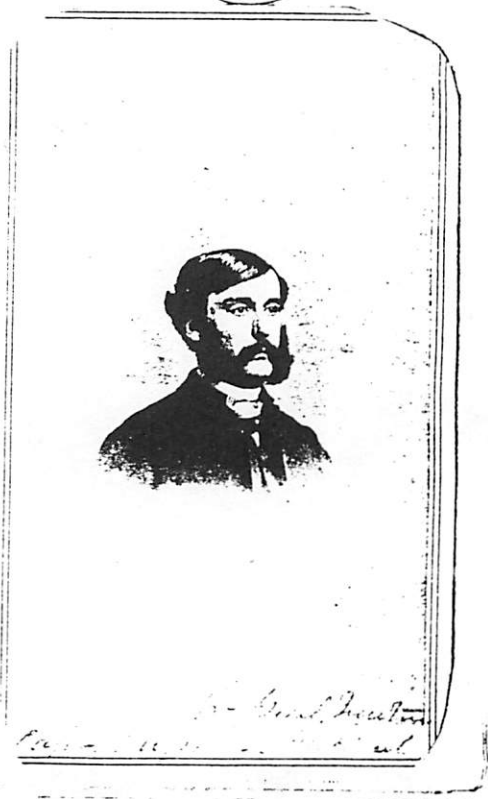


LETTERS OF EDMUND KIRBY RUSSELL



EDMUND KIRBY RUSSELL



1076 REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

- ROWLEY, CHARLES.— Age, 28 years. Enlisted, June 4, 1861, at New York city, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. K, June 24, 1861; mustered out with company, July 4, 1864, at Brooklyn, N. Y.
- ROWLEY, JAMES.— Age, 19 years. Enlisted, May 19, 1861, at Rochester, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. D, June 20, 1861; promoted sergeant, October 1, 1861; wounded in action, May 31, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Va.; died of his wounds, June 12, 1862.
- ROWNEY, OWEN.— Age, 22 years. Enlisted, July 25, 1861, at Fort Schuyler, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. K, August 31, 1861; deserted, November 5, 1861, at Washington, D. C.
- ROZELL, JOHN.— Age, 19 years. Enlisted, August 4, 1861, at Fort Schuyler, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. K, August 31, 1861; transferred to Co. E, and promoted sergeant, September 5, 1863; returned to corporal, June 20, 1864; promoted sergeant, no date; mustered out, August 3, 1864, at New York city; also borne as Rowell.
- RUE, JAMES P.— Age, 23 years. Enlisted at New York city, to serve three years, and mustered in as private, Co. E, September 5, 1862; transferred to Co. E, Sixty-fifth Infantry, September 1, 1864.
- RUSH, JOHN.— Age, 42 years. Enlisted, June 4, 1861, at New York city, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. K, June 24, 1861; wounded in action, May 31, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Va.; discharged for disability, June 27, 1862, at Annapolis, Md.
- RUSHMAN, see Rottman.
- RUSSELL, EDMUND K.— Age, 21 years. Enrolled at South Brothers Island, to serve three years, and mustered in as second lieutenant, Co. K, June 24, 1861; as first lieutenant, Co. F, April 14, 1862; transferred to Co. K, October 13, 1862; mustered in as captain, May 3, 1863; transferred to Co. A, July 1, 1864, and to Co. A, Sixty-fifth Infantry, September 1, 1864. Commissioned second lieutenant, February 22, 1862, with rank from June 24, 1861; original; first lieutenant, November 21, 1862, with rank from April 14, 1862, vice V. M. Hodgson, resigned; captain, July 28, 1863, with rank from May 3, 1863, vice L. M. Peck, resigned.

June 24, 1861; wounded in action, May 31, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Va.; discharged for disability, June 27, 1862, at Annapolis, Md.

RUSHMAN, see Rottman.

RUSSELL, EDMUND K.—Age, 21 years. Enrolled at South Brothers Island, to serve three years, and mustered in as second lieutenant, Co. K, June 24, 1861; as first lieutenant, Co. F, April 14, 1862; transferred to Co. K, October 13, 1862; mustered in as captain, May 3, 1863; transferred to Co. A, July 3, 1864, and to Co. A, Sixty-fifth Infantry, September 1, 1864.

Commissioned second lieutenant, February 22, 1862, with rank from June 24, 1861; original; first lieutenant, November 21, 1862, with rank from April 14, 1862, vice V. M. Hodgson, resigned; captain, July 28, 1863, with rank from May 3, 1863, vice L. M. Peck, resigned.

Letters of E. K. Russell

by

E. K. Russell

Note: These letters comprise about half the collection

Donated by Superintendent Kahler, Fort Marion
National ~~His~~ Monument

2-A-39

1st LI

PREFACE

These letters are part of the Kirby-Smith-Russell collection. The author, Edmund (Ned) Russell*, was the uncle of the owner of the letters, Mrs. Floried Burt Evans, whose present address is 317 $\frac{1}{2}$ St. George Street, St. Augustine, Florida.

In 1937 the original letters represented in this collection were transcribed by the Historical Records Survey Project of the Works Projects Administration. The present copies are transcriptions of the Historical Records Survey Projects transcripts, since the original letters are not at this time available for use in St. Augustine. (They are temporarily in the possession of the owner's brother in Miami, Florida.)

In several of the letters mention is made of accompanying sketches of the battles which the author describes. These sketches, unfortunately, have been lost.

James C. Burdette
Foreman
Rare Books Project
Works Projects Administration

March 28, 1940.

St. Augustine, Fla.

* Edmund Russell was a cousin to the Confederate General Edmund Kirby-Smith

This letter is copied verbatim from
the original using exact spelling,
punctuation and margins. It is
folded to form its own envelope and
is addressed:

Pd. EK 18¢

Dr. I. P. Russell, U.S. Army

for Mrs. Russell

Governor's Island

Harbor of New York

Brownville, N. Y.

Nov. 29

Pencilled Notations are: "Aunt Elize,

Nov. 28, 42. Josie's birth. To my

grandmother - Katherine Kirby Russell."

Brownville, Nov. 28th, 1842

My dear Sister,

I have just finished a letter to sister Harriet, and although my eyes are very weak I will attempt to write you, as I have been intending to do so for a long time. I cannot express to you how much disappointed we were at not seeing you last summer, and I do hope that next year you will be able to pay us that long promised visit. We enjoyed Sister Fanny's visit very much. She is a noble hearted kind person. We all love her very much.

It was strange that Sister Mary should have passed you without stopping to see you. I do not wonder that you were grieved. She must have had reasons that will explain all when you hear from her. Edmund received a long and affectionate letter from her a few days since, she appears to be fond of George - and sorry to have him separated from her, except on his own account, she thinks it will be better for him. I hope he has a good home with his Uncle. You must have been much shocked at the sudden death of son Reynold - having lived with him so long your attachment for him must have been very great for he seems to have been beloved by all who knew him. I can sympathise with you having lost my own dear brother only a year since. Poor Mary feels her loss keenly. She has a task to perform in the education of her children which few mothers are equal to - -

So my dear Katharine you have a little daughter. Tell the Dr.

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they are just as good as boys and I think not half so much trouble. My little Kate is a dear little creature, very small but sprightly. Eliza has the whooping-cough - I suppose the children will all take it. She has it very light - coughs very little. I am in hopes they will get along without being much sick --- - Sister Pamela is keeping house where Dr. Brayton used to live. We wish she was nearer to us - but we see her almost every day. She has a fine boy about two months old - we expect to have Sister Mary with her family of seven children here early in the Spring. I have not seen her since she was married. She has gone through many trials since then & I long to embrace her once more. She is one of those quiet, enduring persons that suffers much without complaining - - ~~Mrs.~~ How has gone to Cleveland to pass the winter with Sarah. We miss her society very much. Mr. How has purchased Mr. Rathbone's house - and intends to go to house-keeping there in the Spring - we shall be very sorry to lose her from our neighbourhood. Sarah has only one little boy - he will be three years old in the Spring - Elizabeth is well, and enjoys the good things of this life about as well as any person I know of - Cousin John is in good business but they live for themselves. Mr. Knap has been taking the benefit of the Bankrupt law - their house is still unfurnished - not even a carpet. Mr. Averell has promised to furnish it in the Spring. I do not know how she lives with her noisy children on the bare floor, but she bears it all cheerfully - never saw her in better spirits. We have heard from Kate twice since she joined her husband - she is very happy of course, and is delighted with Florida. They are in Micanopy. William Cummings is married to Miss Ives, the

young lady that taught school here last winter. She is a fine girl - too good for him we all think. We do not know whether he intends to do anything - he has not property enough for a support unless he does. Mary left here with the intention of going to school this winter, but has not been able to do so on account of inflamed eyes. Mrs. Bainard expects her to pass the winter with her. Mr. B is her guardian. It is well that she has some one that will look out for her interest for William is inclined to get all he can.

The officers that are now at the Harbour are inclined to be very sociable. We expect to see a great deal of them this winter. The sleighing is quite good now. The weather-wise prophesy a hard winter. Mrs. Smith is as good natured as ever - though not half so fleshy. Dr. Root's family, we like very much. Pamela Shields is married to a Mr. Wright of Watertown. He is a very fine young man.

Do my dear Katharine - answer this soon. Give my love to the Dr. and kiss the little one for me.

Yours affectionately,

Elisa B. Kirby

This letter is copied verbatim from
the original using exact spelling,
punctuation and margins. It is
folded to form its own envelope and
is addressed:

Pa. EK

37 $\frac{1}{2}$

Dr. I. P. Russell

U. S. Army

Governor's Island

Harbor of New York

Brownville, Oct. 18, '44

My dear Russell,

I send you a letter from Webster which I have found here on my return. It discloses feelings of which I did not know the existence. It is apparent that Mrs. Smith is not to find an asylum with either of her children. The subject is painful and I will not dwell on it.

I found Mrs. S. comfortably domiciled at Omega (?) at home I have found all well and plenty of business awaiting my return. I am already overhead and heels in it. Frank is very comfortably fixed at Utica. I went through the school and was greatly pleased with the order and neatness that everywhere prevailed.

With affectionate remembrances to all,

Yours faithfully,

E. Kirby

Return Websters letter to me by mail

West Point, N. Y.

Apr. 1st, 1860

Dear Mother,

I wrote you on the 18th ult and have not as yet heard from you. You have probably ere this received the report of the War Dept. for Feb. The result might have been expected from the marks I had been receiving for the month, This month has shown a little improvement in the beginning but none in the latter part of it.

I have still 8 weeks to make up in - The 1st half of the six months has ended with yesterday. The last half is still mine - We have just finished the Company drills & commence the Artillery drills tomorrow. The weather for the last two weeks has been lovely though previous we had had some very unpleasant & variable weather. Mrs. Moore leaves here a week from Tuesday so I understand - I've called there lately twice but have unable to see her. I shall not have the opportunity again as I will be on guard (special duty) next Saturday. I don't know yet whether Mrs. Gilmore has returned or not. Don't you think Mother that it would be best for me to call there once more & try to see her & ask her pardon. She might really have been engaged at the time I called before & not made it a please as I supposed for not seeing me. I believe I wrote you about the election in our literary society of a Speaker for "the 4th". The contest was quite an exciting one & the Cadet elected is the Orderly Sergeant of my Co. He is from Tennessee & a nice

gentlemanly person, a favourite with all who know him well & a good debater. Last night we elected the "Reader for the 4th". He was one of the unsuccessful candidates for Speaker & was nominated by the 3rd Candidate. The person who nominated the Reader came within one of an election at the contest for Speaker. His friends contend that the election was unfair. However, I suppose he will stand as it now is. No change will be likely to be made. I don't know whether the papers contained the detail of a Court Martial that was ordered to meet here again. If it did & you have the article at hand, will you send it to me. We have a Court sitting here to try Bartlett (my Class) & some 3 or 4 others. The detail is composed almost entirely of Infantry officers & will be a much stricter one than its predecessor, Two Cadets were dismissed by the 1st & I should not wonder if 3 or 4 would not be dismissed by this. They will probably be reinstated by the Secretary of War. I hardly think that the policy that is pursued with regard to dismissing Cadets is a good one. It is so now that if one is dismissed he consoles himself by thinking that his punishment will be mitigated. I should dislike to see a Cadet dismissed but yet I think for the good of the service & the Corps the punishment if awarded by a Court after mature deliberation, ought to be carried into effect. It would render the Cadets more careful how they transgress Regulations that will dismiss them. I suppose the Kirby that is coming here is a brother of Rennie's. I will give him a hearty welcome when he comes & will try to show him all I can while I remain here. Erastus Moore was up here Wednesday, I think it was. He came up

to find out from me all he could in regard to the Academy which I willingly gave him. I did not know him when I first saw him.

I enclose my report for Feb. The March Standing will probably be out by the 17th & I will write again about that time. I expect a letter from you this coming Tuesday. I hope I shall not be disappointed. Love to all, Uncle, Aunt etc -

Your aff. son,

Ned

West Point, N. Y.

May 22nd/60

Dear Josie,

Your least letter reached me yesterday and as I had deferred mailing the letter that I wrote Mother on Saturday until to-morrow so that I might see if I should receive a letter today I thought it best to write you these few lines. Did you get my last letter mailed about the 29th of April? "Billy Hardee" as "the gallant Colonel" is sometimes designated, has just returned from Washington where 'tis said he has been to request the honour of a visit from the Japanese ambassadors - "D21" says that is they come on here about the 15th or 20th of June that the "Furloughs" & I believe the "Graduating" classes will be retained in order to make as large a review as possible before them. By this means my Class will be kept back or "cut" as we style it, of some three to six days of Furlough. The Graduates of this year are more numerous than those of the two previous years & it will therefore take probably a longer time to examine them. The present I had for Kate is a little box of various coloured wax though you need not tell her about it. Have you seen the Miss Tisdales since your return & how were they? All well I hope. Remember me to them the next time you call upon them. Do you ride well on horseback & when did you learn? You must have learned very rapidly if you learnt while at Brownville. How can Dwight manage to go to Vermont (as he wrote me he thought about doing so while I was on Furlough)

if Uncle & Aunt live in the way you describe. I should think **it** would cost too much for him to afford it anyway. Is Uncle Dwight in business yet & where? Give my love to him & Aunt & also to Joe. I shall write Dwight soon. Good bye -

Your aff. Brother -

Edmund -

P. S. Ask ~~Natie~~ to drop me a line or so in your next letter. I will probably write you again about the 15th or 18th of June -
Till then consider me to be studying for Examination -

Yrs,

Ned K. Russell -

This letter is copied verbatim
from ~~the~~ original using exact
spelling, punctuation and margins.

This letter begins on page #9 and
ends on #24; evidently the first
and last pages have been taken
out for personal reasons.

The date pencilled on the margins
is March 3, 1862, presumably from
Ned Russell to his mother, Katherine
Kirby Russell.

I placed in the bundle the articles named and also a hone stone which formerly belonged to Father I believe and which I found at Aunt Sarah's before I went to the Point or while I was there on Furlough and which I returned to you as I had no need of it. Give the white pants if they will do any good to Frank Belton & let Joe have the Jacket if you see fit. Send me the little book by Chopin. I shall read it because you recommend it. It might be sent through the mail -

I did not think about sending my sword by him and now I hardly think I'd have time as we may move at any moment. If, however, I can get down to the City on Wednesday or Thursday I have a great mind to send it and take my chances of getting it again. It could be sent to Mr. W. H. Powell's & I could get it from him. I was at Cousin Mary's last Saturday evening and on talking it over we hardly thought it could be Mr. Palmer that was taken as he lives in that portion of North Carolina that borders on what is called loyal Tennessee. Mary said she had been in the City that day at the Bradley's & that they had heard that Mr. P., Lottie, Hicks, Josie & all were strong "recesh" - I am sorry if Josie has forgotten her birthplace and kinsfolk of the North so much as all that. Josie as I understood had heard from Cousin Joe Kislip. They corresponded with each other. I have a mind to try the effect of a letter via Fort Monroe, Capt. Carling, Gen'l. Mansfields, A. A. G. graduated while I was at the Academy. Dr. Fairfax spoke of Josie, while he was there, of being a very

fearless rider, wild & happy when they went out sight seeing she, woman like, was ~~always~~ going into dangerous places. While Miss Lottie was just the reverse - very quiet etc. I hope the life South will be for Josie's advantage - in every respect, education and position. She must now be nearly 19 if Kate will be 16 in May. What are the birthdays of Josie & Fanny. I have had them once but have lost tract of them. So much for not being able to be together as one family we lose all trace of the family fasts & holidays. Well, Mother the time will come I hope when this war is over & I am in the regular service that we will once again as of old on Governor's Island. Keep all the family & national feasts. Let us pray that that day may not be far distant when once again we can assemble around the family board with only one dear head, that of our Father absent. The dear old home, how I love it.

If Kate is so much attached to the "Sisters" tis better to let her stay where she is than to send her anywhere else for where one already know his or her teachers and likes them you are more certain that that one will improve more rapidly than if under the care of a stranger. I know very well that it is all my own fault if I have not as good and substantial an education as others. You in all the time I've been at school & ~~under~~ your care have never neglected an opportunity to impress upon me the necessity of applying myself, the fault lies at my door and not at any one else's.

For~~t~~ that reason I want Katie to take warning by me and avoid all the shoals I grounded on. Take away trash in the shape of the Ledger & other of these semi-illustrated story papers and

give her good Histories of her own country & the principal nations of the world. Let the histories be written in a manner that will interest as well as instruct & not be merely a dry statement of facts. So far in conversation I manage to get along very well and if I am to judge by what I've heard & seen I am not regarded as a "flat" by those young ladies I've met while here. I feel more and more at ease the more I am out and can keep my self possession better than I used to. Sometimes things are said in fun that are intended to hit me but I can generally keep my wits about me & appear perfectly at ease as if I did not understand that I was the one to whom they alluded. As to writing you can judge by the length of this letter as to whether I am out of practice. After a little thought I am generally able to write a pretty good plain letter on business matters though it may not ^{be} always as I should like to have a business letter be that is short;— yet it answers all purposes.

There I have finished the first four pages of your letter.

I received your & Kate's photographs. I do not think yours ^r is as good as your ambrotype. In fact 'tis a poor one, I believe. I believe ambrotypes after all if taken well are much better than Photographs.

I have not heard from Guss for quite a time. I wish he would drop me a line occasionally & tell me about Brooklyn society & the parties he attends. He'll be a fine looking man if he lives, I am quite certain that I am better looking than when I left B - were it not for a cold I've had and a slight soreness of the throat I should be well. I've never however been unfit for duty since my arrival in W. What is the best thing for looseness of

the bowels. I am troubled occasionally that way - and though I've tried different things from the Dr.'s and also some homeopathic medicine yet I do not succeed in stopping it perhaps I do not continue long enough. I wish from your experience you would select a list of prescriptions simple & good that I could take for colds, sore throat, diarrhoea, cuts & wounds, &c. Your judgment I would rather rely upon for you are constantly administering besides having the advantage of Father's knowledge & practice.

Keep up good heart dear Mother in the performance of your self appointed work, remember that you are doing a sister's part and a work of charity & comfort to the bereaved one. Kate has been more with Aunt & besides her inclination to the Romish belief may be another reason why she appears to like Aunt better than she does you. How I would like to see you all once more.

Dr. Davis received the Photograph and was much pleased with it. He wrote in good spirits the last time I heard from him and said that if I came on next Summer they all expected a visit from me - Now Mother I want to tell you a little about myself. I have been writing on nearly everything connected with myself save one or two subjects. One of these subjects is myself intimately.

I do not believe in the principle of a person making a parade of his religion or religious feelings and whether I am good or bad I ~~do not~~ intend to talk about them in every letter. I think there is such a thing as straining too much on such subjects.

I must stop for the present in order to write out the "counter-sign" & make my details for to-morrow.

5½ A.M.

I've just returned from the Adjutant's office and now I know of

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nothing to hinder my "holding sweet converse" on paper with you and my other friends whose letter remain unanswered. For a long time back, though I promised you differently, that day in New York. I've been very neglectful until of late I saw that I was getting into bad careless habits and I have determined that from the 1st of March I will try and resume my good old habits of morning and evening prayer which as I have intimated above I've neglected. I will pray to God to give me his grace wherever I may be placed & will try & be a better boy from this time forth I say boy for I am still a boy in feeling & liking for fun and exercise which were I a man might seem undignified. In things actually necessary I can assume a man's dignity but I want to ever keep my boyish spring of character & move. I care not to move along with the slow dignified pace of a man; put me in a roundabout and I could be over again a boy as I was at Irving Institute.

But I am afraid if I keep on thus you will be tired of reading and I never want my Mother to tire of her son's writings or doings. Write me a good long letter. I need not say an affectionate one for that they always are.

By the way Mother am I not old enough to know a little about our family history. I have heard stories about the Kirby's & their doings and from Aunt Mary Peirce and other Northern friends. I've been told about Grand Father Russell & his family &c - Now what I want is that you shall tell me how you met Father & where and ~~is~~ fact all about your life before & after marriage.

You know dear Mother we have ever since '49 been but little together and more especially in the last four years of my life and

now I am "head of the family" (just think "little Ned Russell"
head of the family) and ought I not, dear Mother, to be admitted
now into the family secrets. Can you read this long long letter dear
Mother. 'Tis a long time since I've written so much in any one
letter to a single person. I hope you have not destroyed any of
the letters I left in your care. Don't do it, I have reasons
why I wish them kept. To me, Mother they are all very dear,
and I would not part with them for a good deal though some of
them may be connected with bitter passages in my life's history
short as it may be. They tell of a Mother's love, a mother's
care & solicitude for the good of her only boy, her darling son,
her hoped for pride and how that one disregarded all her care
and threw away a place that would have secured him rank & honor
all his life and now these I have show how the same motherly
care is continued over the same wild boy and how she tries to
keep his erring steps in the same straight and narrow way that
leads to life eternal.

Mother, I would not have those letters destroyed for
their weight in gold. Keep them as you love me until my return
to you. How the rain patters on my careless house. 'Tis nearly
supper time. I will soon bring this to a close. I must now
give you my long promised account of my friends the Bowells;
a family that I like as well as any that I have been in, I
owe them for much kindness shown to me since I have been in the
City.

(over)

This letter is copied verbatim from the original using exact spelling, punctuation and margins.

Beginning with the words "I felt the effects of it .." to the end of the letter is written crosswise on the first page - over the other wording. This letter is not addressed on the outside, probably having another folded sheet to form the envelope.

West Point, N. Y.

Feb. 17th, 1861

My dear Mother -

Joe's letter with your's enclosed reached me on the 12th. I am sorry, dear Mother, that you should have seemed to take so seriously my remarks in regard to writing. To be sure I think I may be more indolent in this respect since my return but I never want you to think that it will be a bore & inconvenient for me to write you, my Mother. I hope my Mother will not judge her son so badly as to think that whatever he may seem to be from his reports or tone of his letters that he is wanting in affection to her. Mother, do you think that I would ever come to you How for money when I am in the receipt of pay amply sufficient for all my present necessary wants, (and with generally a margin of a few dollars over & above all expenses) and in the hopes of receiving a much larger pay in a few years? I am now in my 21st year & though I may not have cast off some of my boyish freaks I hope I have sufficient manliness, whatever happen, never to be a burden to onw who has endured already so much for me - I do hope that in June I will come out well in my class & intend to exert myself to accomplish it. Now let me speak about yourself. You say Aunt may move to Richmond & that if she does she may not let you know until she is in the fit of leaving (which would be just like her) why not then in the Spring ask her what she intends to do so that you can make all necessary arrangements? I can't see any harm in this &

"forewarned, forearmed". Give my love to them. Do you think you will have any chance this year on your pension? Have you heard from Maclay, Collamore & the others of late or have they been so taken up with political affairs as not to be able to do anything. Speaking of political affairs puts me in mind of the sermon preached today. Prof. French took his text from Ecclesiastes XI, 8 & in the introduction he gave an account of the prophecies that were made in '48 & thereabouts in regard to the state of this country & Europe which so far as we can now see seem on the p't of fulfillment. He then applied his text to those who were present showing how we ought to prepare for & what was incumbent upon us in the "days of darkness" - The sermon, was, I think, one of the best I ever heard him preach; the Corps gave a stricter attention than usual & in the last part of the sermon several I noticed seemed to be affected. But as my time is limited I will go on to speak of Joe. I noticed the app'ts "at large" in yesterday's Herald & his name was not among the no. Let David & Aunt Mary apply immediately or after the Inauguration for an app't. in Sept. in case there's a vacancy as there's a chance to be - make no delay. And now last but not least - my breaking of my pledge not to drink. Last Christmas while skating I went too close to shore & the ice broke with me. I went in up to my shoulders but managed to scramble out & after taking off my skates & overcoat which I had on at the time, I walked up that long hill leading from the Dock to Barracks. Going up my overcoat showed signs of the cold weather by a whitish appearance; the coat felt like lead. I got to my room & calling some friends

from the room opposite I managed to get off the wet clothes & dry myself. While I was rubbing off the water one of them told another to go & get some whiskey which he did. He then poured me out some in a dipper & putting some water to it he gave it to me to drink & I took it.

I felt the effects of it for some time as it caused me to stagger a little. The next day, I had a severe headache & on going to the Surgeon & telling him I had been in the river on the day previous he said that if he had known it he would have recommended me to take at the time a "Brandy Toddy". I did not get over my headache for several days. I would have told you before but I have always forgotten it until after the letter was mailed. I feel pretty confident that you will excuse me for I acted rightly I think. And now have you any objections to my drinking "Sweet Oider". Cadets that are on pledge & Army officers do not think it a breach of a pledge to drink it as it is not intoxicating. I have so far refused it because I did not know how you would regard it, though I have often wanted to taste it. My Class is now on pledge making 4 Classes (the first four) on pledge.

But I will now close with love to all. I am afraid Aunt Mary H. is offended with me as she has not written.

Ever your son,

Edmund

These three letters were copied
verbatim from the original using
exact spelling, punctuation and
as near same margins as possible.
All three are contained in one
envelope addressed:

Mrs. K. K. Russell

68 Willoughby Street

Brooklyn

Long Island

E. K. R.

Pencilled notations are: "Apr.
13, 29, May 8th from Warwick,
C. H. & Wmburg, Va. Dec. 5, 1861,
21 yrs. old."

H Qrs 1st Long Island Regt.
Grahams Brigade
Conch's Division
1 mile from Warwick C. H.
Apr - 13th 1862

My dear Mother -

I received your two letters of the 31st & 2nd instants - The one of the 2nd reached me two days before the other. As I have a chance (certain) of sending a letter tomorrow I have thought best to write this evening to you & others. Our mail arrangements are very uncertain to depend upon. We left the Fortress on Saturday the 30th & on Friday the 4th we left out bivouac near Newport News to march to Yorktown. Saturday it rained very hard & we had a hard march of it. That evening about 4 P. M. we were shelling & receiving shells from the enemy's batteries not far distant from our present camp. Accounts of it are in the Herald of the 10th. We are about 9 miles from Yorktown & the rebel batteries extend some miles along the route. For several days after our arrival there was a constant fire between our skirmishes & pickets & the enemy's - but this to a great extent has ceased. We are separated from them by the so called Warwish river & the marsh on both sides a distance of about 300 yards - Along the banks in secure places the pickets of either side are stationed. "Ours" have had orders under no circumstances to fire even if fired upon & do not often disobey order. The "confeds" however keep up a pretty regular fire whenever they see any of us. They walk around with great impunity even washing in the stream where as our men cannot even show their bodies without whiz comes a bullet after them. For some time they were in the habit of throwing

shells where they thought our troops were lying. A great many of them don't explode. Several negroes have been seen on their side firing upon us & one, said to be one of their best shots, who had brought down his man nearly every time he fired was at last shot by one of our pickets. The men on each side engage to a great extent in blackguarding & jeering at each other. 'Tis about six of one & half a dozen of the other. They can readily hear each other across the stream by calling out in a pretty loud voice. I have just come in from picket & have had a good time. Our Brigade send out about 250 men each day for this duty & the same with other Brigades. An immense body of troops are lying in this neighborhood in a circuit of 10 or 12 miles. McClellan is about 4 or 6 miles from us. The roads are in an awful condition so that we have had to construct several corduroy roads. Our men have had for some time back only ^{from} ~~for~~ 3 to 5 crackers a day instead of 14. We have had fresh meat but were at first very hard pushed for food on account of the bad roads. Times improving. Ned Kirby & other of my West Point friends are somewhere near me. Some I've seen- I've not seen Ned. We know not how long we will be here, we ~~suspect~~ expect a move at almost ~~any~~ moment. Since the battle of Corinth I should not be astonished if we were in Yorktown by next Sunday. It will probably be only after a severe battle as I understand that McClellan says they have hardly a byeway that is not well defended or that it is probably their strongest line of defence equal to Sebastopol. This evening my knapsack contain^{ing}g a change of clothing. Much needed. Have not had on a clean thing since I ~~stated~~ saved a pair of stocking which I took off last Sunday & washed & had to go without until they had dried. Quite a set of

scribblers around me. Everyone anxious to avail themselves of the opportunity offered to send a few lines to the dear ones at home. The Colonel's Head Quarters is in a house now occupied by a coloured man named Wright said to be free but most likely a slave. His family is about 20 or 25 including those living with him. He & his family are much lighter than Quadroons. Our time is fully occupied. And now let me answer your last letters. I shall hardly need any money at present. I have \$22 in gold with me. Have very little use of it at present. I hardly think I will be able, though I want to, write Aunt Sarah. Say all you think I would wish to say. Gus was to me a brother & for her I feel accordingly. I trust you & Aunt Harriet will not be kept much longer in a state of suspense as to your house. Take a plain comfortable one & don't care for the show. Mr. DAVIS & Rowe are not to blame for any feelings I may have in regard to this war. Don't accuse them of it. You know I had Republican feeling during the Fremont campaign but I was then unable to appreciate the matter of difference between the parties. Now I am opposed to them. I hate these ultra men of both sides. To them do we owe the present state of affairs. This section of the country is a fine level tract of land well adapted for agriculture. Hardly any change in the level of the land. Not far from us the land becomes a marsh and with heavy rains the country is awful. Last Tuesday & Wednesday were rainy & I was sent out with others to establish a line of pickets that had been vacated & in so doing had to wade kneedeep in mud & water. I had on shoes & on my return had to throw them away having dried them by a fire & rendered them so stiff that I could not wear them. I am now wearing appair of Army shoes No. 8 so that I have plenty

of room for my feet to move in. In addition to being wet from my knee down myself & men were nearly without food; they over 24 & 12 hours. I was perfectly exhausted more so than on any previous occasion by a nights rest restored me. I am in good health & spirits. I can hardly use the names of those officers you mentioned as they are not now near men. When I apply I shall use the name of Gen'l. Hitchcock. I will wait until after I have been engaged in a battle there are vacancies which Stanton will only fill by those who have seen service. My chances will them be better than if I should apply now. I want to write one more letter if possible as the Doctor's ~~some~~^{son} is going to Washington & can easily take them & I know not when the opportunity will offer again.

~~Remember~~ me to all. I was among the last of the Lieuts. to enter the Reg't. & therefore I suppose I've not been promoted. I am now about the head of the list. Vacancies may soon occur & if I live I trust to have the bar on my strap ere'long. God bless you dear Mother & keep you in health is the prayer of

Your son

Ned -

P. S.

I will write again soon when the chance occurs -

I will t en write to Katie -

Hd Qrs 1st Long Island
Near Williamsburg, Va.
May 8th, 1862

My dear Mother -

We left our camp near Warwick C. H. early Sunday morning expecting to make an attack on their works. Found them evacuated. Pursued late in the day. Next day rained. About 4 P. M. started again. Heavy firing. Reached near the ground where the fight had been going on; acted as Reserve next day & entered this place about 10 o'clock. Have been in William & Mary's College used as a Hospital & other places & aided in tending the sick & wounded. I merely took down their names, Reg't. etc. for the Doctor's use. Occasionally assisting the Dr. A great number wounded on both sides. Rebels scattered everything on the way, Caissons, cannon, clothing, arms &c. We left all our baggage behind near Warwick. Am well, acting as Adjutant, Ours being sick. No casualties in the Regiment.

We expect to move either today or to-morrow forward.

You will have fuller news in the papers than I can give. Love to all. Am writing in much haste & on a scrap knowing you would like to hear from me. If hurt I shall let you know as soon as possible. Till then believe me, I am all right. I think we may act for some time as a Reserve only. If we go forward & are in battle it will be in the papers. Don't believe the first reports you receive. Wait always to have them confirmed. Large loss on both sides. I have had talks with our wounded prisoners - Mostly Virginians, Miss. & Alabama troops such as I have seen. Met the

brother of Farney who was at the Academy as Instr. in Cavalry.
He is a Major from Alabama. Have tended to many. Much interested
in all. Sickening to some extent scenes in the wards. Men hurt
mostly in arms & legs. None in breast as far as I've seen. Few
in head.

Pray for me as I do for you all

With love to all friends

I am aff. Yr. Son

Ned --

I opened the letter & therefore have to seal with wafer - will try &
not forget Kates

P. S. Congradulate her for me - 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. May 8, 1862 birthday

Rec'd yours of the 4th stating that you had ~~moved~~. Glad to hear
from you once ~~more~~, my Mother. Kirby Smith is in East Tennessee
as I learnt from a prisoner & afterwards happened to see it in an
old New York paper. Gen'l. Keyes estimates the total loss on both
sides to be about 5000 killed & wounded. The enemy's wounded are
kindly treated by our M. D's & men. Some of their surgeons came
in under a flag of truce. Hard looking set as far I've met them.
Appear rather ignorant of how to treat the hurt. Dress of all
rather particolored. Very few Union (true) in town though many
profess Unionism. Property protected by guard at each house.
McClellan I believe is here. Very hard & close fighting. I have
taken quite an interest in 3 very inteðligent recesh officers &
several men (all wounded.) The Virginia troops appear to be the
best educated & most intelligent. Shall write again when anything
of interest happens. Col. Adams, Julius W. commands Graham's
Brig. G. being sich at Fortress. Brigade consists of 1st Long
Island, Cockrane's 1 U. S. Chasseurs, 23rd, 31st & 61st Penn.
Reg'ts. We have been acting as Reserve all along ~~save~~ when we
advanced Sunday. This used to be the old Capitol of Va. Settled
in 1634. ~~Lovely~~ tract of country. ~~Am much~~ pleased with it.
Goodnight & God bless you all. Try to be regular in prayers for all.
all.

Yr. Son Ned - -

This letter is copied verbatim
from the original using exact
spelling, punctuation, as near
as possible the same margins.

It is accompanied by the sketch
mentioned in the body of the let-
ter showing their positions, line
of defence, etc.

Camp 1st Long Island
Apr. 29th, 1862

My dear Mother -

Your Easter letter reached me on the 24th.

Rain in New York & rain here on Easter. Few of us knew that it was Easter till it was generally spoken of. How different the way of spending Easter from yours. About 12 o'clock we had to fall in line to meet an expected attack as there had been heavy firing from lines of pickets during Saturday night & it was resumed more vigorously at 12. Again about 9 P. M. we were in line for the same cause. This morning word came from Division Hd Qrs to be ready to reinforce Smith who is on our right as he expected to be attacked at daybreak so the Regiment was turned out again about 4 o'clock. It proved to be a false alarm but we know not at what hour we may be called on. Though it seems we will have to go through a regular siege. I enclose you a rough sketch made by our late Orderly (a cousin of Hodgson) as he will be a 2nd Lieut. on the 1st prox. It gives our present position & that of the Regts of our Brigade near us - (31st & 61st Penn. Vol. being too far to the right to be put down on the paper). Battery Adams was a little breastwork thrown up on the afternoon & day of the 20 & 21st in order to afford a shelter & protection for a Light Battery lying near us. It was done under the direction of Col. Adams who by the way is now actg. as Brig. Gen'l, Graham having been sick for 4 or 5 days. The large building under the head of Wright's house if the Hd Qrs of "ours" & in one of its rooms I am now writing. Wright is a free mlatto. The little spot on the line 10 to the

north of the house is the Colonel's tent. 10 is a road built by us as is also 9 (the latter being a genuine corduroy) 12 is the camp of the 23 P. V. commanded by Neill (a Capt. of Regulars) familiarly known in the army as "Beau" Neil. 14 is the Chasseurs Camp. 15 Cockrane's H^d Grs. 4 is the position our Reg't. occupied on the 5th when a shell passed over it. 7 the 23rd & 6 the Chasseurs at the same time. 8 where the shell struck without exploding. 2 is a bridge. The letters on 4 are the Compy letters. When we go on picket we generally follow the road 10, in a notherly direction - & then branch off. We are not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the lines of pickets we go out once every five days, it takes nearly every Lient. ~~for~~ for duty to make out the detail of 12 for picket. We have 3 on staff appointments. One ~~is~~ acting as Capt. one resigned & one or two sick usually. I've been in pretty good health saving slight colds & loosness of the bowels, which are very common things here owing to the constant exposure we have to undergo, the change of weather & diet. The Regt received yesterday their January & February pay. It may be a month or 6 weeks ~~are~~ we see the pay for March & April. We are to be mustered to-morrow. I wrote you stating that I had been promoted to 1st Lieutenanty Co. "F". This occurred on the 14th. I scribble these lines off as I have nothing else to do. I will send you a few ancient records I picked up the County Clerk's office at Warwick Court House. I picked them up there while I was Offr. of Guard last week. The records are in a great state of confusion. Most of the old ones having been already taken. I received a letter from Aunt Mary which I will answer soon. I've written her once since I've been here. Love to all. I wrote Uncle & Aunt Russell.

Goodbye & God bless you, Yr. aff Son Ned - -

35

H^dQrs. 1st. Long Island Station
Camp 2 miles from "Fair Oak"
June 2nd 1862

My dear, dear Mother;

I embrace the opportunity offered of our Q. M. going to White House to send you a few lines to inform you that I came through the late fight at Fair Oak Station on 7 Rivers that occurred on the 31st & 1st. The last letter I had from you contained a note from Kate, was dated the 18th, I received it on the 21st. It had Aunt Mary's picture. I got a letter from her today. I wrote you at Williamsburg on the 8th on the receipt of your note there. Since the 8th we have advanced gradually to Bottom's Bridge. On Thursday 23rd our & the Chasseurs were the first regiments as regiments to cross the place where the Bridge had been. We went over to cover the party working on the bridge. In the evening when we returned the bridge had been built & also a light trestle bridge had been thrown across. Friday we crossed & moved in a S. W. direction apparently as if we were going to aid the Gunboats on the James River. Gen'l Wessells, a Regular Major, commanded that Brigade, Graham being north on sick leave. Saturday heavy firing & rain. Sunday ordered to fall in & marching back towards Bottom's Bridge, struck into the road to Richmond, bivouacked near the field where the fighting had occurred on Saturday. Thursday 29th after one or two minor moves moved up to within $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the enemy. Casey's pickets were between us & the enemy. Friday a severe thunderstorm lasting for over 5 hours arose & a perfect

deluge of rain descended. Fortunately I had shelter in the Hospital Tent. By an order issued on Tuesday all wagons save ambulances were to remain across the Chicahominy. We had a few reg'tal wagons with us containing Hospital stores, HdQrs baggage & one with provisions. Saturday cloudy. About 1 P. M. heavy firing towards our picket lines began - artillery practice - two or three shells fell near the camp not exploding. Regarded the matter merely as a skirmish. I had just sat down to commence a letter to a friend intending at the same time to write you, when orders came from Abercrombie (Col. John J. who was at one time com'dt of the Island & now com'dg us instead of Wessells) to be ready to fall in at a moments notice. The firing was now both musketry & artillery & very heavy. Shortly after we were in line. Two regiments of our Brigade were off to the right, Abercrombie took the Chesseurs & 23rd Penna. Vol. & moved off to the railroad on our right leaving us the only regiment of the Brigade apparently as a reserve. In front of us was a range of rifle pits "en echelon" & a short distance beyond them felled timber. Within easy musket range of the pits & beyond the felled timber was our line of outposts. The rifle pits were on the brow of a slight slope. On our left was Miller's Battery of six pieces - the range of the guns being more to the right than I have marked them. Between the guns & us was a drain of about a foot wide made to carry off the water that had settled in the pits. On our right was a wood of pine trees standing, the part of the wood near the road & also the ground in rear of us was swampy - such was our position. The shell commenced flying over us shortly after we had formed line in rather a too lively style to be pleasant & occasioned a good deal of ducking of heads amongst us all. The Colonel allowed us to fall back a few paces so as to have the earth

thrown from the pits more in front of us & also the top of the hill & then gave the order "Lie down". The mounted offr's. dismounted - I being among the number as I am ^{to} have been ever since the 8th acting as Adjutant, ours being sick. Here we lay for some time & while there six (6) of our men were injured by pæces of shell & one was killed outright by a musket or rirle ball entering the top of his head as he was lying on the ground. By order of Keyes who was near us at intervals though no other Gen'l immediately over us was by during any part of the fight save Couch once, the Colonel took the 2nd position perpendicular to the first, the right resting on the road & the whole line in the standing wood & water. This was done in expectation of an attack on our right. In a few minutes we crossed the road & assumed a line parallel to the first & along the road. This was in a wood of pine trees & right around us was the camp of the Chasseurs. Here our men wer ordered to "Lie down" as before in order to prevent being injured by pæces of shell that were flying around us & also musket balls that now commenced to come near our lines. By the way while in our first position & shortly arter we had fallen in Casey's pickets commenced to come through the felled timber & the Colonel rode out with pistol in hand & ordered many of them ^{back}; they obeyed hesitatingly & only went back a short distance to come out at another spot. But to return - while lying near the road the Chaplain asked the Colonel if he had not better ride down the road towards the railroad & see what was going on. He did so & soon returned saying the enemy were coming up & as we then stood would probably outflank us.

Consequently instead of having the line follow the road we took what I have marked as the 3rd position. This was accomplished by making our right wing fall back so as to make an angle of 45 degrees with the line of the left wing. All this was done quietly & in order &

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the men were cautioned in regarding to firing. A lull about 3 P.M. had occurred in the firing & we all hoped from the cheers of those ahead that the day was ours. But soon the firing was renewed & volley upon volley of musketry broke upon the ear accompanied by the whirring hiss of rifled shot & shell. The muskets balls were now flying pretty fast & rather high around us. A regiment, the 87 N.Y. Vol. passed us on the road cheering as they went by on the double quick towards the rail road, hardly had their left passed us ere crack! went a volley of musketry & they came scattering back pouring through the left of our right centre (color) company, throwing it in some confusion but it was instantly repaired. And now came our turn to share in the day's work. Hardly had the fragments of the 87th passed our lines ere the right were engaged & now the shrill music of the rifle balls was heard about us & every sense of danger was lost in the excitement of the scene around us. Previous to the attack on us portions of the 23rd Penn. Vol. belonging to our Brigade, had come back & Neill ("Beau") their Colonel was trying to form them in rear of us. All the Col. & Lieut. Col. & I with the officers could do was to keep the men steady. I don't mean that the men were inclined to run, far from it but we were contending with an enemy of which we knew nothing. The men fired steadily & rapidly. The night received the brunt of the attack. By ^{the} arrows (↓) you will be able to see how the fire came. Had the men been standing we would have lost more. Finally when the fire came from our rear Col. Adams seeing we were outflanked ordered the men of all back & they did so. Up to this moment I had been on foot, I now mounted & rode hastily to join the Colonel who was a little ahead returning slowly in order to receive his orders. As I rode along the accounts of the retreat

of Bull Run of now mounted men urged their horses regardless of the footmen flashed across my mind for I pressed forward to reach the spot marked house on the brow of a hill - here the Colonel & Wessells who had joined as others & myself tried to urge the men to fall in by our colors, some did so & could we have had good ground we would have made a stand but the bullets were flying all around us & finding it useless we fell back determined to form in rear of a range rifle pits we had about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile back. A turn in the road & a bit of wood afforded shelter from the enemy's shot.- now we did not run but moving slowly back I riding by the Colonel's side & both calling to the men that passed to form at the pits we returned. A horse passed us at a rapid gait. The Col. called "Hallo Van Ness" - I turned, there was my Captain wounded, I rode hastily up. He told me he was wounded in two places, arm & lower part of stomach & asked for a Dr. I told him I did not know where one was to be found & that I had to stay back. I found the Color Seg't. & colors & halting them ere reaching the pits we collected about a 100 of our men & marched back with them. There we formed. Phil Kearney commanded these that we found there. We were not pursued - we took up our position, men coming in squads & singly. We lost 6 carr's. out of 23 line carrs. in the fight, one Lieut. Geo. W. Rysdyk, Co. "K", a cousin of Hodgson's & promoted in my place was killed. Capt. H. S. Van Ness Co. "F", Capt. H. E. Rainald, Co. "D", Lieuts. D. R. Sullivan, Co. "E", A. Belknap, Co. "E" & J. Croft, Co. "A", wounded. None of the Field or Staff injured. Col. struck by a spent ball on his neck but no harm done. Serg't Major wounded and promoted on the spot by the Colonel for his gallantry & coolness. Sunday morning a heavy Infantry fight occurred between Richardson's & towards that close in part of Sedgwick's Div. took share in it. We had about 8 against 30,000 that day & whipped

them. Gen'l. Pettigrew of S. C. & other officers are prisoners. One of the men said they came out prepared for 3 days fighting & determined to drive us across the Chicahominy but we hold our own & they have gone back. Our loss in killed & wounded & missing must be over 2000. In ours we lost according to this morning's return 180 out of 560 offrs. & men that we took into the fight. McClellan is reported to have told Abercrombie that his Brigade saved Saturday. The L. I. Regt. fought independently during the whole day & I am not boasting when I say they fought admirably & only fell back when enemy surrounded. Our national flag has 21 bullet holes through it & the mark of a piece of shell. The bearer escaped / ^{un}injured whereas the Reg'tal flag with no holes in it had its bearer wounded. We have lost some brave men - How I escaped I uninjured in any way I can not say for the bullets flew thick & fast around me, I can assure you - I have thanked my God most sincerely & heartily for his kindness & protection & will you offer up thanks for me too, my Mother. My His Holy will be done whether I live or die. Though I had to fall back believe me Mother that I've done no act that would bring a blush to your cheek when you speak of your son's conduct at the battle of "Fair Oaks". The enemy were most kind to those that we left in the field Saturday night. They came out & gave them water saying "We remember what you did to ours at Williamsburg" - "Cast you bread upon the waters & after many days it will return to you again".

I enclose a rough diagram of our positions. We have had rain every day or so & now a heavy storm is threatening. I will try & write again shortly & answer your last letter. I wish I could have 3 weeks leave now to see you & all my old class graduate.

By the way all our wounded are sent as soon as possible by Railroad to West Point & there shipped north. Love to all

riends & relatives.

In hopes that we may both meet ere long (in health)

I remain

as ever

Yr. aff. son

Ned --

Direct as

before to the

same Brigade Division

&c & I think it will reach

me more certainly

E. K. R.

Camp 1st Long Island (67th NY Vol)
Graham's Brigade
Near Fair Oaks Va
June 13th 1862

My dear Mother -

I received your letter of the 1st on the 6th just before starting from our bivouac in rear of the rifle pits to come to this place. I had just given to Lieut. Van Nostrand of Co. "K" a letter of introduction to you - gave it to him unsolicited knowing that you would be ^{glad} glad to see one who had lately left your son & could tell you about him. Van N- is of good family & was formerly wealthy. He is a gentleman by birth & education. But all this I've told you already. Mary Hamilton's photograph was rec'd. I've written them today & your letter will go in the same mail with hers. I sent you by express on the 11th my commission as 2nd Lieut. in this Regiment. The Colonel finally determined to accept them & accordingly they were forwarded to us & received on the 10th. We are now the 67th New York Vols. or 1st Long Island - But 'tis only the last name & its banner that we fight. To our friends we are still the Long Islanders. McClellan has just passed along our line of defences heartily cheered as he past. As my mother you view everything with a prejudiced eye. You see perfection in Southerners & evil in the men of the North. You have not been here to see the way what few people that have remained are treated by us. Safeguards given them & on the advance of the army a guard left to prevent any one pillaging if they felt inclined. Their property (grain & fodder) bought at fair prices & paid for in Government notes or coin & not in shin plasters. Their food where they'd sell it bought by the soldiers and paid for at exorbitantly high prices. Their houses & families

respected even if they are the most bitter recesh & yet these very people who have been protected & if in want of food allowed to buy it at government rates while ~~we~~ were with them, have, when we are gone formed guerrilla bands ready to pick off any straggler. To show you how McClellan regards pillaging let me cite to you a case. The 1st Sunday after leaving Williamsburg an order was issued appointing a Military Commission to try all persons offr's & men found guilty of marauding - A Captain was brought before this Commission charged with "buying a mule knowing it to have been stolen". Found quilty & sentenced to be broken of his rank & confined for 3 years at hard labor in the Penitentiary at Washington City & the sentence was approved. Does that look like allowing a descration &c of their houses? Young Washington Johnson's Aide, that was captured the other day was one of the Class that I belonged to when I left the Academy. I did not see him - I saw Ned on the same evening I received your letter - He was ^e~~w~~ill - Would like to hear from some of his family - however - My regards to Minnie when you next see her. About Katie's boarding at the convent - Do you think it will be best for? What will be the cost? Will she be entirely under the control of the Sisters & not liable to be interfered with by Aunt H-? or any one else? If you judge it to be best I will try & raise the means from my pay to keep her there. One year constantly applied to proper study will do much for her. Let me know what you think about it when you next write. We may expect at any moment a battl~~e~~ but I hardly think we'll play as prominent a part as we did in the last; there are many troops ahead of us & large reinforcements coming up daily. It will be a hard fight when it does come for Richmond depends upon it. We

are now within about 5 miles of R. though our camp is only about 6½ from it. The roads have been in a terrible condition ~~but~~ thanks to the railroad upon which trains run daily to White House we do not suffer for want of provisions. Yesterday & today have been very warm days the first real summer days we have had. Previous to yesterday we were pretty certain to have a rain every day or night. Our dead are buried & our seriously wounded either sent to the Washington Hospitals or else forwarded north. "Here again our railroad came into good ^{delay} ~~play~~ had it not been for the care it would have been a long tedious job to forward our wounded to White House only 18 miles off & many more would have been added to our list of "died from wounds rec'd in battle" than we now have. Every attention possible has been shown to the wounded both Union & Revesh. From what I can learn Sumner has applied to have our Brigade temporarily attached to his Corps in order to have men that would stand fire on picket & our Regiment is regarded very highly. If I live to see Richmond I shall make application to Gen'l Hitchcock to exert his influence to have me appointed a Lieut. in the service. I wish I could be at West Point to see my old classmates graduate - though not allowed to be there yet I can participate in the joy that they feel in being free from the academic restriction & allowed to take their part as officers in the U. S. Army. What difference does birth make in a man's qualifications to be an officer: Though I regard highly the fact that I am a gentlemen by birth & I trust by education yet I am undemocratic enough to believe a man is not dependent upon the mere accident of birth to render him competent to command, in other words Bank's makes a much better Gen'l. than L. F. Graham

our present Brigadier, who is an old regular officer. If a battle occurs soon & I am engaged & come out alive which may God grant, I shall write you to let you know of my safety. If I fall I have friends who will attend to my body & see to the sending of my effects home. Let me hear whenever you have time.

Love to Uncle Aunt & all

Truly yr son

Ned

My prayers are offered daily for your continuance in health. You must take good care of yourself for if I am wounded I shall look to my Mother for care & nursing - The ^{same} case as when a little boy I might, had I known it, have sung "Rock me to sleep Mother",

Your boy,

Ned

This letter is copied verbatim
from the original using exact
spelling, punctuation and as
near as possible, the same mar-
gins. It is enclosed in an en-
velope addressed:

Mrs. K. K. Russell

68 Willoughby Street

Brooklyn

E. K. R.

Long Island

With pencilled notations: "July
9, 62. Seven days campaign. 1st
E. K. Russell cousin of Gen. E.
Kirby-Smith".

HdQrs 1st Long Island
July 7th. 1862.
Camp near Harrison's Landing
on James River

My dear Mother:

I rec'd Aunt Mary H's short letter on 5th & yours on 6th acknowledging the receipt of the money I sent. Your letter of the 22 was rec'd on 26th while I was on a tour of pickets with our Brigade near Casey old lines. During the latter part of the day heavy firing (cannonading) was heard on our extreme right & late at night about 9 -cheering was heard along our whole lines & for about the first time since our arrival Before Richmond a band commenced playing National airs & we sent in to find out what it was for & they said McCall had whipped the foe badly &c - The next day (Friday) 27th we had hardly come off picket & after 2 or 3 miles marching were resting ourselves in orders came to break up camp & move. After going a short distance we halted near a range of rifle pits that we had aided in constructing. While there we heard that the Brigade that had relieved us on picket had had a brush with the enemy just after we left. About 7 P. M. we were on the move for the right our line (Porter's), We arrived at McClellan's HdQrs about 10 P. M. & throwing ourselves upon the ground sought such rest as we could preparatory to going into a fight on the morrow. But about 1 A. M. we were again line & moving back we passed the rifle pits & took the road (Williamsburg) heading to Chickahominy & from that we branched into the one leading through White Oak Swamp. After about 7 hours marching with only a few halts we came to where Casey's Division was lying here we halted several hours to rest & then we all started again and by late in the evening had halted at "Twin Oaks". Our men com-

menced to come in from the time we halted till late in the evening. What with the picket the march to Porter's & then to the Twin Oaks & without a chance to have a regular meal our men were pretty well tired out & when unable to keep up would/^{have}to fall out this caused a great deal of straggling. Sunday morning early a species of cheer somewhat like what little boys in the street give, a few shots the thunder of cannon & then cavalry coming ~~in~~ on a gallop and crying "Fall in, fall in" brought us all out in line. Soon the excitement subsided & we commenced to see a number of "recess cavalry men" brought in disarmed. They said they had only arrived at Richmond a day or two before & were apart of Beauregard's force. They came out on a scout. Their Major was killed. They had come upon our cavalry which fell back in some disorder they pursued & suddenly one of our batteries opened on 'em with grape & canisters which had the effect to cause them to turn about & start full tilt for Richmond. They had not probably expected to find any of our troops in that part of the Peninsula as they had been constantly in the habit of coming down there on scouts. All that day our troops were coming in & by 6 P.M. when again started the fields near us were crowded with moving masses. We had gone some distance & had halted (our regiment) after crossing a little brook when Gen'l Keyes rode through the Division & told us not to speak aloud or light a pipe or segar & to keep together on the march. That march on the night of the 29th & morning of the 30th will hardly be forgotten by any who participated in it. Moving forward slowly, halting every now & then on account of obstructions we kept on our way till about 6 o'clock when we reached our halting place for the day. Through that long column when usually was heard the laugh the song & jist hardly a sound could be heard. But once a few shots behind

us caused some little excitement but quietly word was passed to the different colonels to look out for cleared fields on either side of the road into which to move in case of an attack but none was made fortunately. A small body of the enemy then could have created a terrible panic for we packed pretty closely in that narrow road, 'Twas a beautiful, winding, country road & in peaceful times would have made a splendid drive but in the night we had little chance to see & admire its beauties. During Monday we rested ourselves but about 3 we commenced to move again. McClellan passed along the line. After a short march of about 2 miles we ascended what is called "Malvern Hills". An attack had just commenced & shot were flying quite musically; in moving by Brigade a shot passed near one of our officers & the wind knocked him down, another struck very near the hind legs of Lt. Col. Cross's horse throwing the dirt all over the beast but fortunately no harm was done. Our gunboats came into play & soon silenced a rebel battery on our left. The firing was kept until pretty late & while anxiously listening a person rode from Reg't to Reg't & said "We've beaten the enemy & captured several of their batteries". The next day Tuesday the 1st about 9½ heavy artillery fire commenced on both sides & finally the Brigade was moved forward & ordered to lie down near the foot of a little hill. Here we lay till about 4 P. M. & until 12½ the shell were flying over us & through the woods in our rear then there was a cessation until 2½ when it commenced again & was kept up until near 8½ or 9 P. M. It was about 4 when rising up from our recumbent positions climbed the fence in front of us & moved forward in less than an hour having formed our line to meet an attempt of the enemy to outflank us we moved on & coming in sight of them with a cheer "ours" & another reg't rushed at "a charge" at them.

We were still several hundred yards from them when they "skedaddled" for a wood just back of them. As soon as we saw this we halted & re-dressed our lines & as they came out the musketry began. "Secesh" dropped like leaves in autumn before our fire but the place of the fallen was supplied by fresh ones - few of their shots reached us. I think it must have been owing very much to their being poorly armed - Having used up a great part of the 60 rounds per man & the muskets becoming foul our reg't was relieved by another but we only drew off from the infantry fire & lying down on the ground we became exposed to another danger from our own grape & canister passing over us. We lay there nearly an hour and then the firing being somewhat on the decrease we marched off. But for the few hours we were there was a hot fire of musketry. And now for the first time did I have a chance to see a fight in an open field. I walked coolly up & down the line & watched the men. Here the men were busy firing away cheering & talking as they did it, another was a little ways back trying to run down a cartridge - a third finding his musket foul was dashing across a short space that separated us from the 61st was in rear of us & a sort of reserve. I saw not a man flinch but 'twas one constant state of excitement & tumult. I can say it thankfully that during my whole campaign I've never seen a man killed or wounded though after & in a battle I have seen wounded men yet I've never seen a man struck. What is more singular still I've never seen any live rebels opposed to me that I could swear were rebels though I saw on Tuesday what ~~others~~ said were rebels. I've never been on a battlefield immediately after an action so that a great part of war's horrors I've not seen though I've been

several times in the Hospital after a battle & that part is truly sickening. But let me hasten to a close. Having been relieved by another reg't we drew off a short distance where we were out of the immediate range of the enemy's bullets though occasionally they would come whizzing over us. But our greatest danger was from our own grape which being fired at a low elevation of gun & we close by came hurtling right over where we lay. It made us hug Mother Earth much tighter I can assure you. About 9 P. M. the fight ceased & a short time before we were marched off. We lay down a short distance from battlefield & slept till about 1 or 2 & then up & resumed our road to Harrison's Landing about 3 miles from which we are now encamped resting & recovering from our fatigues.

14 (Lt. Col 1 Adj Actg & 12 line offrs)
We took 14 offrs/ & 367 men & lost 1 offr wounded & 41

men 1 man killed & 3 missing - 1 offr was wounded Monday P. M.

Capt. Peck was the one wounded Tuesday, Hadgson is laid up sick, rheumatism from exposure & had to go away on 3rd. We have only 7 line offrs 1 Lt. Col 2 Surgeons 1 Chaplain 1 Qr Mkr 1 Actg Adj

(1) left out of 37 offrs. The rest are away sick or wounded

2 of the sick ones are supposed to have been taken at Sarages.

I am about as healthy as any offr in reg't. Fell in good spirits and have plenty of brain work to do. Now would be a good time with so many vacancies to apply. Will make a rough sketch of letter to H- and forward to you. Townsend suggestion, a good one I think. With him, H - & Gen'l. Havards I think I could succeed- Will write Aunt Mary soon. Burnt your letters, Don't write please any more such anti-letters as your last but one. Love to all & may God bless & keep you & all my friends ever prays Yr. aff son

Write soon to me

Ned

E. K. R.

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These two letters are copied
verbatim from the original
using exact spelling, punc-
tuation and as near as pos-
sible, same margins. They
are enclosed in an envelope
addressed:

Washington D. C. Due 3
Sept. 16, 1862

Mrs. K: K. Russell

68 Willoughby St.

Brooklyn

E. K. R. Long Island

With pencilled notations:

"Aug. 14, Aug 31st, Sept 8,
'62, at Offlults Cross Roads"

^d
H Qrs 1st L. Il. Reg't.
Nr. Harrison's Va
Aug. 14th 1862

My dear Mother -

I received your letter of the 1st on the 5th. I made my application to Stanton yesterday. Wrote Gen'l N. & enclosed it & a copy of my letter to S, to Townsend. I made the correction you suggested. The letters I sent varied but little in substance from the copies I forwarded you. I say Ned Kirby last night. He has not heard from home for over a month, at least - not since he has been here. He was slightly indisposed.

A movement of some importance is now going on. Knapsacks of men & officers surplus baggage is being put on board of transports as also all the siege train of the Army. Where we are to go to I don't know. ^{body} Everything is on speculation nowadays in regard to our future destination. We were to have started Monday at 2 P. M. - but we are still here - (Thursday 4 P. M.) Direct your letters as of old to the "Army of the Potomac" via Washington D. C. Give Reg't Brig. Div. & Corps names. Some say that part & form Division baggage was marked "Washington". Are we to join Pope? We are afloat on a sea of doubt. Present appearances would look to our going by shipping - I wrote Katie on 2nd. Did she receive it? Sunday 10th I saw Lt. Col. Hardie of Mc Clellan's staff. You recollect him he used to be at Fort Turnbull & called Katie his "little wife" &c. Met me very cordially. Enquired after Aunt, you & Winfield &c. The Sunday previous (3rd) Fisher was up here & he obtained from Lt. Col Cross a very complimentary letter in regard to me. Soeaking well of my conduct under fire & in the performance of my duty &c. The letter was addressed to Asst.

Adj. Gen'l. Seth Williams on McClellan's staff. I had not spoken to Cross at all about my intention to apply for the Regulars & it as at Fisher's request he wrote the letter - F - showed the letter to Hardie & Webb (formerly my "Math" Instr at W.P.) & they approved of it. A day or so after Adj. Gen'l Thomas was at H^d Qrs & Jack asked Hardie if he thought it would be a good thing to commit Thomas in procuring my appointment - H - said "Yes" - & took the matter in hand by asking Thomas if he recollected Dr. Russell of the Army &c. T- remembered Father & after a little talk the letter was handed to him. He like it & said there was no objection that my name was not "Wendell Phillips" or some other name that would carry with it a political signification - Hardie recollected me upon Jack's describing who I was & when I had met him. He told Jack that he was sorry I had not seen him in Washington for then he could have aided me but now McClellan's luck is down somewhat & he can not obtain all that he would wish. I trust I shall hear favorably from my application.

Col Adams returned on 6th. On 7th Lt. Col. Cross was detailed with 10 men & Capt. Van Ness (now in Astoria) to go on recruiting. I rode with him down to McClellan's H^d Qrs in order to complete some necessary arrangements ere he left & on the way back broached the subject of my application. By the way Fisher had told him in my presence what result had attended his letter to Williams I thanked him for his kindness & speaking further about it he said he would aid me all he could. Sunday I spoke to Col. Adams & he approved of it & advised me as I was going to make the military life & profession to "take the tide at its flood" - There were a number of vacancies now & I might stand

a good chance. Everything favors. It remains now for Stanton
to approve or disapprove. Give my love to all. I will write
Aunt Mary soon. Write as usual. Be not worried if I am silent
for I have now a large pile of unanswered letters owing to my
having no clerk to do my official writing & it all falls on me.
God bless you Mother,

Your aff son

Ned

H^dQrs 1st Long Island
Camp nr. Offlults(?) Cross
Roads. Road to Poolesville
Sept 8, 1862 Md.

My dear Mother

I wrote you a few lines on arriving in Alexandria on 31st saying we were going to the front. Monday 1st we made the true start. We only went on a short distance Sunday night & then halted, while the Brigade went ahead in order to provision up. Early Monday we started & taking the road (Little River Turnpike which by the way is one of the best I have ever travelled in Va) we marched at the rate of 2 miles an hour. We made frequent halts to rest the men. We passed a large number of stragglers, armed & unarmed belonging to other Reg'ts, the majority having their feet turned towards Alexandria. Hardly any being bound in the same direction with us. We could not get any information in regard to our Brigade. About 1 P. M. we reached the outskirts of Fairfax C. H. & halted to rest & eat dinner. In the course of an hour & a half or two hours an aid of Couch's rode up & ordered us to move forward immediately. The Brigade was about one (1) mile ahead. Arrived on the ground about 4 P. M. Shortly after cannonading & volleys of musketry were heard. It had commenced to cloud up & ere long a heavy storm of rain burst upon us. In the pauses of the storm the sounds of the distant fight could be heard. We were held as a Reserve. Shortly after night fall the firing ceased. Wrapped in my cloak which had kept me dry I lay down on two rails to sleep. About midnight the falling of rain around me again & while it lasted I sat up but as soon as

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~~it ceased~~ I was agin visiting the land of Nod. The rumble of what I supposed to be Artillery going to the front could be heard during the greater part of the night. The next morning proved that it was Artillery & Baggage Wagons coming in. I'll have to change my pen for a pencil. The penholder ~~being~~ ^{being} too short.

We remained during the whole of Tuesday ready to "fall in" But about 4 P. M. commenced our March back towards Alexandria. Some distance to our rear could be heard shelling as if a desultory artillery practice was being kept up. By 11 P. M. We had halted on the outskirts of Alexandria. Wednesday 3rd marched through A. & halted near the "Coal Wharf". While here I rec'd your letter of Aug. 24th & one from Mr. Davis. That is the latest date of any letter I've rec'd. About 5 P.M. we were embarked on the "Williamsett" (?) (Ferry Boat) & steamed up the Potomac to Georgetown, marched through City to Aqueduct Bridge, crossed over to Virginia side & bivouacked for the night. Next morning marched to Chain Bridge & camped on ground a little below that we had occupied on our return from Va. in March. I refer if you remember to the time when we started to go to Manassess. Here we expect ^{ed} to remain some days. When we crossed the Aqueduct we passed a number of paroled prisoners that Jackson had released I believe.

Soldiers Letter
and K. Russell
Lieut & Adj
1st Long Island

This letter is copied verbatim
from the original using exact
spelling, punctuation and, as
near as possible, same margins.
It is enclosed in an envelope
addressed:

Due 3

Mrs. K. K. Russell
69 Willoughby Street
Brooklyn
Long Island

Pencilled notation: "Oct 3rd
62, Nr. Downsville, Crampton
Pass & Antietam."

Camp of 1st L. I. Reg't
Couch's Division
Franklin's 6th) Corps -
Nr. Downesville Md
Oct. 3rd, 1862

My dear Mother -

I rec'd your letters of Sept. 7th & 17th on 18th
& 23rd. I rec'd the (~~\$XX~~)²⁰ you enclosed on the 1st of Aug. It
Kent that brought the letter from Joe Kirby is a classmate of
Ned's. I am much obliged to you for the stamps you sent but un-
fortunately the letter became damp with perspiration & now they
are all fast on the inside. I suppose the letter would now pass
under the new tax bill as being written on stamped paper - I re-
turn you some of my double stamps perhaps you can pass them for
change. The P. O. may take them back & give you single stamps
in place of them. Lieut. Van Nostrand caught up to the Reg't
just after we had passed through Shapsburg on the 19th of Sept.
I rec'd all the things you sent me. Why didn't you send me a line
with them. I have plenty of handkerchiefs (silk) white handker-
chiefs collars &c &c

I should be very glad to see Van a Lieut of regulars even
if I do not succeed. He is a good fellow & I like him much. I
am still Actg Adj & wish most sincerely I was back with my compy.
The life is too confining to suit me. At times hardly an hour I
can call my own. Obliged to stay in camp when others can leave
the Chapel alone - What if he has the right & power to remove it-
no peace at all. I trust Dr. McV. will show his good sense & leave
Let the Chapel stand. By taking it down he will derive no benefit
from it & by leaving it up even if a Presbyterian or someone else
preaches in it what does it matter. Tis all the same thing in

effect, it is God's word. If done to annoy the Dr. & cause him to resign, the conduct is that of a petty tyrant & not of an offr or a gentleman.

So you think that it is the heads that prevent a settlement of this unhappy war. Of course, you refer more particularly to "A. L. & Co." & not to "J. D. et al". There is where we differ. 'Tis for Jeff's interest, as he thinks, to hold on. Let me bring up my notes of past events. The 14th Sept (Sunday) saw us on the march towards Harper's Ferry. Towards evening we halted near Jefferson from which place could be seen the flash of the guns whose thunder had been brought to our ears all day. We rationed & then moved forward some 4 or 6 miles & halted for the night. The next day we were again on the tramp passing through Burkittsville at the foot of the hill which Slocum had taken the day before. Here on Sunday when our men pushed through to take the heights^e in front of them the women & people poured forth "en masse" into the streets in spite of the rebel shells that were falling near & cheered our men on. And we took the pass though Secesh had well planted batteries & stonewalls to fight behind. We halted at ~~the~~ top & while there Slocum the hero of the hour & day rode through the lines & rec'd our hearty cheers (American cheers & as unlike the rebel yell as light is from day. Our cheers are full, round, resonant, theirs a miserable squeal like the bark of a snarling cur - That day we halted in "Pleasant Valley" the other side of "the pass" - On the 17th the Division started on a tramp to Harper's Ferry 6 or 8 miles off arrived within a mile of it & then "Right about march" passing our camping ground in Pleasant Valley we marched on through Rohversville & other little places till about 9 or 10 pm when we bivouacked for the night. By daylight of 18th we were agin^u up & soon after moving forward. The previous day's march had been about 18 or 20 miles

in all & with no meal time till suppertime at 10 P. M. After halting rations had been issued. But to return we moved forward about a mile & halted for some time then again falling in & take up our line of March we passed through "Keedysville" I believe & crossed the Antietam Creek near the bridge from which our brave boys had driven the rebel foe the day before. 'Twas a beautiful position to hold. Steep banks on which artillery well served could have raked troops approaching ere they could arrive to close range. Winding round the base of the banks we finally reached the top. Shortly arter our Qr Mr. Sergt handed me a small mail & among the letters I found your of the 7th. About 10 A. M. we were sent forward to relieve a portion of the troops on the outer lines. The mounted offrs went dismounted. As we approached the sharp music of the Minie could be heard. We passed a house that had been destroyed to a great extent by shells. It was near here that one of the Privates of the Regt had his little finger struck by a stray bullet so that the finger was amputated. His name is Charley Bissell, an old friend of Gus & a playmate of both Dwight & I. Aunt Sarah probably knows him. We formed our line of battle below the crest of a little ridge & had thrown out about 15 paces ahead of us & on the top of the ridge about a dozen ridettes. Here we lay & ever & anon we'd hear the whiz & thin the spat of a bullet as it struck in our neighborhood. The ground we were on was part of Wednesday's battlefield. Two hundred paces ahead of us was the picket line of the enemy; about noon they displayed a flag of truce - for the fun & novelty of the thing, with our friend Capt. Charley Belden I answered it. They wished to look for their wounded & bury their dead. After some necessary delay permission was granted. While the flag

lasted I was to a greater or lesser extent between the two lines, looking at the dead, taking ~~our~~ wounded from their hands &c & at one time by the carelessness of the offr(lieut) in command of Picket line I was some 30 or 40 paces inside their lines with my party of "stretcher men". How the Col. ~~comdg~~ the pickets did row the poor Luff up! I conversed with a number of offr's & men (rebs) & the general desire was that the war was over. All seemed to deplore it. Among the offr's I met was Capt. Lane of Arty (a son of Gen'l Jun Lang of Oregon) Lane was at the Academy at the same time with myself & in the class ahead of me. I thus had a chance of inquiring after old friends & classmates now in Secessia. I also met a Col R. C. Hill or Lee I think was the name who had been formerly a Lieut in the same compy that McClellan's father-in-law was Capt. of, the 4th Infantry I think it was. Hill or Lee I am not certain which was the last name was a very fine looking gentlemenly man. I went over part of the field with him to search for his dead & he showed how one of our pieces had enrilladed him & in a very small space we counted over 30 of his Regt dead. The field was strewn with the rebel dead. Most of the rebels I met were very poorly shabbily dressed. Only once officer did I meet who was dressed like a gentlemen & wasn't he the pink of perfection. He was the best & nattiest dressed officer I have seen for a long time. His uniform was Cadet Grey faced inside with light blue. He had on a clean shirt with a diamond shirt pin & bore himself with the air of a gentleman. Belden arterwards learnt that he was a South Carolinian of good family. He had been educated at St. James (Episcopal) College not far from our present camp & when the rebels were passing by he had stopped to see the President. The fla g of truce was brought to a sudden termination by shots coming from the right of

the enemy. The offr of their picket Guard & their men immediately started towards the spot where the shots came from crying Stop that firing & I returned to my Regt.

But tis time for the mail to go & I will have to close.
I will write again soon.

Love to all

Yr aff son

Ned

These three letters are copied
verbatim from the original ones
using exact spelling, punctuation,
and as near as possible, same mar-
gins. They are contained in one
envelope as follows:

"Soldiers Letter 1st Long Island

Jesse A. Fenniman

Chaplain

Mrs. K. K. Russell

68 Willoughby Street

Brooklyn Long Island

E. K. R."

H^d Qrs 1st Long Island
3rd Brigade (Crochrane's)
1st Division (Newton's)
6th Corps (Smith's)
Left Grand Division
Army of Potomac
Camp nr Stafford C. H. Va
Dec. 1st 1862

My Address

via

Washington

My dear Mother

Your letter of 19th ult was rec'd the night before Thanksgiving & I can assure you that I was very thankful indeed to see once more your familiar handwriting. It was exactly a month between the receipt of your last two letters. I had wondered why it was I had not heard from you. Since I wrote you at Berlin, I have been on the tramp a great deal & when not so occupied have been engaged very much in my office duties. Like yourself in writing this I am "stealing from the small hours". When I wrote in my last about returning to the command of my company I referred to the fact that I then hoped & expected to be able to go back to my duties in the "Line" & being 1st Lieut in the absence of the Captain I would have commanded. By the way though I understand that Peck is Lieut Col of a new Reg't or has resigned on a/c of his wound in which case I hope to have my compy. I am next to the senior 1st Lieut. of the Regiment. For reasons the senior will not be promoted & I think I shall fight hard against any junior being put over me. I shall try & write Townsend once more. Congress now being in session if I was in W - I would make ~~the~~ application in person & try & work it through. What can possess Col Loomis to act in the way he does to Dr. McV & Mr. K. Have you seen Dr. McV. lately. I trust you will not forget to all

remember me kindly to the good man. 'Tis too bad that the Kendalls had to leave the Island after living there so long. We have had with slight exceptions, lovely weather for our Fall campaign. We (I refer to the Line offrs & men) are living out in "shelter tents". The days are quite cool & the nights very cold. We all think that the removal of McClellan was a great shame. Wild rumors of resignations & open outbreaks in different parts of the "A of P" on a/c of it were about for several days after it occurred. We are once more "in statii quo". The army as a body is a believer in McClellan in spite of the Northern press. We only wish that some of his vilifiers had to undergo some of our hardships instead of taking the war easily at home & criticizing the movements of our Generals. Fremont is far below par. He & Pope are put together. Our political Generals have been the ruin of our best armies. Politics & military have nothing to do with each other. They should be as distinct as the Pole is from the Equator - otherwise there will be a crashing together of these two discordant elements & one or the other must give way & too often 'tis the soldier that "goes to the wall" while the politician remains "lord of all he surveys". Butler is one of the few Gen'ls. that have never had to take back what he has uttered. He has done more in a quiet but determined way to settle "Secesh" than many of our Gen'ls. with all their proclamations. The old adage "Brag is a good dog but Holdfast is a better", has proved true. He is sound in his statements & firm in having his orders executed. We hope to soon see the Pay Master with our 6 months pay. In which case I will be able to send you a large remittance. I would give a good price to be able to eat a Christianlike New York plain dinner. Pork & beans bacon hard crackers rice & coffee are our principal

articles of food. Fresh meat according to our circumstance three or four times a week. We eat to give body & soul together & not because we have a particular relish for the things we have. I still enjoy good health. Nothing but a slight cold troubling me - we are a tolerable hardy set now. Our old campaigners go through hardships in the way of marches & fatigues that use up completely the men that enlisted for bounty. Poor "bountyites"! 'Twere better that they had stayed at home than to come out here & be subject to the jeers of their comrades. Little mercy is shown for the men thus obtained. 'Twas a bad policy I think the offering of any beyond the \$25 of the \$100 bounty & the one month's advance. If men would not volunteer the draft should have been resorted to. Drafted men should have been sent from New York State ere this, yet never a one have we seen as yet. The war has to be prosecuted earnestly & not make any child's play of it. It should be made to hurt & then it will come sooner to an end. But I will have to stop this strain & also my letter, Give my love to Katie & Aunts &c & to all my B'klyn friends. Have you heard from Josie lately & how was she? Where is Ned Kirby? Who was that Kirby Smith that died lately? Not Cousin Frances Webster's nephew?

With much love

I am aff-

Your son

To

Ned

Mrs. K. K. Russell

68 Willoughby Street

Brooklyn, L. I.

Where is Wm. Belmont?

Field near Barnard's House
Below Frederickburg
9 am Dec. 14th 1862

My Mother,

Your letter of the 5th rec'd. We're ^{on} near the field of battle. Ahead of us skirmishers firing. We're under fire of shell & shot yesterday. Lost only 7 (Privates) wounded. Am safe & well save a cold. Our Division the first to cross below F - on the evening of 11th Couch's old Divison crossed 1st below & Couch's Corps crossed 1st at F so 'tis said.

The great battle & I hope the decisive battle of this war is now in progress. I trust it will be the "beginning of the end".

Love to all - In haste as the Chaplain is waiting to take letters. Goodbye.

Truly

son
Yr Aff brother

Ned -

Love to Sister Katie tell her to be a comfort & blessing to you

E. K. R.

Remember me to all

Where is Cousin

Wm Belton?

What Reg't, what rank?

I may be able to hear of him through
prisoners.

Camp of 1st Long Island

Near the Rappahannock

Decr. 17th, 1862

E. K. R.

My dear Mother -

I wrote you a few hurried lines on the 14th while I was on the other side & in order to relieve any anxiety you may have in regard to my safety I write now. We recrossed the Rappahannock on the night of the 15th & early hours of the 16th. This experiment has cost the country the blood of 15 or 16000 men (Union) in killed & wounded & as far as we can see we are no ~~further~~ advanced by it than before we crossed. The enemy have a strongly fortified position. Our lines on the left wing & center were advanced two or three miles from the river ere they approached to their works. For that distance the land is entirely cleared & slightly rolling. Then comes a belt of woods in which the enemy had their advance lines & outworks. Fortunately for us our Brigade were never out on the extreme lines & only once on Saturday did we approach very close. While so lying the rebs opened a battery suddenly & for about 15 minutes twas very hot firing on both sides. At the end of that time they were silenced by having part of their pieces disabled. By their fire our Reg't lost 1 man mortally wounded 3 rather seriously & 3 slightly. We expected every day to be brought forward but much to my suprise on the evening of the 15th we commenced to leave for'tother side. Ere sun rise all save some stragglers I believe were across & the bridges up. It took the troops that were over about 3 days to cross & yet in a single night all our Artillery & troops recrossed. Fortunately for us there was no moon & the wind was blowing from the rebels so that we passed over

without interruption. While over we had had no rain if there had been any I doubt if we would ever have brought off all our artillery. About 4 o'clock in the morning of the 16th it commenced to rain & about 10 o'clock it ceased but it rendered the roads almost impassable for Artillery &c. Thus Providence was with us. From this side we can see scattering rebels travelling over the same fields that we were lately encamped on. What will be next on the programme I wot not. But they can not much longer entertain the idea of prosecuting a Winter campaign. Last night was the first time since the 10th that I slept under the shelter of even a shelter tent. With few exceptions the whole army since it crossed the R - have slept in the open air. Generals & all shared alike. We have been favored with very fine pleasant weather during the month. The night of the 11th was very cold indeed & some few had their feet frost bitten. I've just that Howard comdg a Division has been again wounded. If you recollect he lost an arm at Fair Oaks -

One week from Christmas. I wish I could accept your invitation to eat Xmas dinner with you. I shall when paid send it as you advised by Paymaster's check. The amt will be too great to send by letter. I shall then draw on you as I may need it. No signs of the Pay Master yet. Though we have now nearly 8 months due us. I will hav to stop as I wish to write one or two more ere th mail goes. Remember to to all.

With much love, I am

Yr aff son

Ned -

This letter is copied verbatim
from the original using exact
spelling, punctuation, and as
near as possible, same margins.

Enclosed in an envelope addressed:

"Soldiers Letter 1st Long Island Regt

Jesse A. Fenniman

Chaplain

Mrs. K. K. Russell

68 Willoughby Street

Brooklyn

Long Island"

K. K. R.

H^d Qrs 1st Long Island
-B- Jan 1st 1863

My dear Mother

Your letter of 28th was rec'd last night. Though I differ from you in ~~thinking~~ that I would not succeed if I enlisted yet I will obey your decision. Let my friends think what they may of the reasons that would lead me to take such a step I know that I can show a clear record since I've been an officer & my after conduct would justify me. But your wish is my law my Mother. In some situations I might succeed better by aiming higher but I only stoop to take a loftier flight. I would not act until I had consulted you. The campaign still goes on & will continue to do so. A body of cavalry have gone to the rear of Fredericksburg to cut the railroad bridges &c between F. & R. If unsuccessful they are to go to North Carolina, if successful we are to attack them again & this time on the flanks. We crossed over about 2 miles below F. The only things I got were some half a dozen chickens & a turkey from a deserted house near our 1st crossing & camping ground, Where did you learn from that Kirby Smith had a son. By what underground travel did the news come from Lynchburgh. Mr. Lincoln has not joined us yet. I wish he had. My cold is better. Little or no cough now. Van Nostrand is here. He is anything but well. Heavy cold. I doubt if he will get better of it. He is a good fellow. Ned Kirby's promotion is deserved & I am glad of it. I hear him, when spoken of, mention^{ed} as a good artillerist. He is up on the right somewhere under Sumner. If everything goes right we will have

another 'mish(?) with the rebels soon. I have written this
principally to satisfy your mind on the point of my going
into service. Love to all. A Happy New Year to Katie & all

Your Son

Ned

This letter is copied verbatim
from the original letter using exact
spelling, punctuation, and as near
as possible, the same margins. En-
closed in an envelope addressed:

"Soldiers Letter 1st Long Island Regt

O. P. Stants, Asst Surgeon

Mrs. K. K. Russell

68 Willoughby Street

Brooklyn

Long Island

1st Long Island
Mr. Baronstor's Md (?)
July 15th 1863

My dear Mother,

Bill of June 29th acknowledging receipt of \$40
rec'd. Keep Aunt Barnum's Carte till better times. You can
send yours on at the same time. I wish however on receipt of
this letter that you would send me thirty dollars (\$30) as my
mess expenses have swallowed all up that Van Nostrand & I laid
aside. I wrote you on the 8th informing you of my safety.
Since then we have gradually followed Lee's army through this
place to Funkstown & on to Williamsport yesterday. The day be-
fore (13th) yesterday we (our Regt) were on picket & that night
the rebels evacuated & by the next morning (14th) had completed
their crossing. We captured part of their rear guard Ewell's
Corps. This morning our Corps & others started on the return
marching about 15 miles. Tomorrow we'll probably go to Berlin
so on to Warrenton. Same route most likely as that of last
November. I will avail myself of my opportunities & write you
from time to time. What a pleasant time you are having in New
York. What arrant fools the men sent to disperse the voters
were to fire only blank cartridges or fire over their heads.
Better not to have fired at all. Served Col. O'Brien right
the way they treated him afterwards. I hope they'll make an
example of the ringleaders if they lay hands on them. Some
prominent persons must be at the bottom of the move. There is

too much method in their madness for it to be the mere frenzy of the moment. Butler don't you think would do well to suppress their riotous actions. Anyone to restore order & quiet. Wool is too old to hold his present position. Belden is well. Give my love to all. I had a dream of Aunt Sarah & thought that she was succeeding well in her undertaking. I am in good health & spirits as far as circumstances will permit. I dislike this continual marching. We all would rather fight than march. "A stern chase, you know, is a long march". I hope that we will soon see an end to this now that Vicksburg & Port Hudson are gone & Charleston following suit. We are now about to start for Berlin. Goodbye for the present.

Yr. aff son

Ned

To

Mrs. K. K. Russell

68 Willoughby Street

Brooklyn

Long Island

H^dQrs 6th Corps
Near Welford's Ford on
Hazel River Va
Novr. 16th 1863

My dear Mother,

I rec'd letters from you on the 4th & 11th.

I last wrote you on the 1st from Warrenton. A week from that day I had crossed the Rappahannock & was occupying with the rest of the Staff a house about half a mile from Brandy Station. We are now about two mile to the right of the Station. We left Warrenton about 8 O'clock Saturday 7th) & my two wagons went with the Supply Train of the Corps to Bealton Station about 4 miles from the Rappahannock. After parking the wagons about 2 P. M/ I went with another officer to report to Ingalls Chief Q. M. "A of P". There had been cannonading all day & as we advanced we heard musketry. Suddenly we saw about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile ahead of us a line of skirmishes of our Army this proved pretty conclusively that Meade's H^dQrs were not where we had been told to look for them. In searching for information I came across Sedgwick & Staff & through Kent obtained permission to remain & see work going on. The enemy at the time (3PM) held earthworks on this side of the river covering the crossing of the Rail Road. Towards these & batteries placed on other side of the river our Artillery fire was directed. About sunset Sedgwick rode out to the front & reconnoitered the position & I believe came to the conclusion they could not be taken;

however as his orders were, if possible, to capture the works that day he determined according to his usual style to try it. Sedgwick at the time commanded two corps & Wright in command of our Corps, Wright's Division was under Gen'l David A. Russell (Major of Regulars used to be Capt. in Powell's Regt) - Two Regts of Russell's Brigade were deployed as a heavy line of skirmishers & just after sunset advanced upon the works. The artillery ceased as they advanced & in a few moments we could see on the dark sky the fitful gleam of musketry. In less than an hour & a half the works were ours; gained at a pretty heavy loss but it was done bravely & well. Russell though commanding a Division superintended the whole work & went forward with his men. The papers have given you the items as to the results. One of the captured Colonels who took breakfast at the mess where I was dining said he would have been willing to bet that there wasn't a corps in our Army could have taken their works & get only three(3) of "ours" did it capturing some 1500 men belonging to eight (8) different Regts. More men were taken than we had actually engaged. Lee was present during the P. M. My Regt still maintains its fortunate character. Not a man or officer injured though we lost some in the Brigade. Part of the Reg't were serving as skirmishers & the rest were supporting a battery. The Rail Road is ⁱⁿ now running order up to this point & any day we may expect a move. Some think we will go down to Fredericksburg & occupy the Heights for the Winter. Nothing certain is known as to our future movements. All is mere sur-

mises. I am pleased to see that you & Mrs. Powell are becoming such good friends. Miss Julie wrote me a short time since & in speaking of the pins said they had been admired by all that saw them & each considered her own the prettiest. 'Twas hard to decide.

I've nearly finished my back papers. Have had little or no difficulty. I think you had better invest in the 5,200 even if you have to take ^{the} coupons. 'Tis the safest & best paying investment. I wrote Myers, since receiving your last letter, to find out whether he received my previous letter & what had become of the enclosures. He may no longer be at Fortress Monroe. Did Everett get a letter I wrote him about Ed's company affairs? It was directed to

Mr. William Everett

Novelty Iron Works

New York City

'Twas sent on the 12th or 13th. I received about a week ago a letter from Cousin Rebecca enclosing some of the cartes of Coz Win. I send you one. What do you think of it? In my opinion it is excellent. I understood Hardie to say that when communication between the lines was resumed he would ^{em} remember Josie's case. As to myself without my touching upon the matter at all he said he would when able to happy to assist me.

If your room is at all cold or uncomfortable I wish you would put in an airtight & accept it as my Xmas (ahead of time) present. Do it, dear Mother, & oblige your son. Your message

to be sent to Mr. Preston's family did not come till after we had left W.

I will write Aunt Mary shortly in answer to her letter written on the 1st. Remember me to all my friends in B. I heard from White Plains the other day. Miss Hattie had recovered sufficiently to go out & take exercise for a short time. The Pay Masters are around paying off the troops. I've not drawn mine yet. Do you need any money, if so I'll send it to you. What is the name of your servant; - her whole name. Give me some sort of personal description of her.

Love to all the family. If you can get me any Cartes of 'Fanny & Coz Frances Webster please do so.

Write soon, Mother dear,

Yr aff son

Ned

P. S.

Mr. Lincoln is down here. He came on to Washington & managed to get down here. He has been invited to be present at the consecration of the National burying ground at Gettysburg & will go there with the Presidential party.

E. K. R.

H^dQrs. 6th Corps A. of P.
Brandy Station Va
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ A. M. Decr. 31st 1863

My dear Mother -

Your letters of 20th & 27th were received.

The last yesterday. I answer so soon as I am closing up all my correspondence for 1863. Here we are once more on the commencement of a New Year. This year closes more happily than did our last & the augury of success is in our favor. I shall do what I can in/case of Josie now that Butler has succeeded ^{the} reopening exchanges of prisoners (though whether it will last seems doubtful). I should think that transfers of citizens from one line to another would be permitted. But I will let you know further, I hope. I could not think whose "Carte" you had sent me until I read your letter through, I thought I knew the face. I think Uncle Ned resembles Aunt Harriet in the contour of his face. Is cousin Francis still with you. Remember me to her. I want a picture of her if it can be had. Who is Cousin Josie going to marry? By the way, speaking of marriage reminds me that I notified in the Herald some days ago 1st of the list of marriages was that of an ex officer of our Regt (Belknap) and last that of Will Walters. Having written you so very recently there is really very little to tell you. The Reg't expects to leave by New Years for Brooklyn. About 300 have reenlisted & nearly all the officers present with it save Col Cross. About 3000 have up to this moment joined the Veteran Corps with our/Corps. This is a little less than 1/3 of the strength of the Corps.

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The Regt will probably make a parade in Brooklyn on its arrival. Post Master Lincoln will probably know all about the arrangements. I am glad to hear that Frank has succeeded in getting a situation. I hope he'll be more successful in keeping it than his last. You spent a very pleasant Xmas. Mone was rather dull & stupid. I had prepared a dinner expecting some 3 officers of ours to dine with me & at the last moment found they couldn't come being busy making out reenlistment papers. The day dragged slowly & I was glad when I went to bed at 9 P. M. to have got rid of it. I don't think I shall undertake any more stately dinners in a hurry. Give my love to all. Don't write till after the sixth unless you hear from me. Good night. Love to all. Wrote ~~K~~atie a few days ago.

Yr aff son

Ned

HdQrs 6th Corps
Bandy Station Va
Feb. 29th 1864

My dear Mother

I arrived here Saturday P. M. to find that the Corps had started in the morning with six days stores on a reconnoissance towards Madison C. H. & at the same time Kilpatrick started out with a large force of Cavalry to Orange C. H. Nothing has as yet been heard here from them. Gen'l Wright Capt Dalton & one or two others of the 1st Division came up on the same train with me & started soon after their arrival out to join the Corps. Two offr's of our HdQrs started this morning but I did not go as I thought the Genl would not care to have me. The tents were left standing & a guard in each camp. Other portions of the Army were under moving orders to be ready to support "the Sixth". I arrived at Baltimore on the 25th about 9 A. M. & went direct to Aunt Barnum's. She was quite well. Gave her the "Gladiola" bulbs for Mrs. Zenas B. that ^{Punt} ~~sent~~ Harry sent. Mrs. Z. B. had a girl late on the night of the 21st. Both doing well. It so happened that there were no trains for W. till 3 P. M. so that it was nearly 6 before I reached the Powells. Please tell Mrs. Powell that I delivered her package to them all safe & sound. Julie had heard from her that morning. I called to see George Ford on Friday & there went to the President's on my message but could not see him it being "Cabinet" day & no visitors admitted. If I could have stayed over Saturday I might have found an opportunity of seeing

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him. That being "public reception" day. I shall now try & get a letter from "Uncle John" and make my application to Secty of War. I will write to Hardie enclosing the letters so as to be sure they go direct.

It has just commenced to cloud up & sprinkle as usual whenever we have any move on foot. The object of this attempt is to assist Butler once more I believe who is going to try for R. again. He's reported to have 50,000 men under his command. Our troops will probably be back by Wednesday. As yet we have heard no sounds of firing.

Remember me to all. I will send you by this mail a Ambrotype I had taken in W. Please send me the Corps Cross when it arrives.

With love to Aunt & sisters,

I am

Yr aff son

Ned

Let me hear from you soon
Yr aff son
Ned

H Qrs 6th Corps
Mar 13th 1864

Kind regards to
Mr & Mrs Powell

My dear Mother -

The letter & the Cross came safely. I did not send you a Photograph but an Ambrotype. Did you receive it & what think you of it. 'Twas taken about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunset. Among the ladies I met here on my return was a Mrs. Penrose the wife of Col. Penrose of the 15th New Jersey. Col. P. is a Lieut in the Regular Infantry. Powell knows him. Mrs. Penrose in the course of conversation happened to ask Mrs. Beaumart if she knew "Mrs. Mary Fairfax" & I remarked "Mrs. Dr. Fairfax" & she said "Yes". I told her she was my cousin she then said that she was a cousin to Mrs. F. That Mrs. Penrose's maiden name was I don't know 'twas Hattie. However, Mrs. Gen'l Brown is her "Aunt Pamela". She knows Minnie Everett but has never seen any of the rest of the family. Do you know who she is. We of course claimed a distant relationship though to what degree it will be I have no idea. I spent 2 or 3 hours there this evening. There was present an ex General Todd formerly a Captain in the regulars & a classmate of Sedgwick's. Gen'l T is an uncle of Col. & Mrs. P. & is in some way related to the President's wife, Mrs. Lincoln. He resides in Dacotah Territory & is now contesting his seat as a Delegate from Dacotah to Congress. Have had a letter from Aunt Mary Pierce & Coz Nellie Comming. Aunt writes in a very cheerful strain. My letter was dated about 22nd of February --

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY CORPS

April 29th, 1864

My dear Mother,

In the letter I wrote Aunt Mary I said I would write you by the same mail but feeling pretty sleepy I put it off and for the last day or two I've been at work on my Monthly papers so as to get them off my hands ere we move. Last Sunday I did not expect to be here at this moment. We all thought then that by Wednesday we would be on the move. Now it does not seem that we shall move till the early part of the week. Burnside's men have been relieving the 5th Corps stationed along the railway between Brandy & Alexandria. Yesterday the head of his column was at Manassas Junction. By Monday 'twill be at Rappahannock Station. We are all looking forward anxiously for the opening of the campaign. No idea as to what will be the route has yet got abroad. Surmises are plenty but no facts. I care not how soon after Tuesday they commence as then my April a/c will all be in. Col. Townsend was here yesterday but I did not know it until today when the General told me about it. I shall most likely send you by Sunday's or Monday's mail some Photographs our of Hdqrs. We did not have all the officers of the Staff present at any one time so as to have a grouping of them taken. One group that we had was a poor one and ere another could be taken the Photographer was ordered to the rear with the Sutler's and others. I am very sorry that we could not get a group of them all so as to preserve it for after years. Please put these

away carefully as I intend to have them framed one of these days when peace & plenty return.

As Grant is now in command of the Army we are going right through to Richmond and no mistake. 'Tis a long read but we will get there - either as victors or prisoners. I have some rebel songs that Charley Belden got from some of the Johnnys while at Johnson's Island I may send them on for preservation. One of them is by Gen'l Trimble of Baltimore. Is he any relation to the Trimbles of New York into whose family Jake Kirby married? He is a bitter rebel Belden says and never omitted in the slightest communication; official or private, with our officers to have a fling at them in the way of some sarcastic or bitter remark, about the Yankees. Belden was much pleased with many that he saw there and they were gratified and pleased at the kind treatment they had from us. He received a letter from Aunt Harriet about some youngster that was a prisoner. B - had a general superintendence of the prisoners & attended to all concerning them. He was busy constantly. I will write you again as often as possible on the March. Will write Katie & Josie in a day or two. Am well save a cold. Love to all.

Yr aff son

Ned

I send you fifty(\$50) dollars of my

April pay:

E. K. R.

Pivey Creek Church
10 Miles South of Fredericks-
burg
H^d Qrs 6th Corps
Near Spotsylvania C. H.
May 8, 1864

Dear Mother -

I am well & in good spirits. For 4 days we have been fighting & for 5 days marching. We are now following the enemy towards Richmond. Loss of Army about 12 or 15000. Corps about 5000. Wounded are now being sent to Fredericksburg to be sent to Washington. I send this by the officer going in charge of train. The General & staff are safe. Heaviest fighting we have had. Are ready to go ahead for 12 days longer. We are about 60 miles from Richmond. Butler is at or near Petersburg at last accounts. Burnside & his darkeys have joined us. The "Nigs" have not been in a fight yet but they march well much better than whites at a fast gait. Will write again in a few days at next best opportunity. Remember me to all. Left Brandy on 3rd. Goodbye dear Mother & sisters.

Yr son

Ned

Mrs. K. K. Russell

Brooklyn

L. I.

Marye's Heights near
Fredericksburg Va
May 15th, 1864

My dear sisters-

I wrote Mother on the 8th & had a telegram sent from Washington on the 9th stating that I was well. Did she receive them. Mail communication has again be established with the A. o P. & I hope you will soon write me. Since the 19th of April I have not had a line from any of you. I have expected a letter daily & I hope I am not long to be disappointed. We are still in front of Spotsylvania Court House about 11 miles from here.- Lee's lines are formed about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile this side of the Court House. More or less fighting goes on daily & so far the success has been with us. To be sure our onward progress is very slow for every foot is steadily contested & has to be gained with much loss of blood but still Grant holds on, & the Army moves. Over 8000 rebels have been taken & over 20 cannon, Flags &c Among the "Johnnies" taken were Maj. Genl. Bradley T. Johnson of Maryland, Brig. Genl Geo. H. Stuart. Stuart put on too many airs & when civilities were offered him acted so discourteously that he was permitted to march through the mud at the head of his command to the rear ^{at} instead of riding as had first been intended. first A six mile tramp somewhat abated his haughtiness to the "Yanks". The loss in both Armies has been fearful. One of the greatest losses on our side was that of Uncle John Sedgwick. He was shot

on the 10th by a rebel sharpshooter while placing his troops in position. The ball entered just below the left eye & passed through coming out at the base of the brain. A cool, good hearted, sensible, courageous man 'tis very hard to lose him at the present crisis. Not one in the whole army but speaks of him with respect. I wish you would save me all the papers that refer in any manner to him & his death. The carnage has been fearful.. In three of the embrasures of rebel rifle pits over 150 killed were found & in some places the dead & wounded were piled up 5 & 6 deep. The living under the dead. Those that saw say they never wish to see such a sight again. Our troops are still in good spirits & those whose times are nearly out go into the fight with as much zest & spirit as if they did not expect to be out of the service for months. Grant said to Warren & Meade that he thought he had seen fighting but that he never had until he came here, that our men (Army of Potomac) do not fight because it is their duty but they go into it as a matter of pleasure & are satisfied when they win & and do not follow up the advantage gained. The ambulance & spare Army wagons are engaged day & night in bringing/wounded in from the front to Belle Plains for shipment to Washington. The Sanitary Commission has done a noble work since the opening of this campaign & I will take back many of my objections & sneers at it made while at home. Fredericksburg is one vast Hospital. The "red flag" & wounded men appear everywhere. Reinforcements are coming in slowly but not as fast as they ought. Tell Aunt Mary that I can't write her just yet but will as soon as liesure

is given me. Give my love to all. Write me soon and believe
that brother Ned is well out of harm's way until you hear
further. God bless you all my dear sisters.

Yr aff brother

Ned

To

Josie & Katie

H Qrs 6th Corps A. of P.
Coal Harbor, Va.
10 P.M. June 8th, 1864

My dear Sister -

I take a few minutes ere retiring to write you in answer to yours of the 29th. I wrote Aunt Mary C. H. about the 25th so between Auntie & Mother you will hear every week of so from me.

Did you get any late news from Dr. Perry of Mr. P -? Has anything been heard of Coz Win lately? I enclose a slip cut from a late Richmond paper relating to Gen'l E. K. Smith. I found the paper at a house where I stopped & had dinner just after crossing the Matapony(?). Capt. Platt, who is a 2nd cousin of ours, & who was at the time Actg Chief Quarter Master of our Corps was "gobbled" on the 31st. On the 29th he came down from Hanover C. H. when our Corps was to ^{the} train parked at Hanover town on the Pamunkey. About 4 p.m. of the 30th he started back & taking the same road back was "gobbled". Our Corps had left the C. H. & consequently the road was again in the hands of the "Johnnies". They took in addition his light wagon containing his baggage & tent its driver & two horses two orderlies & two clerks mounted & also his negro. The time of one of the orderlies was out in four days. The negro made his escape while his guard were asleep. Platt's brother at Meade's H^dQrs saw in Richmond paper an account of his arrival & of his anxiety to be made the subject of a special exchange. Platt's time was out in September. I went up to H^dQrs in the forenoon of the same day and had I not met an officer of H^dQrs might have gone the same road that Platt did. I saw Will Powell on Monday. He was on his way to his Reg't.

'Tis in Sedlie's Brigade, Crittenden's Division, 9th Corps I believe. There is a chance of its being sent to the 5th Corps. He asked me to have Mother call on Mrs. Powell as soon as she heard from me & tell her he was well. He has written a number of times but has received no answer. Tell Mrs. Powell to direct all her letters to me at these HdQrs & I will see that Will gets them. Let ~~her~~ put my name on the envelope & "W.P". in the lower left hand corner. ~~He~~ had had no letter in 4 or 5 weeks. Don't fail to attend to this. Give my kind remembrances to all & will love for Mother sister & all.

I am

Yr aff brother

H^d Qrs 6th Corps A. of P.
Coal Harbor, Va.
June 8th, 1864

My dear Mother -

Your letters of the 2nd & 29th of May were received on the 4th ult. After a series of unexampled contests during the past 4 or 5 weeks we have at last arrived near the scene of the 1st of the seven days fights - Coal Harbor at one time during McClellan's advance & previous to "Seven Pines" was his H^dQrs/ Gaine's Hill is only about two miles from us. Our Corps is near the right of the line. The order of battle is Burnside (9th), Smith (2 Divisions of 18th & 2 of 10th Corps) Wright (6th) Hancock (2nd & part of Warren (5th) on left. Our left is near Bolton's Bridge. We arrived here on the 1st & that P. M. & the day of the 3rd had fights that gave us some half of 3/4 of a mile but cost us about 12000 killed & wounded. Ricketts (3rd) Division did admirably & were complimented by Meade on the 1st. Some of the dead & wounded of the 3rd were buried or taken up until yesterday laying as they did between the lines. The rebels would not allow us to aid them or would they do it. In some of the bodies were found 8 or 10 bullet holes when the sharpshooters had fired at them after being wounded. The brother of our Ass't Adj't. Genl was among the killed. Some portions of our line is not more the 100 yards from that of the enemy. We have in some places 4 & 7 lines of works connected by covered ways. More or less firing is going on daily. In fact 'tis safer to be on the 1st line of the works than on those in the rear. Once more will the enemies of McClellan have to own the "Spade" is trumps" for the work of t s
this

campaign has been & will be done principally by that humble weapon. Siege trains have been ordered up & Grant has sat down before Richmond. He has driven Lee from his fine line of intrenchments from Spotsylvania C. H. to the North & South Anna & finally to within 14 miles of Richmond. Grant has his base of supplies only 12 miles off & good roads for hauling. He that can hold out the longest will win. Rebel papers of a day or two back own up that Hunter has whipped Jones' Brigade near Staunton. Sheridan has gone to cooperate with Hunter. I tell you Mother Grant's progress has been slow & has cost dearly. in blood out so far it has been certain. A man to be successful has to some extent to disregard life. War cannot be carried on without loss. The blame does not rest with us but with those that commenced it & that plotted against the country's welfare for the arch traitors I have no pity nor would I have mercy were they to fall in to my hands and their lives at my disposal.

You are mistaken in saying that Washington's place has been desecrated by our men & destroyed. The place has been sacred during the whole war & has not been interfered with by either party. Mount Vernon is the same as it was before the war. The freeing of the negro is the natural result of the war & the more I see of it the better it is. It takes away from the South one of their main props in continuing the war. When they are obliged to send some of their fighting strength home to raise crops for those in the Army the sooner will they have to give in. During our recent marches we came through portions of Virginia previously untraversed by our armies of foot, none save our Cavalry had perhaps passed through it, and whenever

we went the darkies in droves with their goods & little ones followed
ter us kept up with our trains. As our trains reached near Hanover-
town on the Pamunkey those who saw it say a most affecting scene took
place. 'Twas on the afternoon of Sunday 29th, May & there were a hun-
dred or more "nigs" of all ages & sexes collected together on the river^s
bank. They celebrated by singing & prayer their deliverance from slav-
ery. One woman as she looked down upon her baby in her arms said
"Bress de Lor' dey can't sell you" - I have no scales over my eyes,
Mother, whatever might I have thought at the beginning. I now most firm-
ly wish for the putting down of this rebellion nor do I wish to see
the war ended till that is done let it cost what it may. There is
only one true platform & that is "No compromise with traitors". Sub-
mission or subjugation is the only alternative that can be offered
them. My regiment's term is out in 12 more days but I doubt if th^oll:
many left to avail themselves of the expiration of service. Regi-
ment after regiment of three years men are leaving now but we have
still some 110000 left & I doubt not but that in a few months many
now going off will be vending their way back again into the service.
I suppose most of the officers of the 1st Lang Island will go out of
service principally because they want to & some because there will not
be enough men left to retain them in service. I want to stay in at
least till I can see "Richmond towers" not in the far distance but
from a close range. Well, Josie will be wanting to have a line from
her Yankee brother & I think I'll gratify her with your permission.
Tell Aunt H. when I take rooms at "Hotel de Sibly" I'll be certain
to send my card to Aunt Mary if the rebel thieves alias Major Turner
& his "subs" leave me such a thing. Love to all

Yr aff son

HdQrs 6th Corps
Near Petersburg Va
June 19th 1864

My dear Mother -

I wrote you on the 8th from near Coal Harbor and though I've not heard from you since about the last of May yet I write again so that you may be kept notified as to my whereabouts & health. On the 13th we left Coal Harbor & crossed the Chickahominy at Jones' or Zones' Bridge & camped at the residence of a gentleman on the banks of the C. The place was that of Mr. Jordan & was called Mount Sterling. The next day we marched to the place of a Mr. Christian about a mile from Charles City Court House & on the 15th we moved about a mile nearer the river & had our HdQrs at the house of The 16th we built entrenchments & changed HdQrs to the banks of the James. On the 15th I saw Will Powell. He is doing duty as Division Inspector of Gen'l. Ledlie's staff of Burnside's (9th) Corps. This Corps is now about 6 miles from us in front of Petersburg. Our Corps being divided 2 Divisions (1st & 2nd) being near P- & the 3rd Ricketts here between the James & Appomattox along with Butler's troops of the 18th & 10th Corps. On the 16th Wright had a very mixed command. We had to guard the rear till all the troops & wagons &c had passed the James at Powhatan Point so his command consisted of one Division (Wilson) of Cavalry the pontoon bridge & engineers 3 or 4 gun boats & his own corps proper. I went off with half a dozen others of ours to one of the Gunboats the "Mackinaw" Capt. Beaumont - took dinner with him. We got back just in time to get on board the 1st boat loaded with troops of the Corps

going up to City Point. Marching orders had come & Ferrero's Div (colored). of the 9th Corps relieved us at our breastworks & we started 2 Divisions by transports & the other (2nd) by land for Petersburg via City Point. When we got to C. P. orders came from Grant to go to Point of Rocks if we could & if not to land at Bermuda Hundreds so Franklin (a brother of the Gen'l) remained to inform the boats after us & I stayed to keep him company. Twas 5 oclock A. M. on 17th ere the last boat came & then we went aboard & came up to Bermuda Hundreds. Our horses went by another boat & of course were not to be found when we landed. Franklin managed to get a horse but I started on foot to my own H^dQrs. After some hours walking I got to Davy Russell's H^dQrs. & as he knew not for certain where we were established I remained with him till the P. M. when as it happened Gen'l Wright rode up with my orderly & horse in his retinue. We then fixed our H^dQrs near Gen'l Gilmore's who by the way has been relieved & ordered to Washington. That night we were ordered out to support an intended attempt to regain works lost during the day but it did not come off according to programme. Yesterday having heard that Will Chapman was somewhere around I hunted him out - He is in the 3rd New York Vol. This Regiment is in a Division commanded by Amos, Kirby's room mate & classmate, of the 18th Corps. Mrs. Chapman is in Baltimore living at a Mrs. Jarris. Will is looking well & likes the life. He was in the assaulting party on the 16th that took the strong works overlooking Petersburg. Some of Butler's darkies were engaged in the assault & lost about 600 out of 2 or 3000. Gen'l Smith who commanded the 18th Corps & like most of our A. of P. officers had no particular love for the "nigs"

says they did well. Assaulting & capturing 4 works one after the other. Had the Johnnies thrown in stronger reinforcements 'twould have cost us dearer than it did. Fighting more or less has gone on continually in the direction of our left (Petersburg) but nothing in our own front. This is about the safest place for a line in rear of works that I've been in for some time. No shells or bullets can whiz near us altogether different from Coal Harbor as one of ours said, one can be brave & heroic on very small capital in the eyes of these 10th & 18th Corps men around here. At 12 P. M. today the three years service of my Regiment expires. & unless they are in a fight today you will probably see Charley Belden home soon. He had two hits in his right arm between the elbow & shoulder but still remain^{ing} on duty. I am going to remain in for a short time longer till we get into Richmond. I've arranged it so that I think I can then get out. I am in good health & enjoying myself. Do write me Mother. If you don't let Josie & I will drop you a line whenever I can. Charley, my late sergt, will call & see you on reaching Brooklyn. He will tell you all about the captain. Love to all

Yr son

Ned

H^dQrs 6th Corps
June 20, 1864

My dear Mother -

The bearer of this is Charles Rowley late a
Private in "K" Co 1st Long Island. He has been with me since
June 28th '63 as my valet & general factotum.

He'll spin you long yarns about the campaign
& the Captain. He is now "one of the sovereign people" a position
not to be despised.

Yr Son

Ned

To Mrs. K. K. Russell

68 Willoughby Street

Brooklyn

L. I.

HdQrs 6th Corps
Petersburg, Va.
July 6th, 1864

My dear Mother

Your letters of the 14th, 19th, & 26th have been received.
Excerpt
~~Write~~ you on the 19th. There are now over 400 & nearly 500 on the rolls of my Regiment of which number over 300 are present.. There is only one officer, the Senior Captain, left with it on duty/and during this week I shall apply to Gen'l Wright to permit me to return to duty with it. Under the circumstances I think my place is with my men and not here. 'Tis not right that as I have remained in service that I should throw the whole labor and duty upon one man and not bear my portion of the burden. Had the Regiment been only about 100 or more men for duty; enough to make only one company present & say another away I could have remained on the rolls & stayed here. But as it is I ought to be with Fiske & share his duties. There were officers who had the benefit of the 35 days leave of absence on account of their men's reenlisting who went out of service as soon as there were a chance & Cross true to his whole course of acting with the officers left two officers, Fiske & Middaugh, without consulting with either. M- had no business to remain as he did not reenlist and being away wounded at the time the Regiment left could have no voice in the matter besides having no desire to stay. As the case now stands I think Fiske will be the Major of the battalion and I the Senior Captain. Fiske saw me on the 4th and proposed waiving his claim in my favor but I think him better entitled to it by continuous service & ability than myself. To be sure I was an officer when he was 1st sergt but he came

into the Regiment with better claims to a commission than I did as he helped raise the company of which he is now the Captain, and I brought nothing with me but my knowledge of tactics & the duties of a soldier. I know, Mother, my decision will distress you. For that I am sorry and could I have received yours & Josie's letters sooner ere the Regiment left I think I would have gone out too. Though I will confess that your remark that I would never see Richmond ~~save~~ perhaps as a prisoner made my obstinate streak rise up & I had determined to remain until we did get there as conquerors. Well out old Brigade that has been one since the organization in September 1861 of the A. of P. has ceased to exist. What is left of the original Regiments have been sent to different Brigades of the Corps. First our Division was broken up & now our Brigade. The 28th Massachusetts is in the

First (1st) Brigade

First (1st) Division

Second (2nd) Army Corps

A. of P.

and a letter so addressed would reach the man if he is alive. About the last of June we went out in a trip to Ream's Station to assist Harry Wilson out of his scrape with the "Johnnys" but could find nothing of him. He had made his escape by another route. He lost heavily but inflicted a great deal of damage on the rebels having destroyed a good deal of the Danville & Petersburg R. R. & also the Weldon & P - RR. Fourth of July passed off quietly though there has been a report that we were to have a hundred guns fired as a salute, not of blank cartridges however, - But it did not happen. - I saw Will Powell on the 20th and gave him the letter sent. He had already heard of the

happy event. All has been quiet here we never have a shot fired in our front. The quietest duty we have done for a long time. The heat has been very oppressive. No water to be had unless we dig some 10 or 15 feet for it. This well digging has been about the only occupation our men have had for some time back. There is a rumor that our Corps will have to go to Maryland to look after Ewell. One Division has already gone. We are all praying & hoping for it. It will be such a change for us. 'Tis said that the 17th & 19th Corps are to come here from Louisiana. Grant is having all the reinforcements he wants. The men are in good health, I believe and as for myself sun don't affect me very uncomfortably, not so as to bring on sickness, thanks to a good constitution & my temperate habits. Give my love to all. I want to write a Josie a line. Address all letters for the present to me here.

Yr aff son

Ned

July 6th 1864

My dear Sister Josie,

Once more & after a long silence do I address you. I have given in my letter to Mother all the news about ~~that~~ we have. Our camp is about 6 miles South of Petersburg. The only firing on our lines is near the Appomattox on the right under "Baldy" Smith. You ask about the camp news & rebel songs, I ^{have} ~~hve~~ them with me not having a good opportunity to send them to you. Mother speaks about Katie's health not being good & that she ought to go out in the country. Now I don't know but I think that it would be a good plan if she could

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go to White Plains & visit & board with my friend Dr. Hodgson. She would have the society of young ladies of about your age & very good friends of mine. If you like the plan let hear from you soon. Besides having the society fitted for her she would be right under the doctor's eye, have good country living & be near the city. I can write to Val & speak to him about it. Kate has been too confined in her studies. She has not had the childhood of most young people. So you like Mr. Perry & are much pleased with his sister. I should like to see the one you call mighty pretty. What name has been selected for little Miss Powell. Offer Mrs. Powell my congratulations & say that I hope one of these days to sing it to sleep to the tune of

"Rock a bye baby"

I am going to write Aunt Mary H. soon when I can get time but at present between business & the hear 'tis as much as I can do to work away the day. Good bye, Kiss Becky for me. Love to Coz R. & children, Aunt H. & Katie. Tell Puss she must write now that school is out.

Yr brother

Ned

H^dQrs 6th Corps
July 25th, 1864

My dear Mother,

I wrote you on the 13th enclosing one hundred & fifty dollars (\$150⁰⁰/₀₀); did you receive it. I now send you fifty dollars (\$50⁰⁰/₁₀₀). This is part of my July pay. I am square with Uncle Sam up to the 31st of the month but in case of accident to me ere the close Maj Ely is the Paymaster to whom the balance would have to be refunded. I have before me you two letters & those of Josie's of the 10th & 11th. Since mine of the 13th we have been out across the Shenandoah to within eight (8) miles of Winchester & there having found Early had retreated Southward in accordance to orders from the War Department we started back reaching here about 2 p. m. Saturday. Last night orders came to be ready to embark for City Point this A.M. but that was countermanded and now we are to prepare to take the field again. The report has come to Army HdQrs that Early heavily reinforced from Richmond as soon as he found we had started back turned around & drove the force belonging to Hunter's command left to observe him back to Bunker Hill near Harper's Ferry. The General is now in W - awaiting further word from Gen'l Hallock. We may be kept on this trotting around business all Summer. As to Grant's movements I have not seen a New York paper for some days & can learn nothing of what he has done & is doing by asking people here. They don't know. Every day about the City is stirred to its center by reports of rebel raids. Little or no truth I guess in most of them. 26thth orders have come to leave right off for Rockville on the way to Frederick- I was going to answer your two letters but this move has prevented it.

Will write again as soon as I have a moment of rest. Love to all.
Write me soon & let me know if you received the money sent.

Good bye

Yr aff son

Ned

Will write Josie soon

E. K. R.

H Qrs 6th Corps
Dept. of W. Virginia
Harper's Ferry Va
Aug. 7th, 1864

My dear Mother,

Your letter of the 31st was received day before yesterday. I wrote Josie on the 30th. I will try to be most prompt in my writing so as to save you as much as possible but if at any time I am remiss don't be disquieted. In regard to the money I took myself to the Washington Post Office & when I delivered it asked some questions relative to the outgoing of the mail of the clerk. I have written to the Washington Post Master about it. I will let you know ~~when~~ I hear from him. 'Tis rather strange that this should be the 1st loss in three years. Withing that time I must have sent nearly \$2000. I think most of the losses of money by mail arise through misdirections or carelessness on the part of the writer. If this is lost I shall ascribe it to overcarefulness as I was particular to write "Paid" & put the number in figures & letters. I wrote the number as I thought there might be a mistake made as to the number.

Where did you go with Katie? Is she to go to Litchfield this summer or not? What arrangements have been made in regard to her schooling at the commencement of the Winter terms? She must have a good education if it is possible to get it. I wish Aunt Harriet cared less for keeping up appearances. If I had my way I should give up that house & take a small cottage if possible or even a house in not so desirable a locality. It is not necessary to be near the cars at least not as near as business people like to be. Don't you think you could induce her to make a change at the next "hiring quarter"? The high

prices in the north have already commenced to affect commissary stores. Flour that was at \$6.75 I think when I entered the Dept is now at prices from \$9 to \$11 - Pork at \$16 is now \$46⁷⁵/100⁰⁰ bbl of 200 pounds - and other things at like rates. Pay is not increased but the tax is now 10 per cent instead of 5 - however instead of taking off $\frac{1}{2}$ the pay when one is on leave, a person receives full pay provided he does not have over 30 days a year. At present rates I get now about \$500 a year in gold instead of \$1200 as in '62. But this is nothing strange for a time of war & is not to be complained of. All countries have gone through the experience. The only trouble is the high prices do not go to help the government at all but only the speculators & other who are being enriched at the expense of those defending the country. We are having rather hot sultry times. I don't fear exposure to the sun or dread the coming of sickness. My attack of last year was only settling up the accounts of $\frac{1}{2}$ a dozen or more years of extreme good health. There is no need dear Mother of being anxious about my health. It takes a great deal to make me sick. Remember I am unlike city people - enjoying plenty of good fresh air & exercise -

Write me soon. Give my love to all especially to the Kennells. How is Win's family? Give my pet Becky a kiss. With much love.

Ever yr aff son

Ned

HdQrs 6th Corps
Harper's Ferry Va
Sunday Aug 7th, 1864

My dear Josie -

Your letter of the 24th was not received until the 30th & I had already closed my answer to your previous notes so I merely wrote in pencil an acknowledgment^{ment} of its receipt on the envelope of my letter which you must have received ere this. That P. M. we left here[&] on the next day were at Frederick from which place we came yesterday. Gen'l Sheridan & staff comdg Cavalry Corps A. of P. arrived yesterday & has by order of Hunter assumed command of all the troops of this Dept. Two (2) Divisions of his Cavalry will be up here soon; they are commanded by Torbert⁺ & Wilson. So our people have again been unsuccessful in an assault upon Petersburg. 'Tis reported that "The Johnnies" exploded one yesterday but their mine was forty five (45) feet short of our works. How the mining business will keep both parties on the "qui vive" for each other. Has Mr. Powell been heard from yet? Will was on Ledlie's staff engaged in the assault, & I have carefully looked in such Baltimore papers as I could get for any notice of his name but have not seen it. New York papers have not been seen here I think since we left Washington on the 26th. Now that our ~~cavalry~~^{Cavalry} have joined us we hope to be able to have more reliable reports in regard to the enemy's whereabouts. What Hunter intends to do we know not at present. He may mediate^t a trip up the Shenandoah. Had this been done a week ago instead of taking us all back to Frederick when it was reported that the enemy had again entered Chamberburg 'twould have been much better for our side. As it is we did no good by going back and only wore out our men uselessly.

This time we came by cars from F. A much more comfortable & expeditious way of travelling. Hunter is not much thought of by those under his command. He does not exercise very good generalship apparently. U. S. Grant was at his Quarters near "Monocacy Junction" on Friday night. Grant had come up to Washington from the Army & from there he came to see Hunter. Of course we don't know what it meant whether a more active campaign or a better defensive policy for the border "quien sabe".

My dear sister, there is no use or need of your ever excusing yourself for talking of "self". If you desire copying I see no other way than to advertise in the "Herald". I you know have no business friends in New York. Were was that place that Mother thought might have got as secretary.- As soon as we get Richmond I am going to resign. I am getting too old to stay in the Army unless I intend to make it a profession and that I think I had better not do inasmuch as an officer of the Army can never properly have a family of his own & provide for them. And one of these days if I live I want to have a home of my own not a transient stopping place. Now that Mother is becoming so old I want to be near here. You know, dear Josie, how little I have seen of Mother since '50 and were it possible I would that all her children could be with her in her old age but poor Fanny I fear that she will never see. Were I out of service & she as near as Richmond I could run the blockade to see her. I am pleased to hear that Ben is in such a good place. I trust he will be out of Harm's way if any of our troops come down in his neighborhood. Dr. Perry I must see when I come again to the North. Don't you fail to introduce me. I will try Josie to write either you or Mother every week but don't you feel alarmed in case I don't write. Remember I am sometimes pretty

busy and that I am on the staff still so that I am in as safe a place
as any of 'em. Unless my name gets into a bulletin, I am all right.
Give my love to all. Kiss "Pussie" for me.

Yr aff brother

Ned

To

Miss J. M. P. Russell

68 Willoughby Street

Brooklyn

L.I.

P. S. Don't fail to let me know if at any time Mother is seriously
unwell. If at all dangerous telegraph

Yrs.

E. K. R.

H^dQrs 6th Corps
Hulltown Va
Monday 9 am Augt. 22nd, 1864

My dear Mother

Your letter of the 14th was received on the 19th. Since my last writing on the 7th we have been up the valley to Strasburg & have just returned this morning from there. On our way back we lay 3 or 4 days near Charlestown 4 miles from here. Yesterday the enemy coming up we had a sharp skirmish all day in which we lost about 200 killed and wounded. We left C - about 1 A. M. & arrived here about 4 A. M. The enemy have since come up to our pickets & there has been some Artillery & musketry firing but nothing of any account. Penrose with his Brigade of Jerseyman (800) was left at Winchester when we were coming back to assist Wilson's Division of Cavalry. Shortly after our leaving W- the rebs came down upon P- & he had to deploy his men in a single ~~skirmish~~ ^{of} line, with no supports, covering a mile & a half or two miles ^{of} ground upon 3 P. M. to dark he held at bay Breckenridge's Corps of 8000 with that single skirmish line. At last being outflanked he fell back to the Martinsburg side of W-. He had been fighting on the Strasburg side; received no assistance from the Cavalry until after he fell ~~back~~. He lost about 300 killed & wounded & prisoners. Our trip up the valley has been as far as I can see of no great practical value. We have got a number of horses & cattle but at the same time a body of guerrillas stampeded the guard of 3 months men over our train & captured a large number of wagons burning & destroying some & running off the mules. At one time the guerrilla chief had the money chests containing \$2000,000 belonging to

two Pay Masters in his hands but when recaptured by our troops they were found lying in the road undisturbed. What is it you refer to when you say things have transpired that may make a different arrangement for the Spring necessary for you & Josie? I have written to the Washington postmaster but received no answer relative to the money lost. I think we may as well give it up as lost. I could not recognize the young man that took the letter in as much as I did not speak to him more than a moment & paid no particular attention to his features. However if I get to W- I will see the Postmaster in person & find out if anything can be done about it. Give my love to all. Mrs. Rowell is I believe in Washington with her husband's family. Mr. P- escaped safe in the battle of the 30th.

Good bye Mother

Yr aff son

HdQrs 6th Corps M. M. D.
Harrisburg Va
Sept. 28th, 1864

My dear Mother,

Yrs of 11th & 18th rec'd. Wrote you last on the 19th just after our splendid victory of Monday between Winchester & the Cpeguan. We hardly expected the next day when we found that the "rebs" had retreated to Fisher's Hill near Strasburg to be able to achieve another equally great victory & at a less loss of life. Tuesday (20) we moved from Winchester to beyond Cedar Creek our picket line meeting on the R. R. which passes through Menassas Gap by S - & terminates at Mount Jackson. Wednesday our line was pushed forward a little; quite a brisk skirmish occurring when we attempted to take a little crest in front of our Corps line but we succeeded at last. The next day/^{22nd} the 19th Corps under Emory gained another ridge on our left. Early in the P. M. word came from Torbert, who had been sent over into the Luray Valley with him and Wilson's Divisions of Cavalry, that the enemy showed signs of falling back & at 4,20 P. M. everything being in readiness the advance was ordered. Our line from left to right was 19th Corps, 6th Corps, Crook's W. Virginia command & Averill's Cavalry. The right was moved steadily forward until it was in advance of the rest of our line & gradually by sharp skirmishing drove the Johnnies back to their earthworks. Previous to the attack there had been more or less skirmishing & artillery fire during the day but when we advanced our batteries commenced a more rapid fire at times firing "by Battery". The second battery from the rebel left was the one to which we paid particular attention & though in a short

time our shells drove the Infantry supports a "skedaddling" away & our fire from the advancing line on the right grew hotter & hotter yet the cannoncers stuck to their guns and continued firing until there was no hope: they tried to drag their guns away first by horses & then by hand but 'twas no use our men captured them all. The 19th Corps were hindered by a deep ravine in their front from advancing with us and had to move up to the works by a flank march along the pike after our Corps had taken them up. The enemy contested the advance of the troops some but with Phil Sheridan along with them on the skirmish line our men went right over everything. The entire loss in the 6th is not much over 100 but the enemy lost heavily in prisoners & also in Artillery (20 pieces being captured.) With the exception of our 1st Division the Corps lost in the charge its organization so that on ⁱⁿ gaining the pike we had to wait a couple of hours to get the men together into their Division & let them cook pper. Had Averill instead of going into camp on the battlefield pushed forward as was his duty nothing could have saved them from losing a large portion of their trains & many thousand prisoners. For his neglect he was very properly relieved & ordered to Cumberland. The fortifications upon which the rebels of this country relied so much were in our possession an hour after the attack commenced. On their left the ^lcartworks were fifteen feet thick strongly made & "at attised". About 8 P. M. we again moved, down or rather up the pike with the 19th Corps in the front. The advance to Woodstock was very slow owing to the many impediments arising from the nature of the country so that it was about 3 A. M. when I entered Woodstock with 4 men only 12 miles from Strasburg. Friday P. M. ^{23rd}

we moved to near Mount Jackson. The next day we crossed the North Fork of Shenandoah & from that point to near Sparta about 9 miles from this place had continual skirmishing with the enemy. As the Corps/^{on 24th} was passing Mount Jackson some rascal went into a building that had been built for Hospital purposes in the early part of the war & set fire to the straw in one of the rooms & in a few minutes in spite of all that could be done to put it out the building was in flames & was soon burnt to the ground; it had beds for over one hundred & could on an emergency accommodate between 2 & 300. The foolishness of the act is the more apparent when it is known that we expected to be obliged to fight the enemy in that neighborhood and would need this very building for our own wounded. Whoever was in command of the enemy's rear guard handled his men well. General officers said they had never seen anything done better. The nature of the country was such that for only a few minutes at a time were they out of sight or reach of our Artillery. About sunset they made a vigorous resistance in fact 'twas with them the fight for salvation; for sometime their rear guard had been close upon the main body & had we driven them in & pushed on it might have been utter ruin to them. Darkness put off further conflict & the next morning as was expected "the wily foe had eluded" us. They left the pike & went off on the Keezeltown dirt road on their way to "Port Republic". I rode ahead of our troops & was among the 1st party that entered Harrisonburg. ^{on 25th} Here we found two or three hundred wounded rebels & about 3 or 400 had left on hearing of our advance. H. is a place of about 1200 or 1500 inhabitants shows all the signs of a place living in a country traversed by hostile armies. Our Cavalry under Torbert got back from the Luray on

Monday & immediately went on to Staunton. 'Tis reported today that they have captured about 200 wagons but this is doubted. The mountains are filled to speak rather extravagantly with strugglers and deserters from Early. Men have had their throats cut within a mile or so of camp by guerrillas. 'Tis not saying too much when we assert that for some time to come the rebel power in this valley is broken. Early & his Corps are a dispirited set of men. Our next move will most likely be back to Harper's Ferry or Winchester; perhaps we may even go to Petersburg. We can obtain subsistence in this valley by sending out regular parties but at present we haul from Martinsburg about 100 miles off. But now for home matters having given you the war news. You see Mother dear I have plenty to write about so I am inflicting a long letter on you: one that will do for two weeks in case I don't write again for that time. You are right when you think my predilections for Miss Powell have not altered since I first wrote and yet I'd not think of marrying until I could take her to a home of my own & one free from "poverty's carking cares". That matter will continue to rest in abeyance until I can do as I would like. You & sisters are my first care. As to the regular army I can see no hopes for any man desiring to have an independent home of his own. The pay will barely keep a single man decently. 'Tis a respectable sort of pension life and that's about all save in war times then it has its active duties, and labors. 'Tis well women can't vote or else the country would be more at the cars (?) than ever. I trust Mac will be elected provided he stands fast to my intrepation (sic) of his letter otherwise Lincoln would be better than a dishonorable peace giving the lie to all we have fought for for the past three years. I enclose you two Cartes

H^d Qrs 6th Corps
5 miles fr Winchester Va
Decr. 2nd, 1864

My dear Mother

Your letter of 27th came yesterday. I have delayed longer than I intended in writing you but the days have glided by so swiftly that I have hardly taken any note of time. I wrote you on the 14th of November on my return from Martinsburg & enclosed a hundred (\$100⁰⁰/100) dollar compound interest note with coupons attached No. 124906. I have been partly waiting to receive an acknowledgment of its arrival. We are now on the eve of another move; one Division of the Corps & Gen'l Wright & 30 of his staff going with it, left yesterday by the cars for Washington. The other two Divisions will probably leave tomorrow & the following days. This move only refers to our Corps. The general supposition was that we were to join Grant. Gen'l Wright said he did not know where we were bound for after arriving at Washington. I am very sorry to leave the Valley; for once we had expected to have had a quiet winter and were making every preparation to make ourselves comfortable & enjoy life as it comes. If we go ~~to~~ ^{to} the U. S. G. we will most likely if the weather is favourable have another bout with Lee for the possession of Petersburg; or if we have to go into quarters 'twill be an uncomfortable life with the constant harassments of picket duty and continual skirmishing for the two Armies ~~can~~ not lie so close to each other for four months without exchanging snots daily. The natural consequence will be that ^{at} the beginning of Spring neither side will feel in the humor for very active operations. They may send us to Wilmington or some

other part of the eastern seaboard to cooperate with Sherman in his grand march through the South. What a noble soldier he is. I should have liked muchly to have been with him on his present trip. 'Twill live in history as one of the greatest enterprises in military annals. Even if he only succeeds in liberating a few thousand of our men from their living tomb 'twill have accomplished a great & good work. You need never fear bother about my capture by Mosly. When going any distance I travel with the trains ~~of~~ an escort. If taken by him I think I would be released. If captured by any of Gilmor's men I have received assurances I would be. Now to explain my last sentence. When first going up the Valley in August I made the acquaintance of a lady in one of the neighboring villages. She was a very bitter rebelless and had no hesitation in expressing her sentiments openly to the General & rest of us. I made a slight bet with her as to the time of our return which I won. After that in going to & fro with the trains I had several opportunities of calling on her. She afforded me a great deal of amusement as she expressed herself so bitterly & I'd make observations that would draw her out. A lady of education and family - her father having been just before the war commandant of the Harper's Ferry Arsenal she had given up her home there after her father's death & the breaking out of the war. After our last fight, Cedar Creek, when I called I found her nursing a wounded rebel, Major of the 2nd South Carolina. Since we have been here I have called often and taken articles of food & papers &c to them. She being acquainted with some members of Gilmor's command has, as has also the major, told them of this & they have promised to treat me kindly if I fall into their hands. We are now quite on good terms & though still as bitter with

regard to the mass of our Army she makes an exception in favor of
your humble servant. I had hoped to have been able to spend ~~my~~
birthday with you but under the circumstances have given it up. I
have forward^{ed} to you a copy of the "World" containing Mr. Still-
son's account of the Winchester fight. Can you get me one of Helen
Sibley's Photographs & one of Coz Eliza's? Retain them for me.
Will write you again Mother on arriving at our destination.

With love

I am

Yr aff son

Ned

To _____

Mother

HdQrs 6th Corps
Feb'y 19th 1865

My dear Mother,

Your letter of the 2nd was received on the 5th -
My last letter was on the 29th to Josie. Since then we have made
the move on our left which has straightened our line & give us a good
advantage for another move on the South Side R. R. The loss on our
side was about 3000 I suppose. We had ~~only one~~ division of the Corps
out; the rest being held in readiness in their camps. This move has
extended the line about four miles & causing us our line of works to
run about parallel to the South Side instead of being refused to it.

At last I am fixed in my quarters. They are two Wall Tents
set on frames ~~the~~ back of the front tent being ripped up to give ad-
mittance into the rear one & a door placed in the entrance of the
front one. The floor of my sleeping apartment is of hewed pine logs
& that of the other (my office the front one) of boards. A good brick
chimney is also attached to the front tent. Some think that we live
hardly during the winter but could they come to the Army & see the
houses we put up & what comforts we devise for ourselves they would
soon change their opinions. Some of our quarters/ ^(here at HdQrs) could not be built
in the City under \$500 or \$1000. We intend to have Photographs taken
of the most prominent buildings composing Head Quarters. 'Tis
by far the most comfortable camp for a winter that we have ever had.
Then too the Winter has been mild. I have not been obliged to wear
an overcoat on account of the cold ~~once~~. Fairer ^{winter weather} ~~winter weather~~ you
could not wish to see.

You tell me to save my Brandy Peaches for "special occasions"

we made special occasions of them long ago. I now hold on to a little mince & Pudding cake. The latter I occasionally bring forth. I had a letter from Aunt Mary on the 15th. I shall in the course of a week forward you a draft on the Washington or New York U. S. Treasury for ~~\$116~~ ⁵⁰/₁₀₀ - or thereabouts. I saw George Ford yesterday. He is about being mustered out of the service. Will most likely leave the Army sometime next month. As I am sending an enclosure in this to Josie & don't care about making too bulky letter I'll close.

With love to all

Ever yr

Aff son

Ned

HdQrs 6th Corps, A. of P.
March 21st 65

My dear Mother

Your last letter enclosing a note from Josie which I shall answer today reached here Wednesday. Inasmuch as my neck was not broken in St. Patrick's races I think I shall after a time give you a full account of all that transpired. By a recent order of the War Department I can not now avail myself of the privilege if I wanted to of "mustering out of" service. They have taken it for granted that where officers did not go out when their Regiments did they intended to remain for three years more hence I can be held at least until May '66. I can of course tender my resignation but would now like to do it since we are on the eve of another active campaign. The army has sent away all its surplus baggage & sutlers have been ordered away from the front. City Point which is surrounded by a line of works is still supplied with sutler's goods & stores; that being the depot of the army & not likely to be given up does not apparently come under the order. Though I have been to Grant's HdQrs several times to see Powell I have never heard anything of Sprague. I doubt if he has yet come on. All leaves & furloughs have been stopped save in extreme cases so that there is no chance of my again getting away. The bridal party will have to proceed without being enlivened by my presence. I had rather calculated upon my being able to see the North once more wre the opening of the Spring Campaign but now I'll have to resign this hope as I have many others before it. Cousin Eliza is quite fortunate in at least securing a place to suit her. By the bye what pity you did not sell out

your gold & invest it in "the seven thirties" - Government securities are in my opinion by far the best in the market. Some think that ere the Summer is over that gold will once more be up to and over 200 - in which case I would say sell - In my next I think I will enclose you a copy of the articles of Subsistence Stores & their selling prices which you can compare with the Southern prices. I have not heard from Aunt Mary H. for close on to a month or more. I see George Ford every few days. His camp is not far from us & is by all odds the prettiest camp of the Army. The chapel (rustic work) is the curiosity of the neighborhood & few visitors to this portion of the lines go away without visiting it. Gentlemen of the North having country places would give willingly \$5000 for the HdQrs of the Regiment & the Chapel could they be transported and put up on their places, and yet the whole thing here has cost but little or nothing; the timber being easily obtained & the labor coming from details from the Regiment. During week days at least twice or thrice entertainment by a band of negro minstrels, after the style of Christy's, composed of men of the Regiment are given in the Chapel. For an affair of amateur artists they are decidedly good & elicit immense applause.

With reference to the races we have^d only about a week's notice in which to put the horses through a course of training. Ordinarily a horse ought to have 3 or 4 weeks at least. I had no horse fit to enter but the Captain Comdg our Cavalry escort had one that I thought would do so as soon as I had received a Programme I showed it to him. He some time before had received an injury that unfitted him for hard riding & I wanted though I did not tell him so to be permitted to ride his horse in the hurdle race open to the Army. After

discussing the chances of getting the horse in condition in a week's time he at last told me I might if I wanted to enter his horse & ride him. This was just what I wanted so we immediately set to work. His groom had a few years back been an English jockey & knew exactly the course to pursue. I tried "Johnnie" myself at some bars of about the required height & being well satisfied offered to purchase him (& since have done so) - Thursday 16th - I entered him on the lists. The day was cold windy & sprinkly out dark began raining heavily. We thought it would cause the races to be dererred & if so there was no telling when they could come off as we were under marching orders & liable to move at any moment but by midnight the moon shown out clear & bright & with a cold wind blowing by sunrise the ground was dry. I had invited Powell & some of his brother officers to come up Thursday & stay over night so that we had our quarters well filled. About 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ the 1st race came off. The Schenck House was at the end of the course furthest from the Judges stand; the track was elliptical in shape & about a mile in length being "up hill & down dale" so that what with the hurdles & ditches it would test a horse's power of endurance very well. About 50 or ~~60~~ yards from the starting point was the 1st ditch then came a hurdle & so alternating leaving a hurdle to come in on at about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the stand. The judges' stand was a large platform elevated so as to give a good view of the course throughout nearly its whole extent & on this were seated the ladies that were present & their beaux. The stand was handsomely decorated with ^{the} Irish American colors. At each hurdle & ditch was stationed a steward of the course to see that they were taken by the riders. I had calculated that it would take nearly three hours

before my race would come off so had left my horse in the stable a mile or more away. When I found how quick the heats were run & the race decided I was anxious lest my horse would not be up in time. The Brigade & Corps races were easily decided in two heats the 1st horse generally "distancing", that is coming into the judges' stand ere the next one had cleared the last hurdle, all his competitors. Knowing what "Johnnie" could do I made up my mind that if no better horses were entered for my race than those that had already run in the previous ones I was sure of winning or at least coming in second. Between the Brigade & Corps races a flat race for a quarter of a mile was run between two private horses. This gave me a little more time so that when the 1st bugle sounded to get ready I was prepared for the start. In my race there was a mare an English thoroughbred hunter belonging to Col Von Shack of the 7th New York Vols which hitherto had come off the palms in all races of this kind. The Colonel who always rode her was considered an excellent horseman. Very few would take any bets against her. Ere the 2nd bugle sounded I who had the inside track the line to be most desired changed my place to the outside so as to be near Von Shack well knowing that all my horse required to keep track was a good horse on the lead. At the sound off we all started all clearing the 1st ditch about together. Between that & the 1st hurdle Von Shack drew ahead of me & when he came to he raised his too soon so that she struck the hurdle knocking it down & pitching her rider off & then falling on him. S struck on his head & at first 'twas thought he would die but he has since recovered. This caused my horse to fly the track but I had him soon back jumped over the fallen hurdle & sped on the the 2nd ditch & just as he was about

taking it he shied to the left nearly throwing me. I tried him again & again for nearly half a dozen times & finding it no use gave the ditch the go bye & went on to the next hurdle with like result. While engaged in these abortive attempts I had the mortification of seeing another who had been thrown pass me & go in second to the stand. The falling of Von Shack's horse threw all the rest off the track but mine got an obstinate rit ~~into~~ him & would not do as he was required. One of the poorest horses at the race won in consequence. As soon as John^xie was taken off he cleared a 4 foot hurdle without difficulty. The day previous he had taken a hurdle of the & ditch/regulation height 4 times each way clearing from 16 to 22 feet in his jumps. The flat race of 120 rods came next. In this I rode a black horse "Coaley" belonging to Maj Wiley the Depot Commissary to City Point. I won it by about two lengths & was complimented by many on the manner in which I rode. But I had set my heart on winning the hurdle race so as to carry off the laurels for the Corps & in this I was disappointed. My dress was my blue Forage cap covered with a red flannel cover, a white shirt & collar with my sailor's necktie & my dark blue riding pants & short topboots with light brass spurs. As it since turns out my spurs were not severe enough. I had also a rather light cowhide whip. In the 80 rods flat a Gray mare ("Alice") from our HdQrs won. She is a racer & was brought down for the purpose. The horse that my darkey was to have ridden came in 2nd or 3rd. Along the track guards were posted to keep it clear so as to have fair racing & as my boy was going up to the starting point he was arrested by a Captain of the guard & although we hunted for him he could not be found so that at the last moment

Wood had to put another boy on his horse one unacquainted with him & hence it was not a fairly decided point to whether he came in 2nd or not. I have forgotten to state how the hurdles were made; posts were driven in at each end & ~~the~~ to these were nailed two heavy pieces of timber leaving a space of about 3 feet between them & then this space was filled up by woven pine branches making a solid barrier. The sack race of course was very amusing. From these races we went over to a track near the Hd Qrs of the 2nd Corps where the 2nd & 5th Corps best horses were to have a trial; the 5th Corps gray was the best animal but when within 25 or 30 yards of the score the rider's stirrup broke & he lost the race. Some think the race was a sold affair & at any rate none save the winners were satisfied with the result. After the races home to supper & then over to the Engineer Camp to see the m^sirels perform. At 10 oclock we bid good bye to our 4th Infty friends. So closed the entertainment in celebration of St. Patrick's Day of '65. With a good horse under him & one I can trust I do not rear to take the leap or jump offered & hence my chagrin at losing. Some who know what the horse could do lost pretty heavily on the result. I trust I shall have better luck next time.

And now for a few lines to Josie. 'Tis not often that I spin so long a yarn to you Mother, but I was decidedly interested in the subject matter of this letter. With love I am as ever

Yr aff son

Ned

Hd Qrs 6th Corps, A. C. P.
Near Burke's Station Va
April 17th 1865

Dear Mother Sisters,

I wrote hurried notes on the 2nd & 6th announcing the result of our fights of those days & of my continued safety. Now that we are settled down for a few days quiet I may as well give you an account of our late campaign of eight days. But before so doing let me acknowledge the receipt of Mother's & Katie's of the 4th & Josie's of the 9th. Gen'l Wright had for some days urged upon Gen'l Meade the advisability of allowing our Corps to make an assault upon the enemy's works in our front while their main body was actively engaged with the 2nd, 5th & Cavalry Corps on our left. At last after Sheridan's success on the evening of the 1st word was sent for all the batteries along the line to open so as to occupy the enemy's attention & prevent their sending reinforcements to their right & at the same time Wright was directed to attack as he desired. Then again another came for us to go in as fast as the Divisions could be formed & not wait for a Corps formation. This was a very foolish sort of an order as it is almost impossible to form troops while subjected to a heavy fire. However about 1 o'clock everything was arranged for us to go in at 4 A. M. as a Corps. At 4 the signal gun was fired but everything was not ready. The order of attack was the 2nd Division under Getty in the Center with a line of 3 Brigades - the Brig having their reg'ts massed the 1st Div under Wheaton with 3 Brig "encheleon" on the right & the 3rd Div (2 Brig) under T. Seymour "en echelon" on the left so that the line formed presented this appearance $\underline{3}^{\underline{2}} \underline{1}$. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock

another gun was fired & in ten minutes afterwards our men were at it with a yell. By 3 o'clock the rebel line was carried & their troops flying in all directions. The fight though brief had been severe. In some of the batteries the gunners fought with their rammers & sponge staffs after our troops had gained possession. Leaving one Brigade to guard towards P - our right - the rest swept in a line down along the breastworks to our left so that between us & the troops on our left Lee was placed in a critical position. His only resource was to retreat to Petersburg. Having proceeded to within a mile of "Hatcher's Run" the Corps with the 24th Corps were faced about & rejoining the Brigade advanced on Petersburg. Gradually our lines commenced to close in on the city & soon a part of our Valley experience was re-enacted in our Batteries on Light Artillery pushing to the front often in advance of the Infantry skirmishers. At 4 P. M. When we rested our left was on the Appomattox ^{alone &} / the right of the 9th Corps on the A below P. About 6 P. M. I had just returned to the Gen'l from hunting up a place for HdQrs when a bullet struck my horse Gus that I had ridden since July '63 wounding him mortally so that in mercy I took him away a short distance & shot him. I suppose I had not left him over 5 minutes when this happened. He was a good, staunch horse & had carried me faithfully & well through all the fights since my attachment to the Staff. That night I supped & slept with Powell at Grants HdQrs as our tents had not come up. Between 5 & 6 the morning of the 3rd a note came to us from a committee of Petersburg citizens saying that the rebels having evacuated they surrendered the town. Our forces immediately entered it. They had sent this notice out to three points

of the line so that the 9th Corps were I believe the first to go in. I rode into the town about 9 & though it undoubtedly in its day has been a very fine town yet it shows the effect of the occupation of a place by soldiery; the main portion of the population seemed to be of the African persuasion. Birney's colored Div. of the 25th Corps marched through the town. As soon as possible after learning that Lee had left the Army ~~was~~ was started in pursuit taking the South side of the Appomattox & moving towards Burksville. For once we had the inside track & were moving on the shorter lines. Though the weather was fair until the 6th yet the passage of so many wagons over the roads soon rutted then up & the consequence was our trains were generally far behind; it being as much as the H^dQrs wagons of Corps Div & Brig H^dQrs could do to keep up. The troops were pushed on as fast as possible & were told that they must expect to go on short rations in order to gain on Lee. There was no grumbling but a ready compliance; anything to be able to smash up the Army of Northern Va. which we had been fighting for nearly four years. On the 5th word came from Sheridan at near Amelia C. H. he had met the enemy & that if the Infantry could only come up in time their army was ours. We pushed on & our last Division / reached reached Jettersville about 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. By 6 A. M. we were all up & before 7 oclock of the 6th we had started towards Amelia C. H. after going for nearly 3 miles in that direction we found that the Johnnys had gone off towards Farmsville on the South Side R. R. on the Appomattox. Changing our route we came back to J. & in a rain storm started on the new line. By 4 P. M. the head of our column came up to where Sheridan's Cavalry were actively engaged with a moving column & wagon train of the foe. Not giving the men any rest but

immediately forming the leading Div. & hurrying up the next on a double quick & this after some 15 miles marching Phil pushed us across a marshy stream known as Little Sailor's Creek. For a couple of hours there was some heavy fighting but at last with the aid of the Cavalry & the 2nd Corps we had them surrounded & they had to surrender. The Cavalry gobbled many prisoners of arms that we drove into their hands buttons Ewell most of his staff. Curtis Lee & others surrendered. Among the prisoners were a number of marines & sailors that had left Richmond on Sunday. Ewell & staff remained at our HdQrs that night & in conversation he said that had he known we were there besides the Cavalry he would have surrendered ^{or} without fighting. He said that it had always been his luck to ~~women~~ Longstreet's retreat. Among the prisoners were Maj. H. Selden or Mr to Ewell. He is a cousin of Cussie. I kept him in my tent until he left on the 7th to go to Meade's HdQrs. The next day we went on to Farmville. The road was strewn in various parts with abandoned papers wagons &c belonging to the "rebs". Opposite F our Cavalry were led into a trap & driven back with loss. The 8th we moved up to New Store about 20 miles from Appomattox C. H. The 9th we marched about 12 miles & at 1½ Meade sent us word that there was a cessation of hostilities till 2 P. M. to treat about surrender but that if at that time Lee did not yield he wanted all the troops in position so as to be ready to pitch in. Two o'clock came & no news & our skirmish line had begun to advance when a white flag appeared & word was brought that Grant & Lee were arranging the terms. At 4 o'clock it was officially announced & Meade rode through the lines of the 2nd & 6th Corps amid the cheers of the men. Salutes were fired & bands played. The next day & the day after ^{ere} I left I went inside

their lines. At the time of the surrender Lee had only 8000 Infantry & 2000 Cavalry effective. The rest of the Cavalry under Fitz. Lee had cut their way out ere they knew that the surrender was in contemplation. When the rolls of the paroled prisoners came to be made up over 25000 men were down. These men had been dropping out & striking for home but when they learnt the terms they came back to be put down. For nearly a week these men had been living on what they could collect in their country as they marched, it mainly consisted of corn which they parched. The 11th the Corps started back reaching this Station on the 13th. The paroled men have since been arriving & are being sent home as fast as possible. The Confederacy is played out. Lee & his army have fought us nobly & well but the right & numbers have been too many. His last act showed as much good sense as anything he has done. I know not the number of prisoners taken by the Corps now the amount of captured property by the Army. Today we turned in to Gen'l Meade 19 Flags & 2 Grudins(?) taken on the 2nd & 6th & M - , in his speech acknowledged that to the 6th Corps belonged the credit of having on the 2nd given the turning point to the campaign.

What a loss to the country is Lincoln. The South has lost its friend in power & in his place has got one of its most bitter enemies. I have been no advocate of A. L. While living but since our late successes he has shown a true Christian charity & kindness of disposition to the people of the South. I hope it will not have the effect to prolong this struggle. We have all looked forward to peace now that Lee is under. For it can not be doubted that he was at the last the main prop of the Confederacy. To be sure there may be a great deal of guerrilla warfare but the people of the section where

it exists will be the principal sufferers & in self protection they will have to put it down. I hope in a few days to be able to go to Richmond. Those of the Staff have already started. If I go I shall try & hunt up Aunt Mary - Owing to the worn out condition of the South Side R. R. it takes close on to 24 hours to go 62 miles to City Point with the pleasant prospect of running off several times. Our mails are consequently not very regular. 'Tis but a single track. However we soon hope to have all this remedied.

Katie have Josie direct your studies. You need not change the direction of my letters though I am a Bvt Major. Am very sorry to hear of the illness in the K - s -. 'Twould be indeed a great loss to the girls should Mr. K - die. I trust that he is now out of danger. As I am going out on a 30 mile ride tomorrow to be gone for two or three days I'll bring this to a finis with love to all -

Ever aff

Ned

P. S.

I gave Selden a note of introduction to you so you may perhaps hear from him.

E. K. R.

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