

2nd Feb will it not be their pol hospitaly for both Mrs & Clara to accompany me? I think they will I will write the full year if they too go to French taking into account for me showing you why I desire to offer shelter to you

1 - Paris To Mr 2 3rd 1893

Mr McClellan
McClellan
McClellan

Do not again ever think I shall harbor the idea of your being reminis in answering letters to me. The last one of note did not seem to me to require per se any answer unless perhaps at the extreme a simple acknowledgment of receipt. I am sorry I cannot help you to the reasons which actuated McClellan. Off my own bat ^{I think} that you know the tenor of the Administration about Washington and wanted to approach Richmond to keep his Army between Washington & Washington I mean when the Savage work commenced and that Admiral Wildborough was such a perfect miscompreh and

and so timid (I don't mean
physically) that he probably
had impressed upon the
highly likely that he could not
protect the Army if it
operated up the James.

One can imagine that with
the best base in the world
Fortress Murre - a good line of
Communications like the James
and a Navy such as we had
in comparison with the rebels -
and finally with Washington
protected with foot and many
soldiers that he would have
taken the South side of the
James which would have
been a stab at the heart
in place of a flesh wound
on the calf of the leg.

After the Memorial was out
of the way I hoped he (Mc) would

Cross the James - then I suppose
his old fears came on him
and his hopes for Mc Donnell's
joining him. He was reaching
out for him at Hanover Court
House and his fears and hopes
led him into the fight at
Queen's Mill. There are my
conclusions from the actual
movements and hours of work-
ments, but I was never called
into Council. In fact my opinion
of Mc's knowledge of his business
and his ability made me think
without study that he had the
best plan. Genl Porter is I think
the only man alive ^{with} whom Mc
consulted. It is possible that
Franklin may have been. They
will both I am sure be
glad to tell you anything that they
may know. They both desire
real history. Porter's address is
N.Y. P.O. - He is the carrier then
I am getting along slowly with
my paper. It will be too long

to read for I am desirous
of having in file with your
society all that I can say
as to the real moving causes
of Brown's Ferry and Missionary
Ridge. I am now grappling
with the idea of having a
good map and giving a
short description without
notes being over any paper
to you for any one to read
in detail, ^{at leisure} ~~the~~ crosses do not.

I have been sick and
am still threatened with
an attack of bronchitis which
is always a serious affair with
me. I am not up to much
work but am doing my best

Yours sincerely

J. W. Smith

P.S. To your day Jan 2nd? If so
we shall have to be with you on the
plus we cannot leave here on the 2nd ^{we} ~~we~~
~~action~~ in time for your meeting ^{as} ~~as~~