Barker. You might thus send out the trousers and perhaps the boots or coat. Some of the paper might be sent by mail as newspapers.

enclose a draft on you for \$107. - \$30. - for choice. \$27. - for me. I
enclose to Joseph an order for \$38. of which he will pay you \$23. -
which with your \$27. - makes (\$23 + 27 = \$50.) Fifty.

No more. All the same.

affectionate brother
Henry.

Wilmington, Va. Wednesday
April 23^d 1863.

Dear John.

I enclose another draft for \$30.- for Mrs. Patrick O'Hara. It did not come in time for the first lot. Mr. John S. Roberts will call at your Office and get it for her. I have no letters to answer. Pouring rain to day. We hear reports that General Crocker has had a fall from his horse and is out of his mind. No signs of a move yet. Cowgill has gone home on leave. All well. I hope you will manage to send out my coat, shoes, &c. soon.

Please send me 3 or 4 of my photographs; old ones will do as well as any. Capt. Murphy wants one of you.

Your affectionate brother
J. Curry.

Falmouth, Va. April 25th 1863.

Saturday.

My Dear John.

I enclose a letter which I should be much obliged to you to forward to Sam Curtis.

I hear from undoubted authority something which I tell you and do not wish to have go further at present, viz: that it was and probably still is, Hooker's plan to attack Frederick'sburg again in front, to accomplish what Burnside failed to do. The recent storm stopped it but a few days ago, the bridges were actually moved down and ready to be thrown across in the same places again. In addition to this, movements were to be made on the right and left. All this I know to be true, whether or not the plan is now given up. I cannot say, but think not. Another thing; Meade has been asked if he will volunteer his Regiment to lead in a desperate assault and has of course accented. So you may hear of another Frederick'sburg any day and the 25th will probably be ahead. Do not of course speak of this, or it must not get round. Nothing would so demoralize the Army and destroy the little confidence they feel in Hooker, as to know that he intended to repeat Burnside's move. I certainly hope he will attempt no such mad plan; if he does, it will probably be unsuccessful and certainly barren of important results, and desperately bloody without

doubt. Yet at this thought "Hooker will attempt it and redeem his
boast that he "could take Frederickburg in 2 days". John Gray is
here and dines with us, with him Capt. Wheaton. He looks very well.
I shall keep this open till to morrow, for to days mail has gone.
Sunday 26th.

I received last evening yours of the 22^d No. 13. If you have
not yet sent the box of clothes &c., please put in a quire or two of
medium sized ruled writing paper, and a tooth wash. The latter
might be sent by mail, and if the box has gone, but not the paper,
as I dislike to write on paper that has been rolled up, I have
enough for some time yet.

I heard from a Staff Officer last night that the projected
move across the river here is given up. Couch told them so. Also
that Wilcox's Corps moves to-morrow, and that some troops move
to-day, supposed down the river, also that we occupy Warrington and
that Railroad and telegraphic communication from Washington
there is in working order. Colbeck and the President had a con-
-sultation with Hooker at the Creek, a few days ago. It is thought
that our Corps will not be pushed ahead unless we cross eight here,
and as that plan is given up, I suppose we may wait.

I see in the papers accounts of the scarcity of beef in the
Rebel Army. I do not think this is so in regard to the Army
in front of us, for a large number of Cattle are grazing in the fields

close to the river, and have been there all winter, sometimes more
and sometimes less. If the men were on $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. meat a day, these cattle
would not be safe right on the picket line. I do not place much faith
in newspaper accounts of Rebel starvation. There was plenty of food
in Fredericksburg of every kind, except tea and Coffee which was scarce.
Salt was plenty. The Rebels appear to be fitting up their works
and increasing them. The river has now gone down to about its
usual size. Weather fine.

I perfectly agree with you in regard to the principle of pla-
cing the safety of the Country far above the regard for any one man
&c. But you see, in my opinion, the first step to be taken to put down
the Rebellion and thus end the war, is to displace Genl. Halleck
who has almost ruined the Country, and call back Gc. Clellan
who has twice saved the Country. Of course it is supposed that
the President does not interfere with the Commander in Chief again.
Now, if the Government put in any man, not known to be incap-
able (as Fremont for instance) in place of Halleck, I must
of course support him, but now, as Halleck has proved himself
a miserable General, and Gc. Clellan proved himself the best
we have got, why, I think the louder we call for Gc. Clellan
the sooner we shall get him, and the sooner we shall beat the
Rebels, and besides if we get him soon we shall save many lives,
which (judging from the past) the Government and Genl. Halleck

intend to waste this summer.

I think one can support the Government faithfully and yet see the faults which have been committed and call for their remedy. I would pay my tax cheerfully, lend money, enforce the draft, and in short do everything a thorough Abolitionist would do, but all the time I would vote and speak and do all I could to bring back Mc. Clellan to the supreme command. I rather think you will agree with me in this following statement.

If Gen. Hooker should meet with an overwhelming defeat and the Rebels should take Washington, and Congress and the President escape to Philadelphia and the whole country be thrown into panic, then every eye would turn to Mc. Clellan, the President and Walcott would fall on their knees and beg him to save them. I feel sure of this, judging from the past. A great many people do not want Mc. Clellan back because they think it a "break-down" on the part of the Government. For my part, when we have made a fearful mistake, I say, let us remedy it as soon as we can. If we have taken the wrong road, go back to the fork and take the other; do not try to shove through blindly, for the sake of saying you never turned back.

I hope these views will meet your approval.

Abbott's letter I thought was excellent. It seems to me that your objections to the Peninsular Campaign are about answered now.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Falmouth, Va. April 23rd 1863.

My dear John.

Many happy returns of your birthday. I send with this a pipe I had made for you out of oiled wood which grew on the bank of the river, on our side and under our batteries. It was not exactly on the battle field, but it was where the shells were falling, and I thought you would like it as a sort of relic of Frederick'sburg. The trefoil in front is the new distinguishing mark of our corp. Please accept it as a birthday present. It was carved by a man of the 19th Regiment, and he says the top will be apt to be burnt in lighting it, unless you have a little metal rim put inside. You need not send me any writing paper as I have got a supply.

The great movement has commenced, and our Division is, I hear, to be left to cover this front for the present. We are under marching orders. I also hear that the real attack is to be made in front here, and that the movements up the river are feints. I can hardly believe this; it seems like stark madness. You may hear exciting news very soon. I sometimes think the entire thing may be a great feint, but it is generally thought that we are on the eve of a great battle. To-day it is cloudy and looks like a storm to-morrow. Shall perhaps be unable to write again for some days.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Falmouth, Va. April 29th 1863.

My dear John.

We are still here, and as yet there has been no great battle. I heard there was some firing far on the right yesterday. 2 deserters came over this morning; they say they want to avoid the fighting. The Rebels know we are up to something. As far as I can make it out, the whole of the Army, except the 2^d Corps, has gone down to make a grand attack on the enemy's right, and of our Corps 2 Divisions are sent to our right to make a diversion, and one Division, now kept here to picket the front. So we stand a chance of not being in this time. Some firing was heard far on the left at about 8.30 O'cl. this morning, and it is rumored that Sedgwick has crossed there. The enemy have increased their pickets in front. Deserters came over this morning, I hear. I understand the troops are in good spirits, and I am sure I hope for success, but I do not see how it can be decisive, for the enemy have a perfect line of retreat, unless McCook crosses so far below as to be able to get between them and Richmond, while the bulk of their force is gathered to resist the feigned attack on their left. However this would be to give battle with a river in the rear, a dangerous thing. The utmost I expect is that McCook will force the enemy to retire from this line. This morning is foggy, very favorable

for us to hide movements.

I have had no letters for three days. I hope you will get a little birthday present I sent you yesterday by mail. Do not leave off writing.

By the way, have you read Col. Green's (14th) letter? Washington was wiser than Wadsworth thought, and Mc. Clellan was right after all. Truth is great &c. Everyday something turns up to prove that Mc. Clellan was right and everybody who differed from him wrong.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.)

Wilmington, Va. April 30th 1863.

My dear John.

All is quiet this morning, which we hardly know how to explain. Sedgwick lay all day yesterday with 3 bridges across, and more or 2 Divisions over. He has 3 Corps there and Reynolds has bridges below him. The enemy are moving up fresh, and still there is no attack. We have 3 Corps and some Cavalry are moving on the right. We cannot explain these movements. No appearance of our moving. The enemy are occupying the rifle pits in front of us in considerable force.

We have just heard that John Putnam is striving hard for the Colonelcy of the Regiment, and Riddle has written a most insulting letter to Macy because Macy has nominated Patten for the next Captaincy, instead of him. Macy has been most strongly recommended for Colonel by Col. Hall, Gen. Gibbon, Gen. Canich and Gen. Hooker, and how Putnam can have the face to try for it, I cannot see. Putnam is utterly incapable of taking the Regiment physically, mentally and morally. He is a notorious drunkard, and has been living in the Government for 18 months doing no duty, taking a much larger pay than any Officer in the field, and keeping down his betters, and those who have fairly won promotion. And this has been tolerated because everyone pitied Putnam for the loss of his arm.

Putnam has frequently promised to resign and has eluded dismissal, by getting nominally on the Recruiting service, but now that recruiting is over he sees this must stop, and to save himself from the censure he deserves, he is now trying to get promoted over his superior Officer Tracy. Remember Putnam has seen no service whatever, having been wounded in the skirmishing shortly before the battle of Ball's Bluff, and for the last 18 months has done nothing but loaf about bars, rooms and brothels and spend the money he has in honorable rights.

It is an insult to the Regiment to promote Decher, but as he is reported to be on the verge of the grave this will probably be of little moment. We must not let compassion for a wounded man blind our eyes to the real rights of a Regiment. Decher is an utterly incompetent Officer. When he commanded the Regiment in face of the enemy on the march from Harper's Ferry, when we were actually in line of battle and loaded and primed and expecting a battle, he got drunk and was incapable of using the small brains he possessed and when we got to Exhauzeth he and Capt. Shepard were superseded by Tracy, by order of Genl. Howard (Commanding Division) on the ground that they were utterly incompetent. Decher then resigned on Surgeon's Certificate of mental disability. We then went into the battle of Frederick'sburg, Tracy commanding over the heads of his two incompetent superiors, and there Tracy showed that he was fully equal to his post, and received the public thanks of Col. Ball and Genl.

Howard. Shepard and Decker were both wounded. Decker's resignation was in the meantime accepted and he was honorably discharged the service. The Governor immediately promoted him to Major and subsequently to Lieut. Colonel, and now, I understand, to Colonel. There is nothing to excuse this. Gov. Andrew was most fully informed of Decker's incapacity. I myself saw the medical letter Dr. Hayward wrote to him, and the Governor knew that before he was last wounded he was incompetent in the opinion of his superiors in rank here. He was promoted then, when both physically and mentally incompetent, and judged so by the highest medical and military authorities. You probably know that he was promoted in accordance with a promise given to the German Abolition Club of which he was a member, who appealed publicly to the Governor.

However, I say no more about him because he can hardly be held responsible, being half crazy and lying at death's door. The Governor, however, has small excuse after his promises to Macy.

But for Putnam I have no words strong enough. It is no matter whether he succeeds or not, he has lost all claim to be considered a man of honor or a gentleman (in the lowest meaning of the word) and will be cut by every Officer here. He will not be spoken to or written to except as his military rank requires and will be treated henceforward as a dishonorable man scolded.

As to poor weak Riddle, he can be led by any one and

we feel more pity than anything else for him. He wrote a most insulting letter to DeKey. He has done more service than Putnam for he was at Six Oak's, and he has done a great deal of recruiting, but he is a most miserable Officer, utterly incapable of commanding a Company, and physically unable to bear the privations of a soldier's life. According to strict rules both these men should have been dismissed long ago. If either dare to come out, they will be court-martialled, no doubt, but they probably will do no such thing. They only want to ensure a longer period of lazy ease and debauchery, at the expense of the brave Officers who endure the hardships and face the danger, on whose pay they live.

I have written thus fully that you may see the exact state of the case. There is a time when men must speak for themselves. I beg you will spread abroad these opinions as widely as you can, and by every means, not as my opinions, but as the opinions of every Officer here. Let the matter be shown up as it is.

Please tell Father how it stands, and ask every one if they would to see the old 20th disgraced by an ignorant old or a crazy Dutchman for its Colonel.

Please write to me what you hear of the matter and what the general opinion is. You may think I speak too strongly, but I assure ^{you} all is true and we feel strongly about such things out here, where we are powerless to help ourselves, and depend on

our friends at home. Remember, a Regiment is not a Pickens
Hospital for broken down Soldiers, but that man's lives and the fate
of battles are too important to be trusted to incompetent hands,
and besides, that there is such a thing as earning promotion in battle.

I earnestly hope that no injustice will be done and that the Gov-
-ernor will fully attend to the matter and do the right thing; and
I want all to know what is the opinion of the Officers of the 2^d
Regiment now in the field, a body of men whose reputation for
courage and honor is high enough to demand that their opinions
be respected.

All quiet now. No letters from home for 4 days.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

27
Falmouth, Va. May 1st 1863
Y. A. M.

My dear John.

Orders to be ready to march at day light this morning, came last night, and we are all ready, wagons loaded and are waiting orders. The enemy's pickets still occupy the front, and I suppose we shall be relieved before starting. Our Regiment goes on guard and picket here to day. Gen. Howard sent down a very encouraging order yesterday. He evidently thinks they may evacuate. We go to join our Corps which has crossed above. Sedgwick with 3 Corps is below, and has (I hear) 5 bridges over, evidently for a diversion. Yesterday P.M. there was a good deal of Artillery firing, that we could see the Rebel guns flash from the hills here. We none of us know anything of the movements contemplated, but look forward to a rather quick march, to gain up with our Corps.

I have received no letters from home. I send a poem which which was sent across by the Rebel pickets here, a few weeks ago. I thought you might like to see it.

All well.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

May 2^d 1863 A.M.
Falmouth.

Dear John.

We have not moved yet. Some firing on night and left this morning. All quiet now. It seems likely that we shall remain here, but we are ready to march at a moment's notice. Rebels still in front. It is thought there must be a great battle to-day, perhaps the Rebels will evacuate.

I have received safely the coat, pants and shoes. Shoes fit perfectly. I sent you with the other money \$80. to put in the Boston Savings Bank for private Theophilus Chase of my Company. Please put in \$20. more making \$100. for he had given me the other \$20. Then please send me some kind of certificate to give him, to show that he has \$100. there. I have received no letters yet. I am a little anxious to hear of the money sent home. I sent Joseph \$20. in a letter for the Irish Fund.

As to our movements, I merely hear that we are almost in the enemy's rear, and that they must leave or come out and fight with the danger of of Sedgwick's 7500 men breaking through and coming in on the rear. At home we hold Culpepper and probably Gordonsville. Also that Sedgwick lost 2 guns yesterday. We shall no doubt stay here, and perhaps come up at the decisive moment.

All well. We took a lot of prisoners yesterday. There is a story
about a telegraph under the river having been discovered here near
the Brick Church in the papers. It is all untrue, not the slightest foun-
dation for it. The Church is close to my Quarters and is inha-
-bitated by the ^{of the} Michigans. All quiet now, beautiful weather.

Your affectionate brother
Wm. Perry.

4th Alamyth, Va. Tuesday May 5th
10 1/2 A.M. 1863.

My dear Father.

We are back at our old quarters again safe and well. After crossing the river on Sunday, we assisted in taking the works here, and advanced 2 miles beyond Frederickburg driving the enemy. Sedgwick pushed on and our Brigade with a few of the 6th Corps went back to the city, supposing all was well and the great battle won. To our infinite surprise the enemy rushed in from the left and retook the entire lines on Monday morning. The pickets rushed in and for a few moments we had a wild time of it, but our left moved out and held the town and repulsed the enemy. I never passed so anxious and trying a time, our line was weak and the men scattered. There was a most desperate assault from the farther side in the afternoon, and again the Rebels were driven out and their centre pierced by Sedgwick; but they held the heights on their right and Sedgwick was at last repulsed. This morning at daybreak we withdrew from the town our left covering the retreat and crossing last. Altogether we have only lost 2 Officers and 1st man, but the whole 3 days have been far more trying than any battle we were ever in before. Holmes and Murphy are wounded, not dangerously, I hear. On the right, I hear, the fighting has

been awful beyond description, and the number of Killed and wounded on both sides perfectly terrific. I can learn no particulars. I fear we were retreating and have been out-generalled; but our men fought splendidly and we have probably given the Enemy a terrible loss. We have taken Guns &c, and, I fear, lost some.

You will probably learn particulars soon - than I. I fear we have met with an awful repulse and that the Army is almost cut to pieces. However the enemy are as badly off. I cannot well see how our Regiment suffered so little. Our escapes were wonderful. We have done most trying duties which nothing but veteran troops could have done, and if we have not been so badly cut up as others we have that to be thankful for.

Herbert all well. None of my Company hurt.

Your affectionate Son
(Merry.)

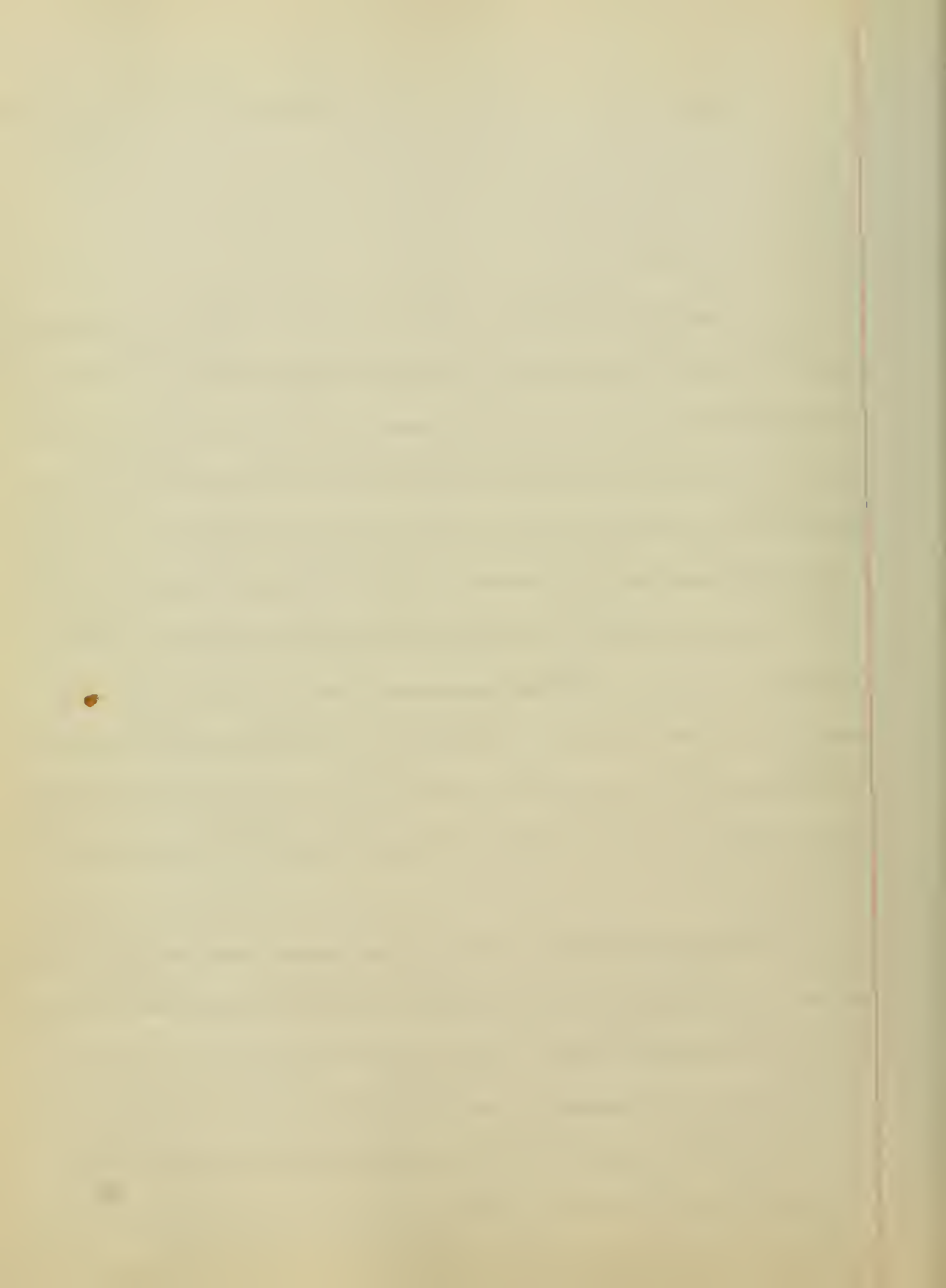
Salmon, N. H. May 13th 1863
1 P. M.

My dear John.

I have written 2 or 3 letters to Father telling him of my safety and that of the Regiment. The grand Army of the Potomac is now back again on its old ground. I hear utterly worn out, dreadfully cut up and much disheartened, with a great loss of guns, small arms, accoutrements, and leaving most of the dead and wounded in the hands of the enemy. I do not expect the enemy will follow us up, and think we can hold on here against all they can do.

I will not say more about the general operations, but tell you what we have done, merely asking you what you think of "fighting here", and whether the "people" are yet so far sooted with blood that they will be willing to recall Mc. Clellan and save the Country yet.

We were ordered to march at midnight of Saturday, and we halted at the "Zacy House", the same old place, while they attempted to put down the bridge. The Engineers were however driven off by the enemy and we lay there till about 6 A.M. of Sunday, when Gen. Sedgwick penetrated the town from the other side (he had crossed below 3 or 4 days before) and came out opposite our bridge and drove off the very small body of Rebels. Gen. Sedgwick



himself rode through and crossed to this side in a boat. We then finished the bridge and marched on passing up the very same street. After some time we were moved far to the right of the town and engaged the attention of the enemy while Sedgwick assaulted on the left. We were here brought under a heavy shell fire and Holmes and Murphy were wounded. I, with Company E went out as Kinniburgh in advance and finally lay close to the canal. We could then see everything and hear the Rebels talking. We witnessed the assault and it was a very exciting scene. At first our men were forced back and the Rebels howled with joy, and began to blackguard us, but in a few moments the line of bayonets moved straight up the slope and carried the heights, and the Rebels fell back making still a strong resistance. We were drawn in and all the troops on the right of the town rushed forward and advanced on the enemy who now opened fire from the 2^d line, but were driven off and pursued by Sedgwick. We were then ordered back to the town, thinking the day was won and that we had gained the greatest victory of the war. We staid that night on the left of the city, and part of the Regiment picketed on the left, where the Rebels appeared to have some force. It seems that Sedgwick drove right on and united with Cooke and that these heights were left unguarded. At any rate, at about 7 O'clock next morning the pickets on the Railroad on the left suddenly rushed in with the enemy's bullets flying

after them, and at the same time they poured on to the heights from the left and we were carried out instantly as Kinnishers on the left. My Company was ordered to hold the Railroad, and before long we had covered the city and had begun to prepare rifle pits. Only our Brigade of about 1500 men (500 of whom were Pennsylvania Dutch Cowboys and sure to run) held the city from end to end, a line of 5 miles, a mere thin line of Kinnishers. The enemy having filled the entire works, advanced a line of Kinnishers on us and we repulsed them and they ran back and did not attack again. However knowing our own weakness we had an exceedingly anxious time and made every preparation to repulse the enemy should they come on again. In the afternoon Sedgwick attacked them from the other side, and after a terrible fight forced their centre, and they began to run away from the works, and our guns opened on them from our side of the river, and it seemed as if we were again to be victorious, but it was not so, and the sun went down with terrible firing on Sedgwick's left where he was driven back a long way.

Early on the morning of the next day, in a thick fog we withdrew and passed over the same bridge, our Regiment covering the passage and crossing last. After a short delay we returned to our old Quarters, where we are now. Last night there was very heavy rain, and the river rose several feet and is still very high with a prospect of more rain.

Trains and Artillery have been passing all day. I hear the Army
has all crossed safely above, where there was heavy firing this morning.
It is said the Rebels are to cross above us, but the Freshet will
no doubt hinder them. I do not know what to expect now, for I
do not know how badly we are defeated, but it looks something like
a retreat from this line. Perhaps Washington is endangered.

I will not attempt any remarks, but I think the lesson is
a plain one to the whole country.

Everywhere we hear of the shameful cowardice of the 11th Corps.
I never had any opinion of them. I am fully convinced that it takes
Anglo-Saxons to fight these Anglo-Saxon Rebels. Dutchmen
and Negroes will not do.

As to the oft repeated statement of Rebel starvation &c., I
know from the prisoners that their rations are short, especially
forage, but they look generally well and strong, and are comfortably
dressed and well armed. I dare say we shall fall back on
Aquia Creek and Washington.

I hear the other two Divisions of our Corps behaved well.
Can learn nothing about friends. Whittier all right. Howard
lost his other arm. Berry killed. Couch slightly wounded.

Shall write again as soon as I can.

Your affectionate brother
Henry

Salem, Va. May 6th 1863.
(O. S. M.)

Dear John.

I wrote you a long account of our doings this morning. I have just heard that Temple is killed. He fell shot through the breast in an advance over the ground lost by the cowardly 11th Corps.

I hear we are not so badly repulsed as I had thought. The 1st Corps hardly lost anybody. Fitzgerald has just come, and I have the watch, socks, papers and Herbert's things all right. I have just received your letter acknowledging the receipt of the pipe. I am very glad it pleases you. The Cont. &c. by Sergeant Baker came all right.

I do not remember whether I ever acknowledged the receipt of Father's letter of the 28th about the watch, yours of the 29th and Mary Ann's of the 29th. Please thank all. I also received seven of our photographs, and one of yours for Murphy, for which he is much obliged. I have not yet heard of the safe arrival of the box containing my old watch &c., nor of the letter to Joseph containing \$26. - in money for the Irish fund, in addition to that sent by draft. I hope all has gone safely.

All quiet now. I hear we may move early to-morrow, probably to take the picket or guard duty off some more tired Regiment. I can learn nothing of our intended movements. The Army

is, I believe, considered "safe." The Regiment has been again outraged by the promotion of Lieut. Colonel Revere, Capt. Shepard and Riddle. If ever a man deserved the Colouncy that man is Macy. Col Revere really left the Regiment, was with it but 4 months in the field and is of course not to be mentioned in opposition to Macy who has done so nobly and commanded us so well in 3 battles. Besides, Macy was recommended by every superior Officer including Hooker. It is really fearfully discouraging to go on doing one's duty and risking one's life and see this all disregarded and such incapables as Shepard and Riddle promoted, instead of us who have done the work and born the hardship. Revere I know, to be such an honourable man that I feel sure, when he understands the thing, he will not stand in Macy's way. Riddle is a miserably low fellow and by rights should have been dismissed under the 60 days order. You Andrew gave Macy the very fairest promises, and now see how he treats him and the Regiment.

You can hardly conceive of a more ignorant and self-conceited man than Shepard, a man who has been actually superseded in the field for total incapacity, and he being an Anti-Sl. Clellan man and a violent Radical is made Major!

I wish a pair of boots from Rice and I enclose a des-
-cision therefor, which I shall be much obliged to you to give
to Rice and see that they are made properly and sent in, when

convenient.

In haste

Affectionately
Henry.

Falmouth, Va. May 3rd 1863.

J. C. M.

My dear Sam.

I received last night yours of the 4th. I have only sent two boxes, one (which arrived safely) contained some things for Herbert and was accompanied by one Buffalo; and the other containing my silver watch and some boots for Malines. I suppose both these boxes have come. If so please tell me. Please tell me if the drafts are all right, if O'Bara's money has been paid to Mr. Roberts and the (in all) \$100. put in the bank for Theophilus Chase. Theophilus was wounded at Fair Oaks May 31st but is now here, and well. I hope Joseph's Irish money came safely. Besides the draft, I sent him \$20. in a letter. I also sent him a draft from Corporal White from which he was to pay you \$23. Do not forget to send me some kind of receipt to give to Chase. Peter Wilkins owes \$30. to the Regimental Fund of which I am Treasurer. I have asked him to pay it to you, and if he does, please keep it to my credit, and let me know, and I will pay the \$30. to the fund here.

As soon as all these money matters are settled and my bills paid, and it is perfectly convenient to you, please let me know how much I still have in your hands, if any.

It was indeed very kind and generous of Father to send me such a splendid watch. I am greatly obliged to him. I have no doubt that the watch I sent home will keep excellent time when not exposed to the hardships of war. If worn on the person or hung up in a room I think it will go perfectly well.

As to the Regiment, Shepard's and Riddle's promotions are infamous. Riddle has made quantities of money by his enlisting and receiving private money from Towns, anxious to get his name for the quota, and besides this his full pay and a large commutation for quarters, fuel &c. &c. Abbott has written him a letter which will, I think, shame him, if he has any sense of shame.

I am also very much astonished at the way you look upon Lieut. Colonel Revere's appointment. He left the Regiment in August, so he and every one else supposed for ever, and Decher was soon after made Major in his place. He never commanded the Regiment and has only been with it from its formation till October 21st 1861 (Ball's Bluff) and from May till August in all about 5 months. And now he has discovered that by his omitting to have himself mustered out (as he should have done) he has been technically Major all the time, and therefore Decher and Macy never were Majors. And, since Macy was regularly mustered out as Captain and mustered in as Major, and since this mustering in was invalid, Macy is now a Citizen, holds no Office, but

through his Reverie's gracious intercession Governor Andrew has kindly made Macy Lieut. Colonel. Now I say and the whole Regiment says that all this is dishonorable, and therefore we believe Reverie was unacquainted with the facts, or blinded, or he never would have done it. Yet, he has written a letter to Macy explaining the matter as above and advising Macy he shall "retain his position" &c. It seems to us all that Reverie left the Regiment and forfeited all claims to his place in it, by accepting a higher rank and pay out of it. Since then Macy has commanded us in 3 terrible battles and done, most nobly and received the praise of his superiors and has fairly earned and fought up to the position of Colonel. Is an Officer to be allowed to leave a Regiment and take higher pay and rank and have an easy time on a staff, and 6 months afterwards come back and take promotion over those who have stuck by through hardship and danger and risked their lives, and lost more than one half their number by wounds and death? I consider it outrageous, and feel sure Col. Reverie has not known what he did. Besides, Macy is recommended in the highest terms by Col. Hull, Genl. Gibbon, Touch and Crocker, and what higher reference can there be?

It is high time that the principle is recognized that the men who really do the work, who bear the danger and suffer the hardships should receive the promotion. Had Reverie stuck by the Regiment, we should have rejoiced to see him Colonel, although I do not think he would ever have made a first-rate Officer, because he had had

no experience as a Company Officer. But now Tracy fairly deserves it, and to take advantage of a legal technicality to oust an Officer who has fairly won his position is a thing I cannot think Col. Devree capable of.

As to movements, we hear that another attack is to be made! But I do not believe it in the least. My opinion is that, covered by one or two feints of crossing, the Army will fall back part to Aquia Creek and part to Warrenton, Centerville and Washington, and there remain till our ranks are filled by conscripts, or until a disgraceful peace is made. Lincoln, they say, is here, but does not show himself much. We are yet to find out how much of this we owe to him.

Have you read Franklin's splendid defense? What do you now think of poor, old, weak Burnside? What of the Committee's Report? What of the Government which puts aside such men as Franklin, Smith and Porter?

The cry now for Mc. Clellan is irresistible; without him there is nothing but disaster ahead. The Army won't bear useless slaughtering much longer, and unless a change is soon made I solemnly declare you that we are hastening fast to a military despotism, and that the outraged Army will be forced to it. I can only hope for the best.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

P. S. Gen. Gibban commands our Division now.

Falmouth Nov. Sunday.
(May 13th 1863) A.M.

My dear John.

I received last night yours of the 6th. I am very glad all the boxes and drafts I sent home have arrived safely. I hope you will see a great deal of Charley Grinnell. I wrote to him not long ago and directed to Boston.

I have read some of the newspaper accounts, and find them wrong as usual, especially in two things; they think the heights of Frederick's woods were retaken from Sedgwick after a fight, when in fact there was no force there and the enemy merely walked in. The only firing was a very little musketry with the pickets just to the left of the tower. We had seen the enemy in the works 20 minutes before we could believe it was anything but a part of our forces. They wore our uniforms as far as I could see. The other mistake is that the first Corps were with Hooker. They came too late for his great battle, and left too soon to be of use in holding the heights Sedgwick had taken.

I have seen a Mil. Mason who was in the 3^d Corps. He tells me the fighting was awful and most bloody. His commanding Officer was killed, and his battery lost about 30 men and 40 horses. Cady's regular battery lost 60 men and 70 horses, yet both saved all their guns. The battle was dreadfully confused. To show you this:

Phil's battery captured 2 of Genl. Jackson's aides both of whom rode up thinking it was a confederate battery and began to give directions. This shows how surrounded our men were. Phil. says the 11th Corps panic was terrible. Our Corps has lost 3000 men, and this almost all from two Divisions! The entire loss is now estimated at 18,000 men! Genl. Lee told one of our Officers that he considered it the greatest victory of the war, and there is no use of denying our total repulse. You know Hooker was reported wounded. He was stunned by a shell and was insensible for some time, and Couch commanded. I now hear that Couch was bringing order out of confusion and had brought two Corps almost into action, and in fact seemed on the point of repulsing the Rebels finally, when Hooker recovered and took command, and being still a little flustered, ordered our whole line 1/2 mile back. They say Couch was doing splendidly. I give the story for what it is worth. There is no doubt that we have met with an awful defeat, and that it was caused principally by the superior Generalship of Lee. Our loss is awful and the Army is disheartened and have lost all confidence in Hooker. There is one vast groan from one end of the Army to the other. There is but one cry: "O. C. Callan and an end to useless butchery".

I hear it reported that Hooker intends to attack again! But as I do not believe he is a mad man I place not the slightest confidence in the report.

The 3 months and 2 years now are going out fast. I do not believe many will reculist. The old veteran Regiments are reduced to skeletons. God grant that this additional 18,000 untrained and unwarred men will open the eyes of the President and his counsellors and get us on while there is any one to save. I hear no cries for peace, no desire to give it up, only a cry for a General who can lead us to victory, for the only General who can and ought.

I don't know that success is possible now. I am not sure that even under Mc. Clellan Armies could be raised large enough and good enough to crush the Rebellion, but I want to see the experiment tried. No signs of a move.

Your affectionate brother
Berry.

Falmouth, Me.
May 12th 1803.

My Dear John.

I have received no letters for the last 2 days. All is quiet here; everything just as before; weather very hot. I hear no news whatever. Col. Revere has come out and taken command. You know how we all felt about his coming over Tracy. Abbott wrote to him and explained exactly the state of the case, but he did not receive the letter and came out not expecting anything of the kind. He was shown a copy of the letter here, and gave the subject his fullest consideration and took advice of Genl. Sedgwick and Couch. In the meantime it was of course talked over by the Officers, and the question of the probable action of the Governor in case of Revere's resigning &c. taken up, and the fact of Revere being ordered to this Regiment &c., and it was generally thought that in case Revere should resign, Governor Andrew would be made angry against the Regiment and would probably not promote Tracy, but Shepard or Putnam, or some such man, and that then we should be worse off. Besides this, we all know what a man Revere is, a man of the noblest character, and an honor to any Regiment. Thinking this all over ^{them,} and while Col. Revere was considering the matter, Tracy determined to waive all claim and accept the Lieutenant Colonelcy under Revere, and so the matter is arranged.

Still, I am sorry to say that Col. Revere's own opinion is that he has a right to the place, which we all think really belongs to Macy. As Macy, however, has waived his claim, it is not for us to differ about it and I am glad all is settled harmoniously. But I cannot but be impressed with the injustice of allowing an Officer to leave a Regiment for promotion and an easy time, and let other men fight through and raise the Regiment to a high state of discipline &c., and then for him to come back and reap the advantages he did not sow. Why should not Fremlett come back when his 9 months are gone and take promotion over Abbott and Holmes? There is not a decent Officer here who has not had offers (like my Provost Marshalship) of situations of ease and safety, and these we have refused, and now the principle is to be established that a man can leave the Regiment, shirk all battles and dangers, and then come back to promotion.

Col. Revere is a noble man, actuated by the highest motives, but the principle is the same, and as far as I see, nothing can prevent Fremlett, Bartlett, Putnam, Schmidt and Pearson from returning to the Regiment and taking promotion over all of us who have fought the battles and really made the Regiment what it is. I am very sorry that Col. Revere ever left us, but am also very sorry that so bad a principle should be established by means of a man of such high character. It is enough to disgust any Officer to see such ignorance and partiality at home, and so much indifference toward the men who

are laying down their lives out here.

As to the state of the Army &c, I have nothing to say. I see no signs of a change, no hope for anything. Nothing but ignorance and party prejudices everywhere. I think things never looked worse than they do now.

Your affectionate brother
W. Perry.

Salmon, Va. May 3rd 1863.

My dear John.

I enclose a draft for \$35.00; the order for the other \$15.00 - I sent before and wrote to you about it. I have received yours of the 2nd of the 3rd. Will send Macy's photograph as soon as I can get it. I send you that of Temple and others which please have just among my other military photographs. Please thank Henry Jeffries for it, if you see him.

All quiet, no signs of a move. Very dusty, signs of rain. We had a Division review yesterday.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Salmon, Va. June 4th 1863.

My dear John.

I have no letters from home to answer. Will you please look over the Company papers I sent to you some months ago, and see if there are any relating to "Company Savings", that is: Lists of different amounts of pork, beef, rice, bread &c. saved by the Company and certified to by the Company Commander and the Quartermaster or Commissary. Also any papers relating to prisoners of war confined in Richmond in July 1862. If you find any of either of these, please send them on to me, by mail, if there are but few, and, if many, by Express. I would also like you to send on my brown linen riding-pants (at stable) and 3 pairs nice white cotton (or some kind of thread) gloves, size Gentleman's S. Also one pair leather gauntlets, dark color, not very thick and with cuffs not stiff, and of best quality. I find our horse much improved, and I ride quite often. Herbert and I think of selling ^{him} and getting quite a good horse, in case we can make good arrangements for keeping him.

There is no news.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Falmouth, Va. June 5th 1863.

My dear John.

I received your letter of the 1st last evening. I am very sorry that your business plans should be interfered with by Joseph's great ignorances of his own character, or rather of his own business manners.

I had quite a talk with Mr. Frost when I was in New York, and he seemed to think the firm was badly organized to conduct the business it did. He thinks William does little good in London, and ought to be in Saint Petersburg, and that the head quarters of the firm should be by all means in New York. He thinks the power is too scattered now. He would be glad to have you with him, but thinks Boston a poor place to learn a large business firm. I should like to have you talk with him very much. But, as you say, it would be foolish for you to try to enter the firm in opposition to Joseph. So, for aught I see, the matter must be indefinitely postponed. I am very glad the business promises so well for the future. I have no news to tell you of importance. A large part of the Army has moved to the right, including the Artillery reserves. There seems to be some apprehension of an attack. I do not expect it, but expect soon to hear of Burnside's defeat and Rosecrans being forced to fall back. As to our position, I think it is a bad one, useless for offence and not sufficiently covering Washington and Maryland. However, al =

= though we should be prepared for every event, I do not anticipate another invasion of Maryland. We hear rumors of Couch's removal, but nothing definite. I send you a piece which Abbott cut from the 'Reclama', especially for you. Also an autograph of the famous De Kay who witnessed against Genl. Porter. The absurdity and vanity of the man is shown as well by his writing as by crasing the words: "obedient servant". His testimony is probably better than Genl. Sykes' on a question of Government trousers, but only Bull would think it important in military matters.

I left off here to take a ride with Abbott, and on returning find orders have come to be ready to move at very short notice, rations, ammunition &c. to be ready. I rather think it is only a precaution, but possibly we may move up a little on the right. I hardly think we intend to abandon this position, though I think it would be better to do so. I also find I am appointed Recorder of a Board to examine Officers of the Corps.

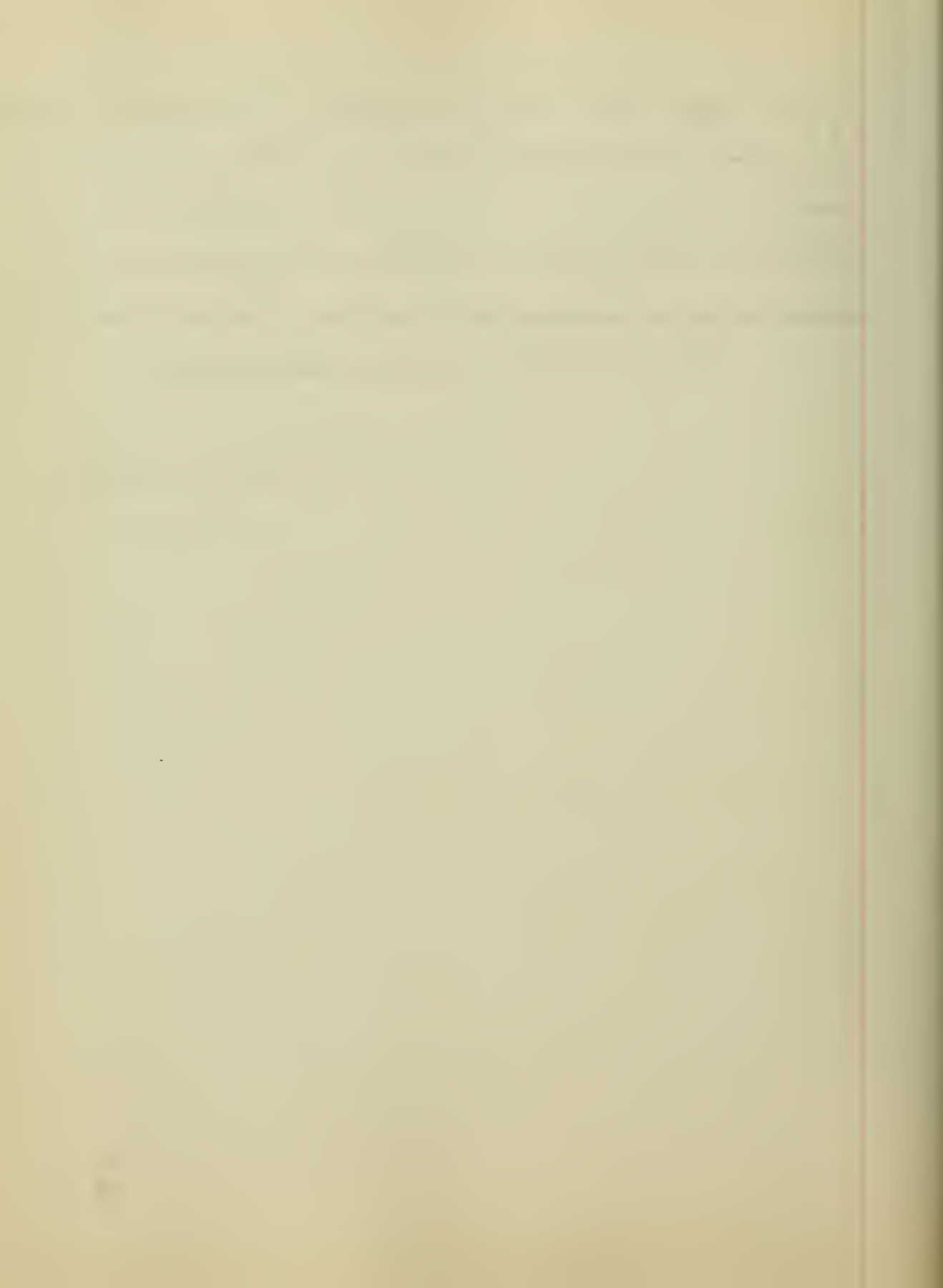
I have received a letter from Henry Burk Meyer, which I shall answer before long. It is of course rather a curious letter. I am expecting the boxes by Express to-day, and hope they will not come if we are to make a hasty move.

In my humble opinion the enemy are scaring Hooker to keep him quiet while they concentrate on Burnside. I have little else to tell you. Col. Revere makes a very poor Officer, is dreadfully

ignorant, and yet thinks he knows everything. He makes a laughing stock of himself before every one in his attempts at drill, and thinks it is the fault of the Regiment. I hope he will have nothing to do if we go into action, for he has no idea at all of military movements, and nothing breaks up a Regiment like mistakes in movements under fire.

All well. Weather beautiful and roads dusty.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.



Falmouth, Va. June 7th 1863.

My Dear John.

Your June 2^d received. Sorry the \$15. - draft mispd. Will send another soon. It was signed by Corporal White of my Company.

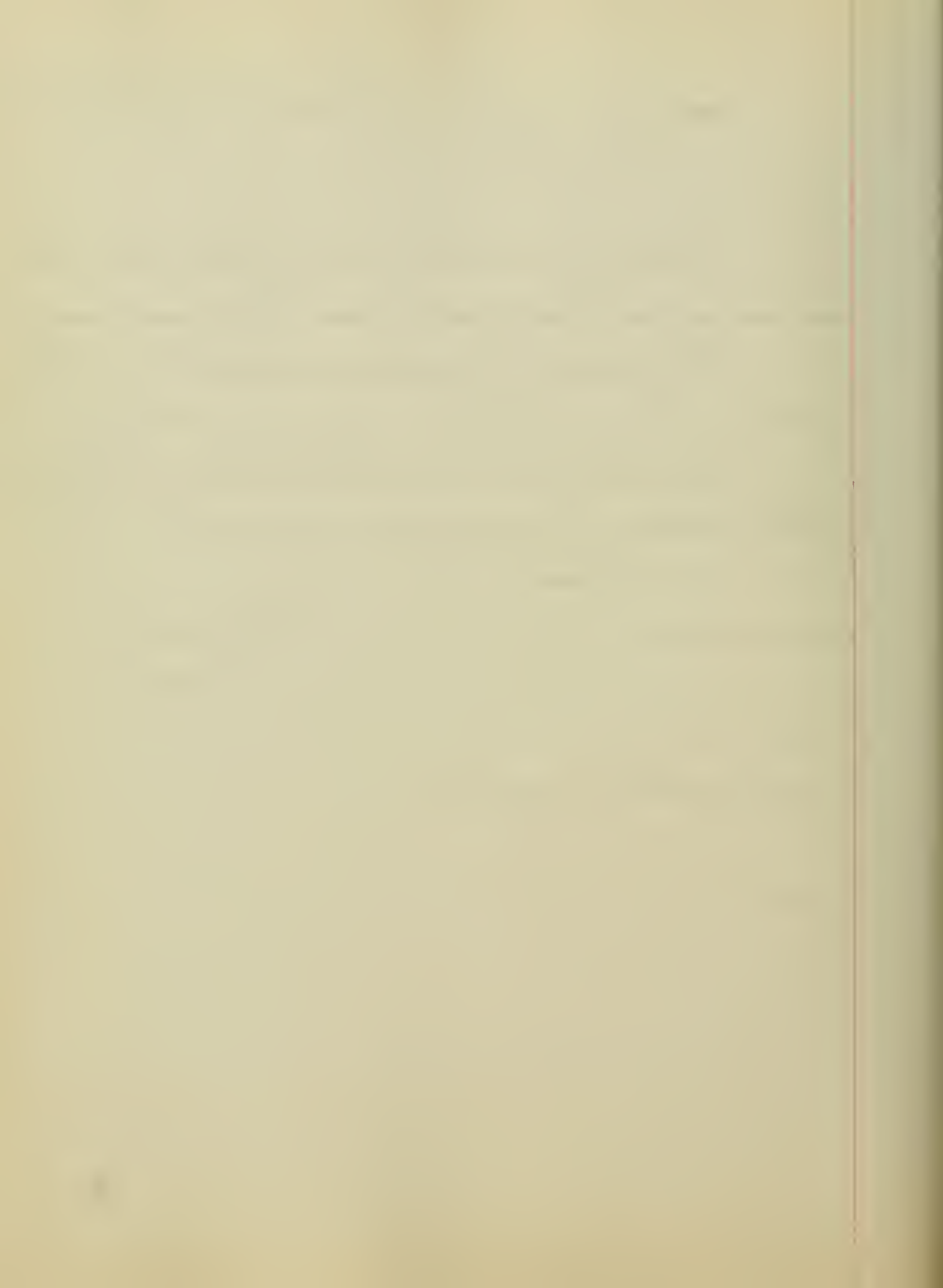
All quiet here. Sedgwick is over below the city. All quiet here. Have no doubt this is only a demonstration.

Boxes all right. Boots excellent fit. Orange Marmalade a little touched. Everything else in good order.

In haste

Affectionately
Henry.

Enclosed letter for Mary Ann.



June 3rd 1863.

Dear John.

I enclose a second order from White for Fifteen Dollars. If you draw this you will have \$100.- from me, enough, I suppose, to pay off everything, which please do. All quiet to day. Sedgwick has about 8000 men over, and is, I hear, fortifying himself. Rebels in strong force in front of him, but they keep close. I feel sure this is only a ruse, and I dare say it is to cover a move back of our Army. Couch has returned all well. Weather remarkably cool for the season. I have asked Mr. Trask to get some Ale &c. for our men, and he will send the bill to you. Please pay it and tell me how much it is. Hooker came down to see Sedgwick the other day, and on being told that the Rebels were in force on the heights and might open on our forces at any moment, replied that they were too "damned cowards" to do it. Sedgwick told him he supposed that if they had been cowards they would not have given him so severe a defeat, few weeks ago. Hooker is as much of a boaster as ever, and more despised than ever.

On the whole I think this Army will fall back this month.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Falmouth, Va. June 11th 1863.

My dear John.

Among the papers I sent home about one month ago, is a parcel marked "Papers relating to the Regimental Fund". Among these is an envelope (probably marked: "Receipts to Voucher 5th," but perhaps it may be on some other voucher) which contains the Regimental Bakery Roll for October 1862, where you will find a sum of money is due to private Bruno Tiesler, Company B. for extra-work connected with the Bakery. This is to the best of my recollection not paid, and therefore not receipted for on the Roll, and if so I wish you would pay the amount to the said Tiesler or whoever may act for him who will call at your Office, and get his receipt for the same on the said Bakery Roll, and charge the amount to me, and let me know when you have done this, and how much the amount is. Also, to oblige Mr. Folsom, I have given him an order on you for \$7. - payable to this Bruno Tiesler, for which he has paid me \$7. - I shall be much obliged to you, to attend to this matter, and it will be a great kindness to Tiesler, who is home sick.

I have little news. Sedgwick is still a crop and has slightly entrenched himself. There is occasional shelling. Couch is relieved and ordered to report to Pennsylvania. Another of our best men gone to join Mc. Clellan, Franklin, Smith, Mc. Dowell and the rest of our

able soldiers. Sedgwick and Meade being both able men will probably soon follow. Then the Hookers and the Sickleses will have full swing and the destruction of the Army of the Potomac will be near.

I am glad to see a gleam of sense in the revocation of Burnside's order. What a miserable, low tool of an arbitrary Government he is. and covers it all over with pious conscientiousness. What = complete humbugs such men are!

I often ask myself how much farther we are going before a crash comes, and how much longer the people and the Army are going to stand the continuance of insult and violation of their rights? Do not think I am getting traitorous. I believe it to be our duty to bear everything in the Army, and if we are led to destruction by ignorant and incompetent men, why, we must go and take our chances, but there is a fearful responsibility somewhere.

The weather here is not very hot, but very dry. We need rain very much. The river is very low. I have received no letters for two days. Please send me in a letter a pair of dark colored thread gloves.

All well. No prospect of a move. Macy will send his photograph very soon. Send yours for him.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Letter for Mother enclosed.

Sunday June 14th 1863
4 P.M.

My dear John.

We are certainly falling back from this position. Sedgwick was to have returned last night and we expect to leave to-night and cover the movement. All sick and baggage have gone to the rear.

Yesterday afternoon and evening there was a very heavy shower, and the troublesome dust is at last laid; now it is cloudy and looks like more rain.

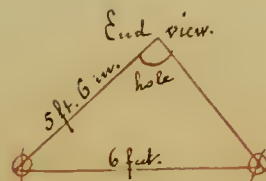
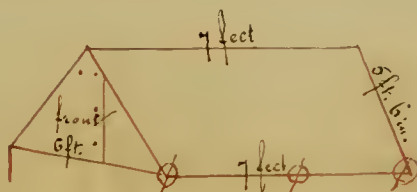
I hear the Rebels are fast moving up toward Bull Run.
All well.

Affectionately
Henry.

Thoroughfare Gap, Va. Tuesday
June 23^d - 1863 3 A.M.

My dear John.

We have been perfectly quiet here and seen nothing of the enemy. Our Cavalry pickets were however driven in by Rebel Cavalry in, before yesterday on the new Baltimore road, but I now hear we occupy Manassas Gap and our communications are open with Centerville. We have been completely isolated, our pickets being in a circle and no communication whatever. I cannot see the object of pushing out this Corps so far and in such an exposed way. No one knows anything of our movements or intentions, or of that of the enemy. I find the light tent you had made for me is much too weak to stand the campaign, and would be very much obliged to you to get me another one made of strong linen. White is the best color but if brown linen is stronger better get it. Of course it must be of the strongest and coarsest material but light. I would like the tent to be longer but no higher than the last of the following dimensions. Each side to be $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 5 ft. 6 inches, the ends to be 6 feet wide at bottom, thus:



I should like the back to be whole, one piece with the sides, and the front to be divided like the back of the other tent. The front to button not tie and to flap over like a double-breasted coat, and both sets of buttons to button through. There must be a small hole for the ridge pole. Cords at ends of course, and loops all like the last tent. If the linen is strong (as it should be) there is no need of a strip under the ridge pole. Three loops on each side and one at each end, as in the drawing. The principal use of the tent is to shed rain, so the material must be capable of being stretched quite tight. I should also like a piece of light and strong bamboo cane for a ridge pole, 8 feet long. I can carry it easily on the horse. You had better roll the tent round the pole and do it up with bagging or stout brown paper, and send it by Express, Sicut. Ropes, 2^{de} Kaso to be printed on the tent.

I think this last trial will succeed, and shall be much obliged to you to see to it for me. Whenever you send anything by Express, please send 5 lbs. best coffee and 2 lbs. tea, & 1 lb. Sugar. The Camibary Coffee is very bad.

Weather fine and cool.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

I have received no mail for 3 days.

Edmund's Ferry near Poolsville
Va. June 26th Friday 2 P.M.

My dear John.

Our pickets at Thoroughfare Gap were attacked by a force of Rebel Cavalry supported by a small body of Infantry at an early hour yesterday morning, and I am sorry to say our Cavalry was driven in in confusion, and I hear 2 Squadrons captured. The (our Regiment) were not engaged but we were under arms and loaded. At about 9 O'clock the enemy were repulsed and we received orders to move and at 9³⁰ marched out of the Gap, and our Division remained to cover the retreat and our very large train. We had quite a skirmish at Haymarket with the enemy's light Artillery and Cavalry, and had 2 caissons smashed and 1 man killed and 9 wounded, all of the 19th Maine, close behind us. Our Artillery went into position and drove them off. We then continued our march without molestation, and after a very tiresome tramp in a pouring rain we arrived at Burn Springs, 18 miles, at about 9 P.M. Here we rested for the night and this morning marched here, 12 miles also in a heavy rain, which has now ceased, however. We are now resting on the banks of the Potomac, right opposite our old camp Benton, and waiting for the teams to pass the Pontoon Bridge. I hear the Head Quarters of the Army are at Poolsville, that

we are the rear most Corps and that Sedgwick is just before us. From all I can learn, I think the Rebels are not in full force in Maryland, and that Lee is near Winchester, and that after drawing us all up here, he will leave Evell or somebody to draw off safely from Maryland with large quantities of supplies and will make a demonstration on Centreville and Alexandria; and thus keep us running about while 40 or 50,000 men fall on Burnside or succor Johnston. However, this is all conjecture, and I earnestly hope he may scare the President enough to make him recall the old deliverer of Maryland.

All well. Please get two linen tents, one for Herbert, both alike and as I described in my last. Please get for me another Rubber Coat, the strongest and best and lightest possible. I hear that the English Silk ones are best, but it must be strong enough to wear through brambles and woods, and as water proof as possible. Please excuse this rough letter. It has just begun to rain again, and I am sitting on the ground and writing on my knee. Besides, my ink has given out.

All well

Affectionately
Henry.

G. C.

We expect to cross to the Maryland side to-night.
Herbert all right. Have had no mail yet for a week.

M. R.

Saturday 27th 9 A.M.

We crossed last night on Pontoon Bridge, and are now
about 3 miles from Polesville. All quiet. Most of the Army
is here.

M. R.

One large tree
meadow

Red Brick House
Barn

Rail-fence

Sitch

H.R. died here.

Slim Tree

Cluster of small trees
x x x x x
x x x x x

40 Small maple
trees

Slim Tree

Gettysburg;

Sketches in pencil by

J. C. R., accompanied by Macy, in October, 1863.

Apple tree
X
with shell in it

Tree
50 oaks



