13 December, 1888.

John E. Ropes
Head Quarters Belvoir 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. Lee 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 Drew, aide to Genl. Robinson in the late action. It will of course be a great 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 view 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. Hall of the 43d, Col. Sally and others. Col. Sally is a great man, and is very often here, and I know you would enjoy hearing him tell of what he saw—
and did. I've got 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 Summer, 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

Henry.
Head Quarters, Bolivar Heights
October 5th, 1862.

My dear John.

I have before me your two letters received October 3d through Lieut. Wilkin, 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 all Talk and see things 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 an old position 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, can have that we could march across in kind 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 armed, I can only say that you have as yet no conception of the vastness of great movements, and the time it takes.
Why, suppose Summer's Corps to be drawn up in line of battle on the Mill Dam, opposite our house, facing 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 fail and facing toward Brookline and Langwood. It would take from day-break till 11 O'clock for the men to march steadily by togethers 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 describe 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 is imperceptible to us. Oh 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.

Romme, besides all this I acknowledge that the notion of some Officers high in command is generally acknowledged to have
been told 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 considerations repeat this or give my authority for the statement. I write in perfect confidence.

I have never seen Walcott. 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 as fast as 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 Summer's Corps in?" Answer: "Yes, 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 with
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 E. M. quite unexpectedly, and has business in the town. She looks perfectly well. Colonel Better. Love to all.

Your affectionate brother

Henry.
Camp 2, 12th Regiment Delaware Heights
October 18th, Saturday, 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. Peter, 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 no little disagreeable as is possible for these most unpleasant of all military movements. No news.

I shall send your pipe by Capt. 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, post, &c. and if the box is lost please order a duplicate copy immediately. I hope you had a pleasant journey. John Shaye came to see you the day you left; thereby proving that you ought to have stayed a week longer, at least.

Please ask Mr. Jones if he can make me a cape 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 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 all your green tea. I am told it is very good for a night of picke's guards, and very nice. I hope you will get your relieve all right. Give them all my love at home, and tell them to write. I shall acknowledge the receipt of the box so, when I get them.

Please let me know if convenient whether Mr. Jeffries or 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. Closes came up to Charlestown day before yesterday. We took 1 gun, some prisoners and 1000 bushels wheat, which last were carried back by a special train sent up from the ferry.

All friends here desire regards. There another expedition now out somewhere 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, etc. Had you lived one day more you might have seen John Gray and a battle, and then driven on to Charlestown with Genl. McClement, 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, etc. from Boston, better than those we get here. Can you call at W. K. Davis Co, or Davis Hardware Co., whichever is the better and cheaper, and get one of their printed catalogues and make some inquiries as to price, etc., 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 2d. I think now Capt. Shepard is acting Major McLean to have command of my Company. I have spoken to the Colonel about it, and I think he will make some change in the assignment of Officers, but he of course does not see it in the same light I do. My friends here, Herbert, Mary, and Milton, all say it is abominable to treat me as I am. Moreover, I shall hope for the best and at present of course I must only endure. Time generally brings all right.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.
Dear John,

We may 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 must earnestly await the arrival of the box containing knapsack stuff. 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 wooden shirt, 2 moderately thick undershirts, and 3 pairs blue woollen socks. All these in addition to the Buffalo skin and the other things I have written for. Also send the extra pair dark blue pants left in the large trunk, close to the blankets, any white ones would do as well. Better get coarse ones, only warmth wanted.

If we march I shall need money, so we shall not get paid. Please therefore, send me by mail $25 or $10 first thing & $5 at a time. Send if possible U. S. notes and small change.

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

On the whole, better send also the thick deep cord and shoes,
in my turn from Marion'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 22, Regiment 8th Maine
October 28th, 1862.

My dear John,

I have received yours of the 24th and am delighted you had such a pleasant trip home, and that you have received the above of Butter my, &c. The man by whom I intended 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 today for the trunk of the Expressed converging into Clowes & 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 rain could see at a glance that water would leak in. Always the seams should be covered with the finest rubber in the gum state, and allowed to harden. I shall cover the seams with wax or paraffin.

Do not let the new tent be made in this way. Let every part be waterproof. If it is not too late let the brick 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, which are 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 tarp 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 army or a box put in a bottle of dark Brandy. Remember's Brandy, as you did lately. Boxes are often delayed and the Brandy rarely comes安全.

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

Last night we had 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 Mary and Shepard, Helbert, Murphy, Hilton, and others send kind regards, etc.

Your affectionate brother,

Henry.
20th Regiment, near Morris, Va. 
November 7th, 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 no 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 snow frozen. I hope you will succeed in getting a light and dry tent. I wonder if it would be possible to get oiled cloth, 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. Bolton's box. I shall try to send home very soon several books by the Express. Do not let them send out any more solid book's till we come to some stopping places. 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,
histories and books of poetry, and therefore do not care to have any but such standard books sent me. I should very much like a "Dictionary Edition" of Scott's Poems, or a part of them, if possible, a volume of Napier's Demonstration, 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 little pan for fat. 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 letter, it may have been partly to the direction. No need of putting in "F Đầu'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. Nones, 20th Mass. Regt., 2nd Corps, 2nd Division, Washington, D.C." I have no doubt "Washington, D.C." is generally enough, but at times get letters thus directed endorsed in pencil "Jedwick". Perhaps "Sumner's Corps, Jedwick's Division" is better than the number.

But love to all. Thanks for the $13. received all right. The people about here are real Rebels and often refuse to sell anything for any money. Gold and Silver however are most eagerly sought after. Can you send me a few gold dollars in a letter? It may be they would go a great way here although they may cost at home $1.20. One or two 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
Here are maid for tea and coffee, and will give you a cheep for a pound or two of either.

Your affectionate brother

Henry.
Camp 20th Regiment, Hermitage, Va.
November 9th, 1862.

Dear John,

Thank you for your very interesting letter of the 31st October and 1st November. I am delighted to hear of the prospects of A.D.F. Please inquire if any of the 31st received from C. B. Porter belonged to Herbst, 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 only) 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. Please see how 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. Drecos was drunk the other day, when we were before the enemy, and in line of battle, and Shepard had to take command. Nancy is detailed as
Brig. Quarter Master and no doubt is glad to get into a decent place. (Do not mention that about Decker, 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 Pattie are my only friends now in the Regiment. I am exceedingly sorry to like 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. Tee, I suppose, will never return to us. Col. Dreyer laid up for months. No Major. Bartlett gone to another Regiment, and the probability of Decker, 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 any-where, a young man with a clear head.

I ain't much interested in what you say about Mr. Boudnic. Perhaps he would like to visit the Army when we come to a stop, I should be delighted to show him around 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 Coland, if you see him. I am glad he is recovering so well! We had a bad looking wound. Send me some stamps and the rest of the $25. I wrote for. I have now received $13. If possible, send a little gold and silver.

Your affectionate brother

Henry.
Camp 20th Regiment, Warrambool, N. S.
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 today the "Atlantic" for November, and 3 papers; no letters for some days. I have received a most interesting and able letter from Mr. Cillett to Mr. W. James. The whole Army is depressed and broken spirited, and full of dependency and indignation at Mr. Cillett's removal. We bid no farewell, and I thought he never looked better, though very sad. Mr. Sewell is no doubt an able man, but I have never 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 Mr. 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. Dr. Rehe and Shepard make fools of themselves every day, and the poor old 20th is the laughing stock of the Brigade, whenever they attempt the simplest movements. A letter has been written to our old Major Levee stating our lack of Officers and begging him to assume his old command. I have signed it most willingly. He is our only hope. Dr. Rehe and Shepard are
fratious at the letter and would not sign. Murphy, how with them. Besides
this letter which is a perfectly respectful, proper and public one, another
letter has been written privately, which only Cabot, Marion, Wilkins,
Curtis, Sutton and I have signed, stating the true case and plainly
setting forth Dorch's ignorance, violence and conceit, and Shepard's
foolishness and all late miserable self-confidence. I hope these
will succeed. If they do not, we feel that any relief would be eagerly sought for.
I mean to stick by the 20th to the last, but the present
horrible state of the Regiment is insufferable. Shepard and Dorch
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, but 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 as impossible
as an Army without food, and amounts to much the same thing.

Love to all.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.
Camp 25th Regiment Rhode Island Volunteers  

Norwood, 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. I consequence of our march, the payrolls are again delayed, and although 2 months were due on November 15th, I suppose we shall have to wait a long time yet for our pay. So please continue to send small sums say $5. or $10. in your letters. U.S. money, gold or silver, is the only kind which passes here. Send one or two, or postage currency, if possible. Food is very scarce here, and very dear, but if we stay, the Commissary will soon deply, we 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 awk ward.

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 looking about with...
the man, and occasionally grumbling. Then he became sullen, 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 payday to collect some debts due him from men in the Regiment. 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 sought among my private papers, the written agreement with James signed in your office, and I think it is there distinctly stated that I would 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 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 yet 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 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 felt 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 what you can, obstine writing paper and envelopes. Cannot now fold them square instead of rolling them up.

I understand "Casey's tactics" are now adopted. Please send me a copy. I also want (when you send a box) 4 pieces soap, ball Swim, my "Army Regulations" (in a type), 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. Of great my confidence in Lincoln and Mr. Lincoln and about some 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. Peace means twice, nothing more. The South must be broken, or the North, i.e. the country, the Republic will perish. If the South conquer, I see nothing but war forever, indeed 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 so the issue, I see our duty clearly to utterly destroy them as a united people. The governing classes destroyed and their places filled with Northern emigrants, the two world 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 Rebels, 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.
My dear John,

I wrote to Father yesterday, giving an account of our march to this place. Capt. Moehn and Capt. 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 Mr. Clellan, I have begun to feel a little as you did. As far as we can now judge, I think Mr. 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, most columns of troops, I hear 5 corps in all, have moved up. Burnside pushed this morning, and the troops are still pressing 3 columns abreast. It is a heavy rain storm, but warm. It rained all night and much of yesterday. No signs of clearings 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 Summer says a "winter campaign" is probable. 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 depression caused by Mr. 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 Mr. 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 intramurally.
I do not care much for Mr. Clellan's complaints about the Quartermaster
Department. Delays may easily have occurred which would
make both his and Halleck's statements true. I think Mr. 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 2
months. Mr. 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 England,
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 spare time, a small 'true pocket' compass, please to 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 equally fail. This I say
not without fairly thinking of the matter, and I think not influenced
by a desire for comfort and 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 Ch. Lever.
Is it a fair picture of the era of Napoleon? It seems quite so to me.
I have Col. Lee's to return to me, and I am amazed beyond
measure. Can it be his intention? I thought he had gone home.

Your affectionate brother,
Henry.
My dear John.

I have received yours of the 12th, enclosing 20 stamped. The lantern, hatchet, etc. were all right, and so were Mr. Herriott's bottles and hatchets. 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 passes when no paper money will. Oldbott'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. I reckon is much obliged to you for promising to get him the blanket &c. Capt. L'Epee 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 3 or 4 miles 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 but now, and I think I must have a new one. I enclose
a description for Nason's use. It ought not to cost more than $24.00
but I dare say you will have to pay as high as $26.00 or $30.00. My
old one, made very large and thick and with a tremendous Cape
was $26.00 only. I have found by experience that a good coat should
be very light in the Kirts 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 others such as buildings, trees etc. Let me have everything.
Better ask Jeffries about it. Herbert has a splendid likeness
of himself, class book size in uniform, but 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 few, including at least one of each kind. Abbott wants 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 12
doz small labels. Also a nice leather stock.

I am very sorry to hear from Abbott and Holmes that the equal-
state of feeling at home is so unfavorable to a continued support of the
wars. They both say that the eventual separation of the country is con-
sidered certain by almost all, and that they hardly think the country
will support the war a year longer. I do, I am disappointed in the
American people. I had thought the country was in earnest, but I
have 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 com-
fortable quarters, still 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
very hard misery. 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 now as well make up their minds to it
first as last. The Army is all right for another year, if the people
at home will. But they are a pretty poor set.

I believe I have no letters to acknowledge. Please do not/
send any more books but what I asked 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
Pocasset, Nov. 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. Elder and Lieutenants Curliod 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 than 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 Clequon 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
I 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 Kinnon street property is lost. I have perfect confidence in your judgment in the matter.

Best love to all.

Your affectionate brother,

Henry.
Camp 23d Regiment near Richmond
Va., November 23d, 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 which I am much obliged. Do you intend to send me for Jervas any receipt (or copy of the receipt) for his $300 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 to know how much money I have at home, if any. I am delighted to hear you have succeeded with the truck. How is a book? I write a sponge when you can send one, about as large when swelled up 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 lack a Commander fearfully. I never felt so low as to yield now, although we are not openly at swords point. We really can do nothing whatever for Mr. Boulieu, although
I should be delighted to aid him in any way. Can you not see Col. Rever (our old Major)? Perhaps he could help him to a Staff either with or under old Summer. I heard a very good story of him the other day. In one of the late battles, an Ollie rode up from one of the Generals with the appalling news that the enemy had got round in his rear! "Then," said old Summer, "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 Acquane Creek. Railroad getting on fast.

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.
My dear John,

I have to-night received a letter from Mother of the 2d 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 at 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 price of meat, sugar, 

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 soon, we could not pursue. Do 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
tion of this day. I want you to get up a box containing a roasted turkey, a pot of Cranberry sauce, a plum pudding, with mince and some mince pies. I am not modest, you see, as to quantity for an 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 pies at home, order me a box of 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. Etc. Etc., 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 suitable 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. I am here desirous 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. Can you 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 huddled, supplies will be abundant, and the men healthy and comfortable.

Abbott
has a nice kick. Herbert and Holmes a tent. I am the worst off of the officers, just thanks to my Buffalo and big Rubber blanket I can sleep warm. I hope you will join 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 81. per lb. and Potatoes 81. per 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 frizzes as I write. thermometer (I suppose) about 25° Fahrenheit.
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 reports by mail, but no letters. I am now 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 I only wait for the Quartermaster to get some better tents to have some to cover it with. We have had 8 days of unceasing cold weather. I hear that several men have frozen to death, not all but those in log huts have suffered awfully. The Army will be Readily 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 o'clock, however, it was countermanded, and here we are still. I have not been told 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, reconnaissances &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 stay gone on picket and I stay to write up the Chief Parole proceedings. If we do not move my house will be most comfortable winter quarters, and if we do move, I can perfectly see we must slow stop. The weather may be unusually favorable, but 9 days such as those we had would disable the Army on a march.

I don't despair of getting my boxes by Christmas yet.

Go to the Regiment; you know McCray was ordered to take command. Since then we hear that Decker is made Major. His resignation for physical disability is now non-voided up and I dare say accepted. 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 tent.

Your affectionate brother

Henry

P.S.

12th December 3 P.M.

We had a terrible fight yesterday. I am unhurt. Cobol killed. Wilkins, Shephard, Mr. Key, 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 28th Regiment near Falmouth

Fr. 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 departure, the Epistles &c. received by Col. Lee. And first the account of these battles &c. The Regiment went out on picket, on the 18th, 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 19th, and we were ordered to march at 5. About that time the firing began at the river, and at 8 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 an open plain which was filled with troops. Our Brigade was to cross first, the 7th leading as skirmishers. They put a position bridge half over and then the Rebels in the houses and from the cellars which they had made into rifle pits pounded in such a hot fire as to drive one man off. The river here is about as wide as a minster. Square is long, and the banks high and especially steep on our side. The 15th Michigan and the 14th 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 were brilliantly flashed. 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. Preble rode up and said the 7th Michigan had volunteered to cross in pontoon boats. This was indeed a desperate thing, but in a few moments one man cried they were crossing, 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 10½ across in pontoon boats. The 10½ noaid me already at the foot of the bank, deployed. Some of the 7th 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 was to capture every armed man found firing from a house, this being, I believe, contrary to the rules of war, but it wasn't of course
closed. In fact no prisoners were taken but the few the Michiganos took and the wounded we lost about struck by our shells. The 1st Michigan was 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. Then a good many troops had got over, we were advanced up the street in columns of Companies, right in front, and Nancy was ordered to follow the Kirmishers; that is the 1st Michigan, and advance into the town, at the same time the 10th on the right, and the 2d 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 1st Michigan man were, on the left, in a kind of alley way, and occupying a house, Nancy called to them to go ahead. Capt. Hunt, their commanding officer was there, and he hesitated and refused. Nancy was obliged to halt and urge him to go forward. Capt. Hunt still refused, saying he had no orders, and Nancy, much irritated, told him his orders, which were very plain, to go forward and follow the 10th. Orders came from the rear to proceed, Hunt still hung back, saying the Rebels were there in force, and no man could live 'round that corner', or some such words. Nancy 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 occurred 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 one, hit in the foot, and shouted to me to take command. 1st Sergeant Campion 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 3rd 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 few 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, A, and
Come up and filled that part of the street my Company could not come.
The fight 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 Whipple probably tried to dis-
lodge them by entering a house on his left. Our guns were getting
clogged, our fire slack, and Macy went back urging requests for
help, and for the Regiments on our right and left to advance, and al-
together to clear the Rebels out. The 53rd 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 chest,
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 fell over I was
shot through. I left the Company to Oppenheim Clark and limped
to the rear, suffering considerable pain. Just around 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
Divindled 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 50't had been got up and were ordered to relieve us, and my few men were allowed to go to the rear with Company D under Perkins. I did not mention that Capt. Deher 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-bearers, however, was shot. Abbitt had suffered terribly and the 50't 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 Abbitt, Herbst 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 all. We got in our wounded and helped them to the rear as well as we could. Just as the 50't gave way the last time, I went forward to where two men were carrying back a wounded Captain of the 50's, 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 their best Officer. Lieut. Mc. Kay was shot first by me in 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 write since 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 I came out the day before his death. How dreadful for his wife! Well, I suppose it had 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 McClellan will fill, unrestrained powers, and the etch overthrow of McClellan and Stannow. 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 hounding to say that the troops fought well, they never fought worse so late as Bow. The Pennsylvania troops and the two 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. When Sumner wants to hold back, others had better not venture. I can see by the lists that Sumner's old Corps, the 2d, 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.

Left off at the end of the light of the 11th. On the 12th there was no battle, troops constantly crossed the bridges, greatly harried by the Rebel shells. We were in the streets and houses all day. Fredericksburg is a fine city. It was evidently hastily evacuated, houses left with everything just as if occupied. The city was defended against us, of course it was given up to pillage. Everything was removed - Ed, Clothes, Furniture, Pictures, Silver, flags and China was scattered about everywhere. There was an abundance of flour, meat,
wall pottery, wine, pickles, preserves, creams &c. were brought out and eaten.

One 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 feminine dress were scattered about; soldiers clinging
their gowns with silk dresses and lace veils. Many tables were broken
open, and potatoes, kernels, 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 unmolested. I saw very little property
sensibly destroyed, that is such things as pictures &c. which could be of no use

to the men. Many windows 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 Oriental, read a few minutes and thrown
down. One would see splendid copies of Byron or Milton, or Scott, lie
screaking about in the mud.

While we were walking in the streets about noon, Muzzy came up
to me and said, "Here is some one you would like to see, Roper." I

turned round and saw Major Willard, looking the same as ever.
I had not seen 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 alone 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 well in it these wars 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 along 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 Artillers 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 finished
from that time but do not think they were wounded. Our Brigade was
marching by the left flank, and the 20th the right Regiment last.
I will give you a plan.

The dotted line represents our march. We were under a tremendous Artillery
fire when near 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 19th 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 or 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 choke the ground. As we got up the slope, the fire was indeed awful. No man could stand up against it. Only the 1st and 2d advanced at all. The 2d gave way in disorder. We had got 1/2 way to the pits, the men began to fall 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 was 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. They ordered the Regiment to fall back to the fence. 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 around. I distinctly felt the balls strike me on the back of the knapsack. I felt proud of 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 fence 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 tobacco. All this time we were under a heavy shell fire from the advanced redoubt, but now our battery near the brick played so accurately as to silence and at last dismount the guns. Thus, however, got up another! This gun was so near we could distinctly see them load and aim. I should think it was no more than from the State house to Charles street. At about 3 o'clock Silly's Brigade came to our support, and advanced beyond the fence, just under the brow of the ridge, leaving us in the 2nd line! A part also were placed behind the brick tobacco. Not long after a very large Brigade, I heard it was Tyler's Brigade of Virginian troops, came up from the road, and formed behind us, filling up the field. I heard they were to advance in the same place. The Rebels opened fire on them and killed many.
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, dwindling 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 hunged 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, Drigan, of Company F wounded 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 them 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 some lay too far and we could not get to them, and they ground all night. At about midnight we were relieved by Syke's Regulars; 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 Mr. Chalmers was indicted.

You see that the whole our Brigade had done a great deal, crossing the first, &c., and that our Regiment had done nobly and
exhibited the first quality of a good Regiment, perfect steadiness. The day after the battle Gen. Howard rode up to the Regiment — called the 9th 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 had done nobly. Massachusetts men always do nobly. Be assured not a life shall be needlessly sacrificed. To-day you are in reserve & 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 in Massachusetts war." These are nearly the words as I am recollected. Gen. 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 even to publish my letters, but now I want you to do this: Write up a short piece giving an account of this drill, 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 steadiness deserve the very highest praise. I want you to write a short article for the Advertiser, just stating how Macy did and what Gen. Howard said. Do not of course use any words, or make any allusion to me, but let it be known for his sake. After Gen. Howard's speech we were taken to the rear near the line, out of the fire of shell, and stood 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) were made not many shell thrown. They began to remove the wounded and we heard we were to be withdrawing 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 Grant, 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 20th N.Y. S. would be always near his heart. He spoke well of the 19th, but blamed the 12th because they were driven in from picket on the place where we fought the next day, and he blamed the 12th Pennsylvania, a new Regiment, because they ran away in battle. He praised the Michigan 77th for its gallant exploit in crossing in boats first. In the whole the 20th is on the very highest shelf.

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. I am acknowledging the receipt of $490, and you have before acknowledged, I think, some $100, from C. B. Porter, which I think was from some of my private property at Cambridge. So, I still owe $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 $670. In all probability, however, we shall be paid for 4 months only, now, i.e. $150, 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. Then 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 return the money).

And that Henry Buckner's expenses in coming out were
$22.50, and that Mr. Peters brought $11.50 to me; in all $34.

I enclose the uncle account which you sent me before.

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 had died.
I allowed him to go, and got a man in his place and advanced him
$15., which I borrowed from Quartermaster Tilton, giving him a note
for the amount on you which he will send to his brother and which you
will please have 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. Cobbs lost the one 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 ponda,
2 cans preserved peaches, and 2 cans Struanerics 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) from
some place; 2 bottles brandy, 3 lbs. raisins, 1 doz. Lemons, some Apples
or pears, as convenient. Also please give him $5. to buy for me in Washington
a 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 Robinson, Herbst and Abbott, but besides this, I think he owns 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. I keep miserable time and constantly stop. 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 coroner. Please give it to Louise. 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 forces me to the last. As soon, however, as I get paid I will send home enough and wish you and Mary Ann and Louise cash 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 winners. Perhaps I shall be paid in time yet.

I believe I have finished this enormous letter. I expect Junes 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 letter and note for the Lt. 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 Mr. Hay, 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Day (11th)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Killed:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt. Arbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieut. Wilkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Mc. Kay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt. Curtis</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>2nd Day (13th)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Killed:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieut. Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt. Drehel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieut. Beckwith</td>
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</tbody>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Killed:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 privates: Donnelly and Correa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Sergeant Campion: right arm amputated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privates: Blake, Dillon, and Morrison, legs amputated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Dunn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Killed: [private soldiers]

Wounded: [corporal Rowell and Blankenburg, both mortally, and since died]

Missing: [flennigan leg]

Killed: [private Keenan, windworth, and collier, the last may be wounded]

Total both fights: [1 officer wounded]

Captured: [listed men]

Killed: 5 including mortally wounded

Wounded: 6

Missing: 3

Total: 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 10, 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, nor 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 Anne from me. I will write what to send him back within.

Well.

In great haste.

Your affectionate brother,

Henry.

James takes my watch and some private letters.
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 States. I entirely approve of it. It would be indeed very unpleasant to be left with such a little income as $3,500. 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 possibly 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. Of 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. 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, leave it in your hands to act wise. I am decidedly in favor of selling and putting beyond question the certainty of a decent income.
let me know what Father thinks of my expenses etc., 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 expenses I am 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, as far as you know. Please send a little post paper.

Your affectionate brother

Henry.
Dear John,

I just received yours of the 19th. Major Willard's death is indeed a great blow to us all. Yet I think 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 wish my friends more than now. War does not harden one permanently, but makes one less to be influenced 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 visit with him.

As to the Christmas box, I hope my friends can bring on some things, and if he can only get them as far as Conquay 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 Mr. C. Ellhau's steps to the policy of the present movement. I know (from Col. Hall, privately) that Mr. Ellhau'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 Warrenston Junction heavy reinforce-
ments met the Army, and McClellan had calculated on this and intended
having as it were a trap for Jackson to fall immediately on--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 completing
McClellan is removed. I have no words strong enough to con-
demn the President, the Government, and the whole body. McClellan
or radical party. Every day increases my confidence in McClellan,
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 fasthearted, for I am not. The 25th 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 unsparing one. I can merely wait
and see. Peace would be hailed with joy on almost any terms by
the country, and the Army feeling a conscientious that it has done its
duty, does not care. I will hope, but it is a hope founded on nothing. If Mr. Butler is succeeded by Mr. Clellan, I shall have confidence not till then.

Mr. Boulnois has just arrived, with Charles Whittier, and Gen. Sedgwick. Sedgwick is to have our Corps. Mr. Boulnois has come up to Brigade o' Headquarters now, perhaps to dine. I shall do everything I can to make his stay agreeable. His luggage has not yet come. Abbott, Mary, 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 only 2 missing. Do not let James stay too long at home, and do not let him be burdened or 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. Boudinot 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. Boudinot tells me of your anti-Mr. Cæsson 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 Mr. Dowell case. It is overwhelming. Burnside has proved himself a weak man and a miserable General. In Mr. Cæsson 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. Mr. Cæsson 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 Meigs'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 McClellan's old base, the James river. The greatest blunder of the war was McClellan's removal from Manassas'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 Boulding. Tell Mother the shirt is just the right size. My old ones have become much too small. I want new drawers (linen wool) and socks, both which I wrote to Mother can be sent by mail. There are plenty of mine at home. Please send two dozen needles by mail, and don't forget post paper. I may not write till we get settled down again. Since received $15. from me when he started, and he had $63. 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 out 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 overloaded with a great bag of clothes for himself. I am glad you think I do right in drawing on Mr. Palmer and in my way of living here. I have no doubt you have done for me exceedingly well as to my expenses &c. I have 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 glorious charm the 20th has here.

I am very glad you have determined to sell the Hanover 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籟ion for her letter. I shall answer soon. I shall await anxiously your letter on the war, the battles &c.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.
January 3, 1863
Camp 20th Plymouth.

Dear John,

We have not marched and I hear the orders are countermanded. Weather now cold and clear. Barnum is still here. He has received a letter from you. I am getting somewhat anxious about him. 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. Redman 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 expects 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 not a way of getting them from Washington here.

W.R.
January 3, 1803.

Dear John,

I have just seen the Advertiser of Friday and the 23rd article; I am vexed that there should be errors and cannot think how they got in. It says Nancy commanded because of absence of Colonel, Lieut. Colonel and Major Decker. Decker had not then heard of his promotion, and besides, Nancy was placed in command by order of Paul Howard over the heads of Captains Decker and Shepard, his superior officers, on account of their incompetency. Decker 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 the Corps," i.e. the 2d and 12½ Couch's and Wilcox's, not of the 2d Corps. Neither of these may be of much importance, but I should be sorry to think I wrote so inaccurately. In the whole the fellows are greatly pleased with the piece. What do you think of the letter to Col. Lee? DeLance wrote it.

I have written to Father what I hear 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 cauliflower); 1 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. Hence send a few stamps.

Your affectionate brother
Mary.
Thursday evening January 8th, 1863
Camp 12th M.N.A.

My dear John,

I have had no letters from home for 3 days, but the papers have come regularly, and to-day received by mail the bundle of clothes, viz: 1 pair drawers, 1 pair socks, 1 scarf, and in the socks some post paper and envelopes. Please thank Mother for sending these. They are very well to have, but as I received drawers &c. by Express in the back 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 Jennie 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 abundantly 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 value 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 everything. I hope you gave him a proper posco, in case
he started really. 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 rocking chair linage, and I suppose they are coming in a box. There is James "Police," as Father writes, and perhaps a Christmas Dinner box. Let me know exactly what has been sent. Sister Anna speaks of a new Brandy Baches &c. What are they in?

Bournemouth has been a Corp Headquarters enjoying himself very much the last 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 Magdeline:
Camp 25th January 25th 1853.

My dear John,

I hasten to answer your letter of January 5th enclosing the key to the valise and the Express order. I see, by your slight reference to James and by a like reference in Henry Ann's last letter, that I have received a letter written on about January 15th by you, telling me of James' sickness and perhaps many other things I should be very sorry to lose. Your letter (O!) does much to relieve me 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 Col. Sumner and Col. Howard immediately wrote most earnestly, and advised a most earnest protest "to be sent in by us, saying to pref. our Col. Pollock 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 Andrews 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 backing we are safe. The only reason which Governor Andrew could possibly urge against Belcher and Tracy is their political views. Their ability is too well established to be doubted.

In the way, you sent me 2 second vols. of Dombey and Son. Please send the 3d before long. The coffee in the box did not seem to be like that we need to have at home. It is of a very light color and has an herby flavor, and cannot possibly be made strong. I think it must be infected and not fresh. 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 now nearly out. You know by a recent order, you must now prepare the entire passage.

I am very sorry to have 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 Bouliou was quite unwell and thinks of returning soon to Boston for proper medical treatment. He is now at Capt. Head’s quarters, in a house. I am going down to see him tomorrow. In case he returns in say a week and there is no sign of a move, I want you to come again and spend a month with me. I can get a pass which will bring you from Washington with no much baggage as you like, from my friend Major Wollon Provost Marshal of the Grand Division. It will do you good and make you up. Perhaps you
can get one 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 wars. I shall be obliged to leave you to pay for my letters until I get some stamps.

5 Oct.

I have been to see Bolivar 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 paid as he expected, and I believe he has sent to you for some notes. Remember about 9 months ago Father sent me 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 Bolivar, 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 shamefull to make the old troops idle here 30. Summer has returned. Col. Hill'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 Palfrey has it? I would call down blessings on your head here.

Your affectionate brother

Henry.

P.S. As to James, he has now been away since 23rd December, although he was to return by the 2nd or 3rd January at latest. 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 up his wages for time I did not pay him, especially as I must pay them 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 in my part I was to give him a furlough, and in his at 20 or 30 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 his 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 25th Maff. Volunteers, near

My dear John,

I have received this morning your letter of the 10th, giving your views of the Confederacy 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 did know to give anything more than a reasonably clear narrative, and rarely drew any but the most hurried conclusions. And indeed it is hard for me 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 remove or kill you and had so done to others you knew, all by some mistake they never ought to have made. So I feel it must of necessity behoove an impartial observer, because the decisions of Generals may any day reflect 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 engineering. The instance I give 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 Mahan 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. Clellem from all blame. I have read many critiques on Mr. Clellem’s Peninsular Campaign, but I think yours altogether the best and fairest. I have read You do not attempt too much. Only I might observe if Mr. Clellem was too much 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 campaigns, and indeed on his great retreat. I have carefully read the Prince’s paper and am exceedingly pleased with it, and have made some notes in the margin (wherever I felt perfectly sure I was correct) to explain or alter same 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 so 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. On thing I observe in every book or article against Mr. C. I ever saw. Many facts are stated positively, some of which I knew all about myself, personally, and there I generally find utterly untrue, and therefore conclude that other important facts stated are untrue. The matter of transports for instance I know there were just 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. C. wasted time at Washington and Fort Monroe and omitted to hurry up troops (Sumter’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 Prime does the dreadful consequences of taking Mr. D’Owells’ Corps from Mr. C. just at the critical moment, but much to remind you of it and to press 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 interfered with. His confidence is gone. He must make new 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 those 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 never had existed? This was Mr. Cleveland's case. His advance had already crossed Botaniast Bridge before he was sure that Mr. Russell would not cooperate with him. Now you say he ought to have resigned his own place, for himself and the country to answer. In my opinion he ought, for the country, not to have done it. Mr. Cleveland 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 received a howl of indignation against the Government and set himself at the head of the 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 Four O'clock it was supposed that our force was greatly superior to the enemy, and Mr. Cleveland probably expected to be able to beat them in some way as it was. As to closing the river, of course it is foolish to
I 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, Battery’s Bridge, Zouo Bridge and Alexandria 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. And we wanted this side, as you suggest, the enemy recovering from his first fright, might have so fortified the further bank as to make it impassable 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 my dangers and violations of rules, the river must be crossed and no more men could be thrown over there could be Fed, and this depended on the state of the roads and bridges. I think Mr. Clellan intended to hold the West Side till he could complete the roads and bridge, then bring all our 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 point and to cover the Railroad and communications. 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 Quaquaires 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 Pleasant Hill
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 revictual was perfectly unexpected. A man who came one Saturday
night told me the water was nearly to his shin on Sumner's bridge
and he only got through by a miracle. Henry Burcham had to
come around 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
over the river. Now-new bridges could have been thrown across during
Saturday night and Sunday, I cannot see. This, to my mind, per-
sumably accounts for Mr. Clellan's failure to pursue after the battle
of Pleasant Hill. 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 imprudent to have tried it then.
From that time the enemy were amply receiving reinforcements
which we did not then know of. Go to Gainesville he could not
have reinforced Porter safely then, for you know the order to fall back
to the funds had already been given, and besides, it would take one day
for troops to march from the center to Porter, and it was not till the
middle of the second day Porter thought himself in much danger.
Mr. Cleburne might certainly have thrown his whole force against
Jackson, and attempted to turn the Rebel left, and, if unsuccessful,
to fall back on White Horse, 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 Shenandoah
at White Horse was small, and few gunboats could operate there, and
the roads to White Horse were awful, much worse than the more sandy
roads to the James. I rather think by the time of Porter's battle Mr.
Cleburne 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
from which when reinforced himself to renew the attack and that
Jackson began the fight early enough to force Porter into doing with less
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
ill half hidden. See what splendid testimony comes out in his fame
in these Courts. Martial! Now we are sure he had not the transports
he wanted. We are sure Mr. Downell was included in his plans.
For anything we know he may 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. Downell's co-
operation disregarded, and that he could be one 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 am sure everything went on better under Colle.
Chelms. We attended to comparatively small things, such as the
general cleanliness of the camps and sending the food 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
scarcity, all the lack of vegetables &c. which certainly could be brought
up by this time. I have never saw the least sign of ability in
Chelms. As to our clothing and reclothing, I cannot understand
why the enemy allowed it. It 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. Of
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 the Federal Army.
Look at Franklin's evidence before the Committee on the war.
I think they allowed us to come or go to beat us, and let us go to save
the city. Now, their defenses are doubled, and it would be impossible
to cross here. Else to Burnside showing any particular skill be. 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.
Else to Mr. Clellan's violating the rules of war by violating the Chickahominy,
what do you think of Burnside's crossing the Rappahannock with his
very bridges under the fire of the enemy's brutes?
I think no reasonable man can say that we have a better General
than Mr. Clellan; however low he may think him, I do 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 hardly 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. Either 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 Brannside 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. Where I think of Cabot and Alley and the others before, Lowell and our many friends, I feel that they were murdered, and I must put the crime on 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 truly 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 advisors, restore Mr. Clay, give him full power and, as it were, begin again and try once more what an Orm 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. 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. Cullman, and I have one it is so that I think I have found it. I do fully believe he is the man for the crisis and no one else is. In short I believe in Mr. Cullman.

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

I have sent to Mother an order for a cap. Please see that it is wide across the temples. These straight visors 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 first just to Baltimore, for a few days relief from camp duty, camp life, and to feel free for a day or two. There, at Baltimore, we will say, to meet your stay at some nice hotel, eat like a Christian, take a civilized bath, walk, ride, go to some concert, theatre, lecture, panorama, or some such thing in the evenings. Call on Keighley and Grimnell, 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 a 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. Woman 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 dangers, her anxious mind would magnify to an alarming degree. I would not consent on any account to go home now, but I think this plan about meeting me 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 payday must first come, and then I should have plenty of tin and feel ready for anything. Just 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 so 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. The idea I entertained to have him to Ohio, let 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", "Killer", or "oven" so called by the natives here, and is an iron instrument, merely a deepening pan with short legs and a thick cover with a handle. Thus

![Diagram of a Dutch oven]

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 you can have bread baked, instead of flour and water fried in meat, 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 fireplaces with wood fires, but I understand they are scarce
at home. However, I think you can get one. They cost $5 for $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. Tried 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 reckoning, 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 one $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 afterward
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 it convenient,
to draw the amount at Father's, as 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 when
to send it to. Write soon.

Yours affectionate brother

Henry
January 15th, 1863.

Dear John,

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

In haste

Your affectionate brother

Henry.
Camp 20th Mass. Volunteers, near

My dear John,

I have received your letter of the 12th enclosing one from Curtis. You have probably seen Boulnois 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 goodbye last night at corps Head Quarters, where he has been several days. He expected to start at 6 A.M. today by Railroad to Aquia Creek, thence by Steam to Washington and right on to Boston. I sent a small package of private letters etc., 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 that must have been one such letter, for the first notice I had of James' illness was an allusion to a fuller account in some other letter. Boulnois 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. Old 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. Keaton's need is to send us 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 advised you will be unable soon to get me a full set of Clasky photographs. Will you not better see Petrie and ask him about it, and write to the artist who took the Claskys 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 $120. in all, but if ever I get back I would not wish 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 tremendously. I feel sure neither pontoon, engine, nor Artillery can move to-day on account of the wind. Perhaps we are to try it again. On the whole I believe the 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 enemy's left is the extreme to be expected. The enemy have thrown up new
fortifications in front of Philomath and dug more rifle pits, and therefore it is thought they have sent to the South and West a great part of their force. 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 more may be made, the sufferings of the troops will be terrible on account of the cold and wet and lack of food and tents. 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 the Corps is not to be put forward. Boudinot says that Summer rides his horse and says laughing that he 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 hick, 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

Henry.
Saturday, 1st January 1853
2nd Regiment.

Dear John,

I received today your letter enclosing Twenty Dollars, for which I am very much obliged. I am sure I could not have told Boulva 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 these 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.

So day was fine but awfully cold and we had a review by Burnside. I think I was sufferer more than I did writing the plain one, which a strong North West wind swept for 2 or 3 hours this morning. The cold was I suppose not really very intense, but 25° or 28° 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 file, but there was
a dead silence, and he put it on again. When he got through General
Hancock thought he must get a little enthusiasm out of the poor
frozen men, and rising 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 man 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. I own
the man will always cheer old Sumner, in spite of his recklessness,
but half of Burnside's unpopularity is because he follows McPherson
and because his faults are on the weak side. Our army can have
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 yourself you cannot imagine what a dread-
ful thing suffering from cold is, and how quickly it sickens the
venerable men. I mean continued cold, no sleep at night and waking
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 men 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. Our 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
more the suffering would be dreadful.

No worse here. The Twenty Dollars very acceptable. Tell me what has been done about Frisco.

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

Please send Stamps. Your affectionate brother

Henry.
We have just been drawn up in line and heard an order from Genl. 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 Genl. Sumter &c., and hoping for a great success. Then we have orders 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 West direction, and I heard the other day that Pender's 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.

Oh we ordered as much both at Fredericksburg and Antietam, I suppose we shall not be allowed 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. Oh to the result I incline to think it will be successful to live 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 defense until entirely outnumbered, 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
our such roads a quick advance would be impossible. We shall see.

Best love to all.

Your affectionate brother

Henry
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 north East, no sign of clearing off. Quite cold. The Pontoon trains, entire Artillery and wagons are stuck fast in the mud about one mile from here. Roads awful of course and quite impassable. Troops exposed last night must have suffered dreadfully. I hear they have moved on but are of course without wagons, Artillery or Pontoons. I cannot help think the attempt will be given up. The almost insurrectional, 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 marched at the order with the 15th N.C. charged by Jefferson Davis and proclaimed for President Lincoln. One man of course was perfectly silent, but almost every one expects utter defeat. I'm afraid against how, 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 among men only, but it is very well known that the leading Commanders do not work together, and that Burnside is not made enough to command them, and therefore takes principally the advice of Sumner who has more character than the others. If we may be sure we are in a bad way enough now, and I truly hope the enemy will not take advantage of it. If the move is entirely given up, and the troops are made comfortable, and will understand 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 defeat in battle, and now no leader, Officers of high rank all squabbling and almost talking treason, and the prospect of more hardships and more useless 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 and while I have been writing the rain has set in heavily. I pity the poor fellow marching.

Received this morning Mary Allen's letter January 15th enclosing notes.

In haste.

Love affectionate brother

Henry.

Dear John,

Your letter No. 1 of January 23d received today. Have very little time to answer it now. Will write fully. Joseph is to leave early tomorrow morning. He was to have gone today, but Remounts snow storm prevented. Received duly all money 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 Bouchard. Shall write to him very soon. Received from Whitley $2. to give Smith a present from him. I send home $250. by Joseph to you. How do I stand there?

Shall write you fully about military matters and Pope and Porter. I went on a letter for Hazelthwaite lately, did it go? And you have the sale. Chelan &c. Send me anything now. To move is impossible. All well and desire regards.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Please ask Mary Ann to visit Thannigance and, if possible, Mrs. Humphrey and let Mary Ann spend as much as she thinks well from the five plus of my funds for their benefit.
No. 2.

My dear John.

Your long and interesting letter No. 2 received today. I have not time now to answer you about Mr. Clellan, but agree with you heartily as to the trust due to Genl. Hooker, and that he is not a bad 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 preaching furious war, and has taken steps to get back deserters. He has also set about clearing up and buying dead horses &c.

I have read the two articles in the Traveller, the one a letter (I believe from Mr. Raymond) the other Holt’s review of the cotton case. I consider the first a shameful libel on the Army. Many of his statements I know to be false. For instance, about the Appomattox. This was moved 2 or 3 days before, there was no word of the matter. The day before my servant went to a house in Plymouth 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 stop, viz: Bank’s Ford. Then as to the poyntons having been got up to within ½ mile of the ford, the rear of the train 5 or 6 boats,
were chiefly in the mind not 1 mile from our Camp when I saw them, and I knew that they were thus left all along the way. Judge Mason, who was there, said the enemy's march were very slow, and equal to Fredericksburg, and to see the attempt was a surprise to me. Fully, 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 everyone felt the thing could not succeed, and felt no confidence in Burnside. 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 this desire to save the city that saved us at Fredericksburg.

As to Franklin, 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. Crehore 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 in the shameful unfairness of Holt's running 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 Pleas 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 rush such tremendous evidence as Paul, Sykes and others with Porter, by the foolish evidence of Captain De Kay, for instance about Porter 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 Pope 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 fire is an experienced General bound to obey implicitly the orders of a
Superior he knows to be a fool, which 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. That there is the most serious matter of all. The jury was packed. Meff was known as Porter's bitter enemy. Mastindale was once arrested and tried by Porter, and only Van Allen was Porter's friend. The evidence was public, everybody read it, and not the sentence was announced, one by one. An honorable acquittal was everywhere expected. Those are my present views, but I still feel I have not fully enough, examined the matter. You speak of the insubordination of the Army. It seems to me the Army is a mighty servant who has been most shamefully abused. Of course dissatisfaction exists. One cannot deprive men of their due and lead them on forever to useless slaughter and expect them to shunt 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 me.

All quiet now. Leaves are being granted, and probably during the next 2 weeks I could get a leave of 5 to 10 days. You do not know my Baltimore plan very fully, but I have spoken to Joseph about it, and he will tell you how it stands. Clo 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 refuse you, and if you do not, I shall probably remain here, although I should like a record of a few days on any terms.
Close friends, 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:

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<tr>
<th>From Father</th>
<th>You</th>
<th>Here</th>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>December 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>16 days</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Savings Bank</td>
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<td>15.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>his sister</td>
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<tr>
<td>67.50</td>
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If he wants the balance $50 let him ask me for it. Besides these sums, I believe I, at various times, gave him $200, $30 more. Considering the poor quality of his services, he is more than paid now.

Did you not pay for the doctor? I have left no property here, only $200 due to you, none of which I have collected. I have a very good man from the bank'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 10 to 15 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.
Close to Mr. Clelloon 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 Bond issue scheme, I hope you will not do what you feel is not best for my circle. 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 dry. 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 $15, payable to order of Mr. 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., I sent home by Joseph $20. He was to spend about $10. for poultry in Philadelphia, and I suppose my debts at home do not amount to more than $180., leaving $60. to you with which to pay $10. to Mrs. O'Keeley, and I wrote to you, and to settle for other things in my order. I wish you would let Mary O'Keeley spend what remains, or as much as she can fit, for the benefit of my wounded men.

I hope you will write me an early answer.

Your affectionate brother

Henry.
My dear John,

I was sorry not to get letters from you either yesterday or today, especially as I hoped that in 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 needed 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 business 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—Do not know what you may have written or decided upon, but I most earnestly hope you will come on and spend the 8 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 wish 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 should see our 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 part to bring my baggage to Portland.

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 just 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 etc. 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 his Cho. Carver, now in Boston, Thomas M. Carver, private now in my Company, and Philip M. Carver, private in my Company.
now home sick leave, and Stephen A. Carver, minor, now at home in Boston. Charles is desirous of obtaining all the money left by his father, pays, bounty, &c., and appropriating it to his own use. The next two children, Thomas M. and Philip A., desire to waive their claims to their father’s property in favor of their youngest brother Stephen A. (minor). Thomas M. brought me just now the enclosed paper stating 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 3/4 and Charles retains only his own fourth. Do not this so?

Hoping soon to see you in Baltimore, I remain

Your affectionate brother

Henry
Dear John,

Yours No. 3, 2d February just arrived in regular course. I have written you fully of my probable trip to Baltimore, and will not repeat, but only hope to get it and to meet you in due time there. I dare say I may get it to-night. I am astonished at the size of your account, $750.00. I was only $630.00 when you told me below, if I remember, and I remember nothing but Cord, shoes and Cap, and some odd clothes. However, I have no doubt it is correct. If you come on please bring a list of my expenses. I have written and as follows:

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balance from Presents</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. B. Porter's debt</td>
<td>10.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savings Bank, James</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sent by Josephy</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<td>Draft in last letter to Corporal Parker</td>
<td>17.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>93.45</td>
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<td>750.00</td>
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Price you will have on hand for me       33.00

I really had no idea my expenses were so large, or I should not have given any orders for new things yet. However in your account
you consider Capt. Shepard's note for $23. for Private Wellham, Capt. McKay's note of $40., and R. Pollock's note of $15., as paid. By the way nothing was ever paid to me about McKay's note of $20. when it presented and paid. I have been paid to include the 31st day of October 1862, and have pay due from that time to the present date, viz: 2d Lieutenant pay to January 1st. 208.50
1st in addition from October 2nd. 15.
command company from December 12th. 55.50
This is what I expect to get every day $220.
Then from January 1st I draw at the rate of $110. a month, payment due February 28th.
Besides this I have $50. or 60. on hand.
Thank you for the vegetables. I will give Holmes $2. Please tell me the total cost of my half as this will be for Herberts and my meals. Glad you did not send meat. I will get some in Baltimore.
If you have seen Mr. Clellan. I want to have a talk with you about him. Do not by any means have in the prejudice against Hooker. He has done well this far, and he promises well now. But still believe him to be an unprincipled man. I have heard of his speaking against Mr. Clellan in Washington. In this last battle I have he did really nothing merely set on his horse and let his routed troops rush by him. He probably owes his own rise in Burnside's failure. Do not think him anything like so big a man as Mr. Clellan, but a very
quick and ready man, and a man of experience, education and
courage. I think after so many tributes 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 another
Military, it would create an instant mutiny. Men will not fight (and Officers
will not, of course) and Officers
will not, of course, 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 Buena Vista.

Your affectionate brother

Henry

P.S. As to James Mc. Crahan, 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
promised he would to me. He is a revindicate, 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, you very well.

M. R.
Washington, February 10, 1863.

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

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

Henry Ropes.
Palmyra, Va.
February 24th 1863.

My dear John,

I have received no letters from home for a day or two. There is nothing new here. The time has been very much. Walter 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. A present by Murphy. Patten expects to go off very soon and Herbert in a week. All well. Very comfortable. No Empire yet. Joseph's present of bedding is probably spoiled by this time. Captains Roberts and Carlton of the 23rd spent a day with us this week. Please send me by mail a few sheets of blotting paper. I may not have Adjutant while Patten is away. Have finished the "Pilot." Think it good in nautical matters, but otherwise very silly and ridiculous. Enclosed is a letter for Raw-}

vigan which please give him.

Your affectionate brother,

Henry.

P.S. February 28th.

Wrote 24½ with Lavina's 2½. Also Mother's 23½ received this morning. Please thank Lavina for the sweet meats in the valise which I did not before know were sent by her. They were very nice.
Patten 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 winter for January and
February, so I have now 4 months pay due, and expect soon
to send home plenty of money to pay for Clarks photographs and all
other expenses.
All quiet as usual. River falling but
still very high. The Citizens have 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.
Dear John,

I have received your letter enclosing a map of Antietam. So many officers are going home that you will not lack for constant news from the Regiment. Mrs. O'Mahony lives No. 80 West Cedar Street. Mr. Donough—money is all right. Please ask Mr. Brock if he delivered any money for private Ed. D. Gravos, drummer of my Company. He tells me Mrs. Gravos 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. Officers are now well fed, housed and clothed, and discipline is enforced. It seems more like the good old Mr. Cleland 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 how...
what conditions you would join the firm. I believe truly with you that
you would do better be more happy and in fact live faster, that is second
and learn more in New York than in Boston. A home like ours,
which is the best of all, and a home as 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 prac-
tice 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
Omi, without anybody to put her through and keep her from getting the
dumps and the blues, which are bad things when they get to be chronic.
Mary Omio needs you very much. If I were at home, it would not
be 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 there were only two 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 room
your friends, your society, and be perfectly independent. You would prob-
ably work hard and play hard, and be better for both. You would

find plenty of men and of women too, and very likely of business or law prospects. 
heighten 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 the cry 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. Peck'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 yours and prospectively for mine.

Tell me if ever you got the Soho dance in Washington, and whether you took home safely those little things for me.

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

Your affectionate brother
Henry.
My dear John,

I have looked over this map I sent enclosed, and find it to entirely incorrect as to positions of troops that I thought you would like to see it somewhat corrected. I have 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 lines, but you know those weller. The principal absurdity is in putting the Rebel line so far back. My Company picketed on the right, and my right post was the toll house. The enemy were in a cornfield and on a hill four of a mile or less in front.

The celebrated Cornfield is put too far to the right. It was almost opposite the Church. The 34th New York was the left regiment of Termas's Brigade, and the Church broke them as it did our 22d New York.

All quiet, no news. No letters.

Yours affectionate brother

Henry
My dear John,

I have received yours of the 2d inst. 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 and hurried letter about your business plans, which I suppose you have now received. Did not know that law practice in New York was so different from that in Boston, and 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 now 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 more, they 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 Saulnior is so much better. Mary and Perkins are back. They 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 have a pleasant time even though I cannot enjoy them. I am very sorry to hear that Mary Clay 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 Wedd was here to dine yesterday. He his well alone on Sad. Benham's staff. The General expects soon to have a Corps. He was kind enough to ask me to come on General Benham's staff, and he had the General's permission to ask anyone 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 23rd. Please not to mention this. All well. Cold weather now, roads frozen. Miss Herbert very much.

Your affectionate brother

Henry

Kohne desires his regards.

Dear John. I send "Revel of the Sea" which perhaps can be bound somehow. Also Mary Anna's vest. The cold weather is about past and I take this opportunity of getting rid of everything I cannot easily carry. Please have it carefully kept.

J. C. R.
Falmouth, In 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 Pittin. I have received a letter from Flannigan, 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? Direct to "Private Thomas Flannigan, company K, 20th Mass. Volunteers" and enclose the envelope thus directed in one directed to Thomas Flannigan, New Camp of Convalescents, Fort Barraud, 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 Flannigan as soon as possible, so he is in want of it.

I wish you would order for me at Amsden's a rag 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 expensive. 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 kid binding and put in a back to my old 2' Lieutenant straps, and they will do. Coat should fit nicely 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 in blue. As to the Camp chest of part from Col. Setsville, 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 writing 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. Too much for business.

Tell quick, no prospect of a move. They think at Corps Head Quarters that Hooker will try a great dash before the 9 months and 2 years are up.

I have had another staff offer. Col. Morgan at Corps Head Quarters sent for me yesterday and wanted me to be Assistant Brisket of the Corps, in place of Major Mulline, 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 dull, time generally. On the march, the duties would be arduous and in action serious, coming, although out of danger. Suppose there must be somebody to drive up Stragglers etc., 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 were Patten at the house. Hope you saw the Doctor too. Nancy is very sorry to have offended you. She is as well as ever and an exceedingly happy man. The last news from Philadelphia. We are all disheartened here that Lieut. Colonel Boster of the 5th 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. O'Call's politics, especially a West Pointer, and as Michigan had not had her fine share of generals, it was left to this worthy representative, and new Boster, instead of being a very ordinary Lieut. Colonel, is a miserably inefficient general. One of the most shanied things we have heard of lately is the reading here the 2 New Hampshire regi-

ment to carry the elections, which they did. Their Colonel is a lea-
ding Republican politician. They were nominally sent home.
to recruit, but as this was about twice as big as the average Regiment of our Corps, this base 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 tomorrow.

Affectionately,

Henry.
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 McKay 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, ginger, 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 whose 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 large number 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 Bolesville.

Herbert has had a delightful time and very favorable weather.

Henry has his sleigh ride.

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 S. Ray's reasons are certainly strong. You would have to give up all hope of a partnership with him, and this is much to lose. Now 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 you, as any, for some of the fellows here want them.

Letter for Henry Alon enclosed.

Affectionately

Henry A.
Falmouth, Va. March 26th 1863.

My dear John.

I received your letter No. 5 of March 21st last evening. Herbert has paid me for the books &c. which are excellent. I shall be delighted to get the box. On the whole I feel—rejoiced to think you have determined to stick to law, a calling to 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?

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. One day the Government has no idea of having Negro Officers. Very within a few weeks a number of Colored Officers have been put in arrest for refusing to report to a Negro Captain at New Orleans, and private arrested for not including 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. Chittick has acted very wisely for the success of his scheme in having white Officers in his new Regiment and has picked theg
Officers from the choicest Regiments now in the field. I will venture to say no Regiment was ever raised officered better than the 54th or 70th. The leading Officers are Gentlemen, and besides most of them have been a great deal of real service, have shown themselves able and brave Officers in battle, and are taken from Regiments of especial 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 can such Negro Regiments in New-Orleans officered by Negroes and common white Officers, Capt. Cooper, Brugh's Staff, Herbst's brother, write 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 that what a price we pay for a good Negro Regiment! We take every Officer capable of making a much better white Regiment. You make a mistake, I think, in arguing that they will do less service. To hold a fort well defended, 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? The 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 Northern Free 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, deep-rooted 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; 2nd 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 those feelings of nationality and social position. You can no more offend this and avoid an insubordination 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 crossed. 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 commotion but is what to attempt which they have been bred to consider the most horrible of crimes. With them raising the Negro to an equality with the white is perfectly insupportable. Thus I say our raising Negro troops has divided the North and united the South. Divided the North by breeding dissatisfaction and insubordination in the Army (New Orleans, Gen. Stephenson &c &c.) and by offending the strong prejudices 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 the yielding point a year ago. The Americans fought as well at Bunker Hill as at Charlestown, but the war of peace and compromise was open until by repeated acts of barbarity, not the least of which is the public estimation was the employment of Rebel troops, had driven the Americans to a determination to have Independence at all costs. So I think it is now with the South. If
our acts had not been constantly "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 any-
where. 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 . . .", 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, as 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. 2d, No Negro non-commissioned Officer ever to be put over a white soldier. These restrictions would abate 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 acknowledge and salute Negro Officers would be like forcing every English landowner 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 not find in it any reasons for opposing Negro troops, which I do heartily. I do so in no spirit of 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 trifled
with so awfully, and I think it is an awful sin to place a meritorious 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 Bleeker 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 12th, so I shall not be able to come home, even if I thought it best.

Your affectionate brother

Henry
April 2d, 1863.

Dear Sir:

Abbott goes home this morning, and I send a letter to 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 rocks she sent by Chirre have come all right. Please ask Mary Finn 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. Delano heresies with Jovini and other Authorities.

In haste,

W. T.
Falmouth, Va. April 6, 1863

My dear John,

I have received your letter of March 31st. Much obliged to you, for taking so much trouble about the men of our Company. I have sent 3 Company books, and some more Company records in the box containing our things and letters. Capt. Shippard will probably not call on the prairie, as he expects to be back by May 21st. The Slippers I do not want 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 Sack 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 tight, perhaps coarse cloth, serviceable and not expensive. Of 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 now. 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.
William has left us from Captaincy in the 5th colour. My sons & Co. to the Regimental fund of which I am the Treasurer, and I asked him to pay it to you, to be credited to me, 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 24th will about half pay my indebtedness to you and Father.

I am now acting as Postmaster of William, 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 Perrot (24th) has a good appointment. What does Jim Perkins think of Negro Regiments? Sir Hallowell 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 Harpers Ferry and the Civil War Campaign? It settles the whole question to me and again Mr. Clellan comes out bright from one of the things he was terribly absurd for. The delay in going to the Peninsula, the delay in returning, the evacuation of C. H. B. Ewell's Landing, and the taking of Harpers 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
despite 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
cost 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 probable as they were when we moved last year. I have had
something about Fane's Carps I never knew before. It seems that by
Mc. Chellam's orders a vast quantity of logs had been cut and fitted
for bridges, and piled up close to the Chickahominy in front of Est-
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 out 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 Fane was foreseen and provided for, and but for circumst-
ances 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 consequence, 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 forms for prizes. 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 5th 1863.

Dear John,

Yours de riguirs received and will be answered. Please order for me at Rico's a pair light Army shoes, like those lost. Some moderate no boots, single sole, not heavy. Soles not to protrude, no toe caps, made to buckle, same as buckled gaiters, 5th 6th 1863.

Yours in haste

C. W.
Palmerton, 24th April 1863.
Tuesday 24th.

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 $800 due, and the Paymaster was to have been here this week, but this move may put him back.

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

In haste

Affectionately,

Henry.
Falmouth, Va., April 16th, 1803.

My dear John.

I have just sent a box to Washington, to be sent by Express to Boston. It is directed to "Mr. Ropes, 92 Beacon St., Boston." It contains first a pair long half leather boots and one pair rubber boots which belong to Colonel, and he would be much obliged to you to send them to his Father, Charles Sr. Also one wool blanket, one pair thin boots, (legs cut) a dress coat waist coat, and 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 or by Express, my thin drab coat. It will probably come together with the shoes and trinkets 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 time, and which I always wore on my best coat. However, no matter now, for I have some. I send back again the Silver watch which is again out of order and will not stop. It is no use trying to patch it up any more; it has always been a miserable watch and never will last 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 Zeppine watch would be best. Do not send out the new watch by mail.

I wrote to you for some money as the Paymaster 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 Humphry in a letter to one of you, I think Mother or Mary Ann.

Abbot and Calmes are back. Abbot brought me some stamps from you. Received a letter from Father 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 etc.

We are ready but as far as I know nothing has yet move 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 disasters till we turn over a new leaf. I hope you read Mr. Clellan’s report. Better read again his letter from the Peninsula about the evacuation and about the necessity of troops. This Army may win a victory but certainly cannot follow it up. Our army 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 opponent of West Point, the other the villain of Mr. 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 Mr. Clellan and the Peninsula. I have read Everett’s speech with great pleasure and hope the Country feels with him.

Roister 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 strife and then a rest.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.
Palmouth, Va. April 17, 1863.

My dear John,

Yours of the 11th received last night. Am very much obliged for all you have done. Did 2 Buffalos come tied together with the box? Mine is marked distinctly "Mr. Nokes." I received the baseballs 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 $60. 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 somewhat. 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 overthrow, 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 conduct yourself with evident requisite...
...cause in the fact that he was really a great man and that it was only 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 trespass. Now I do not look for a blessing on our arms till this tremendous wrong is sighted. God has given us a great work to perform, and a great and good man to do it, a man who will not stoop to bow-travelling 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-forest of the people who hate him because he is an educated Soldier and a Gentleman and despises popular applause. Mr. Cellan'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. Cellan 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 saved 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 April. Mr. Clellan is in
Nelles'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 Mr. Clellan are true civilian
objections. You have read of Napoleon falling like a thunderbolt
and you do not understand the real working of an Army.
If Mr. Clellan had been let alone, it would have been said 20
years hence that Mr. Clellan dashed on Richmond. Mr. Bowell
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 is impossible
to explain to a citizen so that he will really allow for it.

Henry Wiidow was here yesterday and came to our Head-quarters
and saw Nancy. No signs of a move yet. Perhaps the storm had
frustrated Hooker's plans. Perhaps it is in consequence of our fail-
ure at Charleston.

By the way Col. Will told me that the bridges in front of Porter
were really put down and taken up again and piled up after being per-
fecfly fitted. There were 3 or 4 of them, Col. Will had charged one.
The enemy were constantly sending flags of truce, mostly to observe the
bank, and it was not safe to let them know where the bridges were really
to be, when the attack. So the bridges were kept for immediate use. On the night-
of the battle of Frie Onko, 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 Gen. Chobain was not at the battle of Frie Onko, June 1st. I saw him and his staff ride along and heard the tremendous cheers roll along the lines, and I remember we feared he would be hurt, because the enemy would fire where they heard the loudest cheers. 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 and Hooker were cheered loudly, but the recent trials and reports have opened people's eyes. This sending home of Regiments to vote the Republican ticket, when thousands of others have done and suffered more and are left here still, has stirred up terrible indignations in the Army. I hope to live to see the day when Abraham Lincoln is brought to an account for all this, but meanwhile we must do all we can to bring Jefferson Davis to an account.

Your affectionate brother,

Henry.
Falmouth, Va. Saturday April 18th, 1863.

My dear John,

I have just received yours of the 15th enclosing one from Mrs. Curtiss. 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. Took $40. and my class photographs. I think you must not have paid for the photographs yet. I am very glad to tell you that the Paymaster arrived to-day and will pay me about $500. 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 $20. and Cougill's (for him) of $10. and charged the $60. to myself in the land 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, and might and on the thin dicky coat, trousers and shoes by Excerpt I have really nothing. I incline to think the movements is for the present given up, 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 8 days rations they are
to carry just so they wanted to Burnside about being struck in the rear.
I would be strange if a vessel also has been stopped by a storm. The
fire has now resumed its usual size. There that Keintzelmann
has moved down to Dunfries with 3000 men and that 30 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 very nice
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 Antiehian
Carriwan's Landing ste., 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 un-
named Generals? Then note the absurdity of saying the Army
at Carriwan's Landing could not march three miles, when a day
or two after it began a march to Antiehian. Also see the silly im-
plication that the "heights" at Carriwan's Landing were not occupied
till the day after the arrival of the Army (and works thrown up) and
that the army 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-
ning the works the next day? Our troops were impositions by the time
that shelling took place, and the Committee seem to have forgotten
the best proof of it, namely that Mr. Cliellau 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 Mr. Cliellau truly says there were not probably more than 3500 men
then with their colors, but 2 days after there were probably 7500.
That very morning of our arrival Mr. Cliellau 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 23 and we had a grand
review July 29. The more I read and the more I think, the more I believe
in Mr. Cliellau 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 deems
the post of Commander in Chief. I think Kellleck has proved
himself the most unsuitable General. I want to see Mr. Cliellau
in Kellleck’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 Mr. Cliellau 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. We must hate and despise them from the bottom of his heart.

We are still ready with our 3 days rations. Our horses will be very useful. Herbert desires to be remembered. So have Totten, Abbott and others very often. To-day warm and pleasant—winds quite prevailing. Phil, Howard and Captains Robeson and Grafton (2\#) 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\# 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, etc. The first I have read and like very much. The 2\# 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.
Takemore, Va. April 20th, 1863.

My dear John,

I have no letters to answer from you. I received a most patriotic letter from Charley Grintall 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 you $80 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.

P.S. Fitzgerald has deserted. Quartermaster's Sergeant Baker has gone home on furlough and is to bring out several things for Mr. Polden and his brother (your classmate) will call on you to take any small packages for me, which he will give to Baker. You might thus send out the trousers and perhaps the boots or coat. Some of the papers might be sent by mail as newspapers.
enclose a draft on you for $10 1/2 - 80. for share, 2 1/2. For me, I
enclose to Joseph an order for $38., of which he will pay you $2 3/,-
which with your $2 1/2 - makes ($2 3/,- $2 1/2 = $50.) Fifty.
No more. All the same.

Affectionate brother
Henry.
Dear John,

I enclose another draft for $30 for Mrs. Patrick O'Hara. It did not come in time for the first list. Mr. John J. Roberts will call at your office and get it for her. I have no letters to answer. Easing rain to day. We hear reports that General Hooker has had a fall from his horse and is out of his mind. No signs of a worse 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
Henry.
Falmouth, Va. April 26th 1863.

Saturday.

My dear John.

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

There is from undoubted authority something which I tell you and do not wish to have go farther at present, viz., that it was and probably still is Hooker's plan to attack Fredericksburg 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; Much has been asked if he will volunteer his Regiment to lead in a desperate assault and has at course accepted. So, you may have another Fredericksburg any day and the 20th will probably be ahead. Do not, of course, speak of this as 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.
I. At this thought, I know I will attempt it and redeem his boast that he "could take Fredericksburg 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-day's mail has not gone.

Sunday 26th.

I received last evening your no. of the 23d No. 18. 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, so 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. I'm told their corps moves to-morrow, and that some troops move to-day, supposed down the river, also that we occupy Warrenton and that railroad and telegraphic communication from Washington there is in working order. Col. Leech and the President had a consultation with Hooker at the Creek, a few days ago. It is thought that our corps will not be pushed ahead until we get right 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 full rations a day, these cattle
would not be safe right on the picketing 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
normal size. Weather fine.

I perfectly agree with you in regard to the principle of pla-
cing the safety of the Country first above the regard for any one man
it, 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. Hamblet
who has almost ruined the Country, and call back Genl. Cullum
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 inap-
appropriate as Pemberton for instance, in place of Hamblett, I must
of course support him, but now, as Hamblett has proved himself
a miserable General, and Genl. Cullum proved himself the best
we have got, why, I think the sooner we call for Genl. Cullum
the sooner we shall get him, and the sooner we shall beat the
Rebels, and besides if we get him now we shall save many lives,
which (judging from the past,) the Government and Genl. Hamblett
intend to write this summer.

I think one can support the Government faithfully and yet see the faults which have been committed and call for their removal. 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 Mr. Clllman to the supreme command. I rather think you will agree with me in this following statement.

If Mr. Stookey 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 Mr. Clllman, the President, and Stookey 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 Mr. Clllman 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.

Abbot'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.
Salmon, Va., April 23, 1863.

My dear John.

Many, happy returns of your birthday. I send with this a pipe I had made for you out of violet wood which grew on the bank of the river, on one side and under our batteries. It was not exact in the bottle field, but it was where the shells were falling, and I thought you would like it as a sort of relic of Fredericksburg. The trefoil in front is the new distinguishing mark of our corps. Please accept it as a birthday present. It was carved by a man of the 10th Regiment, and he says the top will be apt to be burnt in lighting it, unless you have a little metal zinc 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 hope, 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 foisted. I cannot believe this; it seems like stacks madness. You may hear exciting news very soon. I sometimes think the entire thing may be a great jest, but it is generally thought that we are on the eve of a great battle. Today it is cloudy and looks like a storm tomorrow. Shall perhaps be unable to write again for some days.

Your affectionate brother Henry.
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 were 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 2d Corps, has gone down to make a grand attack on the enemy's right, and if our Corps 2 Divisions are sent to our right to make a diversion, and one Division, near, kept here to picket the front. So we have a chance of not being in this line. Some firing was heard far on the left about 9.30 O'clock 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 do not see how it can be decisive, for the enemy have a perfect line of retreat, unless Hooker crosses in force below us to hinder us to get between them and Richmond, while the bulk of their force is gathered to resist the feigned attack on their left. Moreover, this would be to give battle with a river in the rear, a dangerous thing. The utmost I expect is that Hooker 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. Bragg's letter? Washington was safer than Wadsworth thought, and Mr. Clellan was right after all. Truth is great &c. Every day something turns up to prove that Mr. Clellan was right and everybody who differed from him wrong.

Your affectionate brother
Henry J.
Plymouth, Va. April 30, 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 over 2 Divisions over. He has 3 Corps there and Reynolds has bridges below him. The enemy are moving up fast, 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 Allens for the next Captaincy, instead of him. Macy has been most strongly recommended for Colonel by Col. Wall, Paul Gibbon, Gen. Canfield and Gen. Hooker, and how Putnam can leave the field to the, 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 living in debt, 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.
Purdon has frequently promised to resign and has indeed dismissed, by getting nominated on the Recruiting service, but now that recruiting is over he sees this must stop, and to serve himself from the expedition he deserves, he is now trying to get promoted over his eigenen Officer, Nancy. Remember Purdon has seen no service whatever, having been wounded in the skirmishing shortly before the battle of Bull's Bluff, and for the last 18 months has done nothing but loaf about barracks and brothels and spend the money he has no honorable right to.

It is an insult to the Regiment to promote Purdon, but as he is reported to be on the verge of the grave, this will probably be of little moment.

We must not let compulsion for a wounded man blind our eyes to the real rights of a Regiment. Purdon is an utterly incompetent Officer. When he commanded the Regiment in time of the enemy on the march from Harper's Ferry, when we were actually in line of battle and loaded and pricked and expecting a battle, he got drunk and was incapable of using the small bribes he possessed, and when we got to Richmond he and Capt. Shepard were superseded by Chace, by order of Genl. Howard, Commanding Division on the ground that they were utterly incompetent. Purdon then resigned on Surgeon's Certificate of mental insobriety. We then went into the battle of Frederichburg, Nancy commanding over the heads of his two incompetent superiors, and there Nancy showed that he was fully equal to his post, and received the public thanks of Col. Call and Mutt.
Howard, Shepard and Dickey were both wounded. Dickey'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 extraordinary in this. Gov. Andrew was most fully informed of Dickey's incapacity. I myself saw the medical letter Dr. Howland 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, while both physically and mentally incompetent, and judged so by the highest medical and military authorities. The probably knew 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 Mary.

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 held 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 branded as a poor weak Riddle,
we feel more pity than anything else for him. He wrote a most insulting letter to Huygh. He had been more service than Furlong for he was at Fair Oaks, 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 then 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, for 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 on my opinions, but on the opinions of every Officer here. Let the matter he shown up as it is.

Please tell Father how it stands, and ask every one if they want to see the old 20th disgraced by an ignorant lot 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 Chelsea Hospital for broken down Soldiers, but that men'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 Governor 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 20th 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 2 days.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.
Falmouth, Va. May 1 1863

S. A. M.

My dear John,

Orders to be ready to march at day light this morning, came last night, and we are all ready, wagon 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 today. Genl. Howard sent down a very encouraging order yesterday. He evidently thinks they may evacuate. We go to join our Corps which has marched above. Sedgwick with 3 Corps is below, and has (I hear) 5 bridges over, evidently for a division. Yesterday 8 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, 1863 9 A.M.

Falmouth.

Dear John,

We have not moved yet. Some firing an early 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. Shako fit perfectly. I sent you with the other money $30. to put in the Boston Savings Bank for private Theophilus Choate 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 a Sedgwick's 45,000 men breaking through and coming in on the rear. Where we hold Culpepper had 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's a story about a telegraph under the river having been discovered near the Brick Church in the papers. It is all untrue, not the slightest foundation for it. The church is close to my quarters and is inhabited by the 45th Michigan. All quiet now; beautiful weather.

Your affectionate brother
Henry.
Halimouth, Va, Tuesday May 5th
10½ 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 Fredericksburg during the enemy. Sedgwick pushed on and our brigade with a part of the 1st 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. There proved so anxious and trying a time, our line was weak and the men scattered. There was a most desperate fight 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 9 o'clock we withdrew from the town, our left covering the retreat and stopping last. Altogether we have only lost 2 Officers and 12 men, 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 in both sides perfectly terrific. I can learn no particulars. I fear we are retreating and have been outgeneralled; but our men fought splendidly and we have probably given the enemy a terrible loss. We have taken Guns 16, and, I fear, lost some.

You will probably learn particulars sooner 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 love

[Signature]
Falmouth, Va., May 6th, 1863

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 have bitterly 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 us 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 Joe," and whether the "people" are yet so far sated with blood that they will be willing to recall Mr. Bellows and save the Country yet.

We were ordered to march at midnight of Saturday, and we halted at the "Lacy 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 Genl. 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. Genl. Sedgwick
himself rode through and crossed to this side in a boat. We then finished
the bridge and marched one profiting 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, was out as skirmishers 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 handled with joy; and began to blackguard
us, but in a few moments the line of skirmishers rushed straight up the
ditch 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 Z-line, but were driven off and pushed
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 stood that night on the left of the city, and part of the
Regiment picketed on the left, while the Rebels appeared to have
come into town. It seems that Sedgwick drove right on and united
with Hooker and that these heights were left unguarded. At
any rate, at about 1 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 put instantly as Kirmishers on the
left. My Company was ordered to hold the Railroad, and before
long we had covered the city and hard begun to prepare rifle-pits.
Only our Brigade of about 1500 men (500 of whom were Pennsylvaniana
Dutch Cowards and sure to run) held the city from end to end, a line
of 5 miles, a mere thin line of Kirmishers. The enemy having
felled the entire works, advanced a line of 5 Kirmishers 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
gainst 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 in 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.
Chains and Artillery have been piling all day. I know 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 frosted will 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 clad 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. Currie slightly wounded.

Shall write again as soon as I can.

Your affectionate brother,

Henry.
Salisbury, Va. May 9th, 1863.

To J. T.

Dear John,

I wrote you a long account of our doings this morning. I have just heard that Temple is killed. We fell shot through the breast in an advance over the ground lost by the command 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,钵s and郝bato things all right. I have just received your letter acknowledging the receipt of the pipe. I am very glad it pleases you. The Corp 95. by Sergeant Parker came all right.

I do not remember whether I acknowledged the receipt of Father's letter of the 28th about the watch, yours of the 29th and Mary Ann's of the 27th. Please thank all. I also received ten of the 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 tried Regiment. I can learn nothing of the 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. Of ever a man deserved the Colonelscy 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 Superint. Officer including Moorhead. It is really fearfully disappointing to see men 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 borne the hardship. Revere I know, to be such an honorable 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 disengaged under the 60 days order. Yet Colburn 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 Old Whig, Clellan man and a violent Radical is made Major!

I wish a pair of boots from Rice's and I enclose a description therefore, which I shall be much obliged to you to give to Rice and see that they are made properly and sent to me.
convalent.

In haste

Affectionately,

Henry.
My dear John,

I received last night your letter 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 Molines. I suppose both boxes have come. If so please tell me. Please tell me if the drafts are all right, if O'Flanagan'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.
I was indeed very kind and generous. Father to send my 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 men for the month, 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. Col. Revere's appointment. He left the Regiment in August, as 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 21, 1861 (Bell'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 hisREV.13's gracious interference GovernorOrdinance kindly
madeRever Lieut. Colonel. Now I say and the whole Regiment
says that all this is dishonourable, and there fore we believe Rever was
unacquainted with the facts, or blinded, or he sure would have done it.
Yet, he has written a letter to Rever explaining the matter as above and
allowing Rever he shall "retain his position" &c. It seems to us all that
Rever left the Regiment and forfeited all claims to his place in it, by
accepting a higher rank and pay out of it. Since then Rever has commanded
in 3 Terrible battles and done much nobly and received the praise of his su-
priors and has fairly earned and fought up to the position of Colonel.
To an Officer to be allowed to leave a Regiment and take higher pay
and rank and have an easy time on a staff, and 5 months afterward
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. Rever has not known what he did. Besides,
Rever is recommended in the highest terms by Col. Hull, Gen. Gibbon,
Couch and Cooker, 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 brave the danger and suffer the hardships
should receive the promotion. Had Rever 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 Charley fairly deserves it, and to take advantage of a legal technicality to land out an Officer who has fairly won his position is a thing I cannot think Col. Reny 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, Culpepper, and Washington, and there remain till our ranks are filled by conscripts, or until a disgraceful peace is made. Lincoln, they say, is there, 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 polem, old, worn 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 the Clevelands 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 advise 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. Genl. Gibbon commands our Division now.
Falmouth Var., Sunday.
May 13, 1863 9 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 Fredericktown were retaken from Sedgwick after a fight, whereas 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 town. We had seen the enemy in the woods 20 minutes before we could believe it was anything but a part of our force. They were not uniform 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 an old friend who was in the 3rd 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. Ely's regular battery lost 60 men and 90 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 riders 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 3,000 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 that it is of 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 bid them a little frightened, order our whole line 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 grain from one end of the Army to the other. There is but one cry— "Oh, Adieu, 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 madman, I place not the slightest confidence in the report.
The 3 months and 2 years now are going out fast. Do not believe many will reenlist. The old veteran Regiments are reduced to 17 soldiers.

God grant that this additional 18,000 trained and armed men will open the eyes of the President and his counsellors and yet save no 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 Mr. Clellan’s 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
Henry.
Plymouth, 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 and taken command. You know how we all felt about his coming over. Mr. Abbot 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. Sedgevick and Conde. 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 resigning etc., taken up, and the fact of Revere being ordered to this Regiment etc., 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 Elkins, 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, and while Col. Revere was considering the matter, Tracy determined to main all claims 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 Macr. As Macr. 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. So, and then for him to come back and reap the advantages he did not earn. Why should not Trenell come back when his 9 months are gone and take promotion over Abbott and Holm? 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 Trenell, Bartlett, Putnam, Schmidt and Persson 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 kind 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 undue 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

Harry.
My dear John,

I enclose a draft for $35 m., the order for the other $15. I sent before and wrote to you about it. I have received yours of the 20th. Will send Macy's photograph as soon as I can get it. I sent you that of Temple and others which please have put 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.
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 etc., saved by the Company and certified to by the Company Commander and the Quartermaster or Commissary. Are 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, 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 8. Also one pair leather gauntlets, dark color, not very thick and with cuffs not stiff, and of good quality. I find our horse much improved, and ride quite often, Herbert and I think of selling and getting quite a good horse, in case we can make good arrangements for keeping him.

There is no news.

Your affectionate brother

Henry.
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 ignorance of his own character, or rather of his own business manners.

I had quite a talk with Mr. Trask when I was in New York, and he seemed to think the firm was badly organized to conduct the business it did. He thinks Williams 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. We 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. Do not expect it, but expect even to have of Burnside's defeat and Rosecrans being forced to fall back. So to one position, I think it is a bad one, useless for offence and not sufficiently covering Washington and Maryland. However, n
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
Herald, especially for you. Also an autograph of the famous DeKay
who witnessed against Hunt, Porter. The absurdity and vanity of
the man is shown as well by his writing as by crossing the words: ‘ob-
edient servant’. His testimony is probably better than Hunt, Sykes’,
on a question of Government powers, but only bullet would think it
important in military matters.

Left off here to take a ride with Abbott, and on returning
found orders have come to be ready to move at very short notice, rations,
ammunitions &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 the appointed Recorder of a Board to ex-
amine Officers of the Corps.

I have received a letter from Henry Burkley, 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 decoying 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.
My dear John,

Yours June 2nd received. Sorry the $15.- draft misfired. Will send another soon. It was signed by Corporal White of my Company.

All quiet here. Bedgwick 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

Affectinately

Henry J.

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 had 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 feint, and I dare say it is to cover a move back of our Army. Church has returned all well. Weather remarkably cool for the season. I have asked Mr. Track to get some Ole Dr. 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 cowardly to do it. Sedgwick told him he supposed that if they had been cowards they would not have given him as 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.
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 57.", 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 Friedler, 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 Friedler 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. Bloom, I have given him an order on you for $7, payable to this Bruno Friedler, for which he has paid me $2 50. I shall be much obliged to you to attend to this matter, and it will be a great kindness to Friedler, who is home sick.

I have little news. Sedgefield is still sick and has slightly extruded himself. There is occasional shelling. Conch is relieved and ordered to report to Pennsylvania. Another large body was sent to join Mr. Allans, Frank Hill, Smith, Mr. Lowell and the rest of our
able soldiers. Sedgwick and Keady being both able men will probably
won follow. Then the Monckers 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 prison convensions only. What a 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 injustice 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 rive is very low. Have received no letters for
the days. Please send me in a letter a pair of dark colored
thread gloves.

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

Your affectionate brother
Henry.

Letter for Mother enclosed.
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 least laid; now it is cloudy and looks like more rain.

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

Well.

Affectionately,

Henry
My dear John,

We have been perfectly quiet here and seen nothing of the enemy. Our cavalry pickets were harried driven in by Rebel cavalry last night, but I now hear we occupy Manassas Gap and our communications are open with Centreville. 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 but you had made for me is much too weak to stand the campaign, and I 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 feet by 5 ft. 6 inches, the ends to be 6 feet wide at bottom, thus:

[Diagram of the tent specifications]
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 to be 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, Lined Ropes, 26½ Mils, to
be printed on the tent.

I think this last tent will succeed, and shall be much
obliged to you to see to it for me. Whenever you send anything by Ex-
press, please send 5 lbs. best coffee and 2 lbs. tea, & &. Sugar. The
Cambridge coffee is very bad.

Weather fine and cool.

Your affectionate brother

Henry

I have received no mail for 3 days.
Francis Perry near Portsville
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 1st Regiment (we were engaged) but we were under arms and boom. At about 9 o'clock the enemy was repulsed and we received orders to move and at 9 30 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 195 Maine, close behind us. Our Artillery went into position and drove them off. We then continued our march without molestation, and after a very troublesome tramp in a pouring rain we arrived at Germ Springs, 18 miles, at about 7 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 Pointon, and waiting for the teams to cross the Pontoon Bridge. I hear the Head Quarters of the Army are at Colesville, that
we are the rearward 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 Ewell or somebody to draw off
safety 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 successor Johnston. However, this is all conjecture,
and earnestly hope he may scare the President enough to make
him recall the old deliverance of Maryland.

All well. Please get two drum 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 Linen are best, but it must be strong
enough to wear through brambles and woods, and as waterproof
as possible. Please excuse this rough letter. It has just
began to rain again, and I am sitting on the ground and writ-
ing on my Knee. Besides, my ink has given out.

All well

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

H. R.

Saturday 21st = 9 a.m.

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

H. R.