January 25th

McM., 8th, 1864

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 25th ult. came duly to hand. I have not heard from Edwin lately, in my last to him, I wrote that I should not sell our to him for the price which he offered, and I thought that the estate had better be divided. I have not yet legally appointed Mr. Arnold as my Agt. I should like to have my loose property sold off at Auction, or otherwise, I think that you made a very judicious selection in appointing Mr. Welch for your Agt. If you would have been my choice, had I thought of him.
We are quartered in the 2nd and 3rd stories of a large brick building, the lower floors of which are used for dry goods and grocery stores. Each Co. has its separate room on one side of which we have built our "kutis" one above another like berths in a steamboat. Each room has a cooking stove, and in our Co. each person does his own cooking. We can buy all the fresh fish we want, cheap, and all other extras that we wish. Many of the boys board out at the hotels in the city.

Mr. Williams came down for me a few days since, and took me out for a good long ride in the country. I have been to his house with him, to dine several times. Many tales, has been sick, but is getting better now. Mr. Williams informs me, he is up to my quarters almost every day.

Please write again soon — A. H. Russell
on a little too long a journey, and the Ric a little troubled with the blues, but owing to the admirable way in which the things were packed, nothing else was injured by them. I never saw a box as well packed as the things you sent were, the apples were somewhat frozen, but not affected, Mary. Many thanks for that. Expt., Barre. This forenoon, being Washington's birthday we had a Parade on the fair grounds in the City, Mr. Williams was there, said Mary.
Eileen was sick, troubled with the palpitation of the heart, by the way she sends much love to you.

Let me hear from you again soon.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

P.S. I remain...

[More handwritten text, mostly illegible]
May 1, 1863

Yesterday they had some heavy artillery fighting on our left, and they have been our front on our right several days past. The firing on our right has been some distance off. But today it is nearer. It is thought that Hooker is up the river and is driving the enemy down, and it is also reported that their communications with Richmond are cut off. Last night an order from Gen. Hooker was read to us, stating that the enemy would now be obliged to ingloriously retreat, or come over and fight us on our own ground. It is a great thing for us, if the enemy can be got.
forced to leave their fortifications opposite from here, without the use of the boats, and if Hooker's strategy can do what would cost thousands of lives, to accomplish. — then good bye, to McClellan.

The Army is in splendid condition, good spirits, good health, and confident of success.

God grant that we may not be disappointed.

We are constantly expecting to move across the river, further down, while we are drawing the attention of the enemy here. I think that most of the fighting will be done on our right, and left.

Frederick Robinson is sick by the river, but the bluffs on our side of the river are covered with guns ready to open upon the city, at any time, they are probably waiting for the enemy above, to be driven down.

We have had a good deal of rain lately, but to day the sun is shining hot, and the mud drying up rapidly.

Don't worry about me, if you don't hear from me again for some days as I may not have a chance to write or mail letters.

With much love for yourself and family, I remain your very affectionate,

S. W. Frisbee
May 12th, 1863

Dear Sister,

Your letter from Mogadore came to hand a few days since, and I take this opportunity to answer you, knowing when I may have another.

Old fighting just is now fairly on the rampage, and I suppose is improving himself hugely. Most of the Army broke camp, and started for the night and left part of the Enemy several days since. Our Corps (the 6th Gen. Sedgwick) remained in camp until the 28th, when our Brigade was detailed to take the Portage to the river. The boats were unloaded at dark about one mile from the river, and we

Another Corps have laid bridges a few miles below and have crossed over, it is said they have taken their R.R. Depot on the other side and quite a number of prisoners.
and carried them down, to where the bridge was to be laid, during the night— we had to use the greatest caution, making no noise, as the enemy's pickets lined the opposite side of the river, and they had a heavy reserve within one fourth of a mile from where the boats were laid.

Our duty was dangerous but honorable, the night was just what we wished for. There being a thick fog, so that we could not be seen till past the river, we worked, as I have never worked before, and at 5 o'clock the next morning the last one of the one hundred boats was on the river bank. Strange as it may seem, three or four thousand men, had been at work within a stone's throw of the enemy's pickets, without being discovered, — as soon as the boat were all ready, they were filled with troops from another Brigade, and started for the opposite shore, when about half way across, they were discovered by the pickets, who fired a volley, and ran for their lives. Several of our men were wounded, but they returned the fire with interest, and pushing on, soon reached the shore, and pushing our boats, started after the retreating Rebels at their reserve. We surprised them, and took a number of prisoners among them a Major. One Brigade of our men were taken across in the boats, and then we went to work and put the bridge down, we had two bridges.
the lines, as we hailed up the steep hill, one could see pale checks, but no trembling hands, the lips were compressed, the eyes fixed and determined, the step, firm and unyielding.

On we go, the crest is almost gained, and the shouts from our comrades in the city begin to rise above the roar of musketry, forward - forward - the enemy's fire begins to slacken, forward - the breastworks are reached - and in a moment we are upon them - and the Stars and Stripes are given to the breeze - as thousands of hearts give vent to their feelings and cheer after cheer carries terror and dismay to the now flying enemy.

...this was the proudest moment of my life.

Camp Near Falmouth, Va.

May 10th, 1863

Dear Sister,

We are now again "settled down" within half a mile of our old Winter quarters, and I will give you some of the details of the Second Fredericksburg Battle, and inform you what was done by our (Major Gen. Sedgwick's) Corps, in order that you may better understand. I will give you some of the sub-divisions of an Army. Most of the Rebs in the service, numbered one thousand men, when the first came out, but...
Now the average number is from two to five hundred. There are usually five Regts in a Brigade, and Col Shaler, now commands our Brigade. Three Brigades compose a Division, and our Div. is commanded by Gen Newton. There are three Divs in an Army Corps, and seven, or eight Corps in the "Army of the Potomac." Before the Battle, this Army had 150,000 effective men.

Sunday, was the day on which fighting commenced in earnest, and the attack was made by our forces, from day-light until about 11 o'clock, our Batteries poured shot and shell into the fortifications back of the City of Fredericksburg. At this time, part of our Corps was at the City and the rest at the crossing place three miles below. At 11 o'clock a charge, led by Col Shaler, was made upon the heights, (those same heights which Gen. Sumner lost over 5,000 men in endeavoring to carry at the last Battle here,) and although our comrades fell at every step, and death seemed before us, hurling his shots thick and fast, - not one faltered, not one looked back, glancing along...
a short one, that I was ever in, the 10th Mass Regt did nobly. — They held the right front on our right, until nearly dark, when our Regt relieved them, and they were withdrawn from the field. That night our Regt did picket duty on the field.

The next day the enemy were busy endeavoring to surround us, while they skirmished on our front, to attract our attention; we knew what they were about, but could not advance on account of their superior force, and did not attempt to retreat until night, when we did some pretty tall running towards a ford, where during the day a bridge had been laid — some six or eight miles above the city — our retreat was very much cowed full — we loosing but one piece of Artillery.

The first remark I remember hearing, after we had taken the bridge, was that of a lad who exclaimed "This will bring the price of gold down!" But there was other work to be done, and at it we went, shooting, and taking prisoners, it was glorious fun, and exciting in the highest degree.

There was one battery, some distance off on our right, which continued to field away at us, and annoying us considerably, and our Regt was ordered to take it off we started, but
before we would reach it, the enemy retreated on a full run, the men throwing away everything they had, behind a hill where this battery was posted, there was some two or three thousand Rebs, and they all shaddled upon the approach of our Rebs we numbering about six hundred men, (we had over a thousand eight months ago) =

On the hills, our force took thirteen of the enemy's cannon, and a large number of prisoners, it is said thirteen hundred.

by the time we had cleared the hills and surrounding Batteries of the enemy, the whole of our Corps had arrived on the ground, and we started after the retreating enemy, who had gone on the Gordonsville road, =

It seems that the enemy retreated about four miles, when they read large reinforcements from their right wing, which had been fighting our main Army on our right, we came up to them about sundown, as they lay in some woods, this was Sunday night, and here we had the hardest fight, for
If we had taken the heights back of the city of Fredericksburg before we had been so far, we could have held them, and all would have been well with us, but in regard to the rest of the Army, I know but little, but reports state that they were badly whipped; but one thing is certain, the Army is, even after this defeat, in good spirits, and better condition than at any time when Burnside had command. What is to be done now, I cannot guess, it is the wish
of the Army, to go to some other State. To leave old Virginia near the Navy, acting on the defensive, have such immensity superior advantages.

I saw Byron Tabor a few days ago; he was in the fight, and came out all right. Please write soon.

Oblige Yours,

S. J. Trenchell
North, and I believe to escape Lee's Army, if the militia of the Northern States can be got out promptly, Lee's Army must soon be free by the rear— and I believe it impossible for him to slip through our fingers as easy as he did last fall. = In regard to your anxiety about me, I can assure you, that I have not contracted one bad habit— nor have my morals become in the least contaminated, since I have been in the Army— and I believe that if I should ever return— my sister will never be ashamed of the character which I bear, hoping that your next dream will place my character in a better aspect. I remain—

Yours, J. D. Freidel

June 19, 1863.

Dr. Sinton,

Some of the 10th is here, also a package of papers. Many thanks for them. Edward sends and the Republicans quite regularly. = We have made a change of base lately from the Rappahannock to the Potomac, = and I will give you the particulars of our journey. = We stopped at the south side of the Rappahannock at our old encampment place, below Fredericksburg about two weeks since, = our division crossed the second day, after the bridges were laid, = we built strong fortifications, and after laying there a little over a week, when we left them, and came on a forced march, to
This place, where we arrived yesterday, we had a hard time of it, on the old Battle ground, below Frederick, as we were kept under arms, night and day, expecting an attack, and our Rest was on picket for eight hours, with the enemy's sharpshooters, constantly "fuzzying away" as we did in picket lines, we had a company of sharpshooters, which were raised in M'p, about two years ago, they did good service, and enjoyed the fun of picking off—these are the — I wish he recrossed the river last Saturday night, without loss, and the next morning commenced the toughest march we ever experienced, the weather was extremely hot, and during the last of the march, the road sides would be covered with civil fellows who had dropped down, dead, and dying, from the effects of the hot sun, the dust, and the long, tiresome march.

To-day, we are laying by, resting, but are constantly expecting orders to march, we may go to Alexandria, but I think it is more likely that we shall go north or west, perhaps to Leesburg and across the river to Poolesville, Md. or to Bull run mountains, — last night I saw eighty Ross (prisoners) who were taken at Fredericksburg, and now, as I write, we hear cannonading in that direction.

In regard to the movements of the enemy, the invasion of Md. and Pa. pleases me more, than it would to hear of the capture of Fredericksburg. It is just the thing needed to put down the Copperheads, to instill a little life into the
is kept and paid to commissioned Officers, and I am sorry to say its business is very extensive. There are but few Officers in the Army comparatively speaking that do not sooner or later get into the habit of using whiskey. Enlisted soldiers do not get it except on occasions of great fatigue, and occasionally before going into battle.

Furloughs are given for only five days now, and I could hardly go home and back in that time, so I think I shall not get to Somers this summer. My health is good, and I enjoy myself as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

Please write soon, oblige yours truly.

Camp near Suffolk, Va.

June 1st, 1863

Dear Sister,

Your favor of the 18th ult., bringing intelligence of father sick, we had duty to hand, and as I have not heard from you since, I trust that when this reaches you, health and happiness may again reign in your household.

We still remain in camp near our old winter quarters, and shall probably remain here some time, unless the enemy withdraw part of their forces to send to the South, or South west, or make an attack upon me. Every thing is quiet and we are leading a dull monotonous life; we drill four hours each day, and the rest of the time "lay around." Read newspapers,
write letters, play ball, &c. 
We have a news office in camp, and are supplied with New York, Philadelphia and Wash. papers at 10 cts each.

In regard to the rumors of Gen. Hooker being drunk, I have not seen him since our last movement, but there are many unfavorable reports concerning him, Mignon Taylor was here a few nights ago, and stated that a member of the Cu., to which he belongs, was at Gen. Sedgwick's Head quarters that day, when Gen. Hooker made up to drink that he fell down twice before getting into the tub, and that he had to be carried back to his own Head quarters, in an ambulance, and it is the general feeling of the Army.

That he is to find of "The flavored liquid called 'Whiskey,' to have command of 157000 men, — in one respect — Gen. Hooker is very popular with his soldiers, the Commissary department is better supplied under him, than it has ever been under any Gen. before, we have fresh bread every day now, fresh beef, four times per week, and a good variety of other rations, — Col. Shafer, our Brigade Commander has been promoted by the President, and is now a Brigadier, he has just reached his star, and to-day the Officers of the Brigade are on a drunk at his Head quarters, — in each Brigade there is a "Grogs gang," in connection with the Commissary department — where Whiskey...
Gettysburg, Pa.  
July 12th 1863  
10 o'clock P.M.

Sir,- I am well and without a scratch, had a hot-time last night and our Regt least heavily. We drove the enemy, captured Gen. Longstreet, 15 stand of colors, and several thousand prisoners - to-day it is all quiet, and it is thought the enemy are retreating. We are now feeling for them in the woods around here seems to be free of straggling Rebs who are coming into our lines constantly. Will write again as soon as the thing is over, and give particulars. Don't worry about me. Goodbye.

Yours truly, Sanford.
Complicating hastily behind our fortifications, we had them now in a tight slip, as they could not retreat, without repulsing themselves, as much as we did, while coming out, at least at great expense with them, and they attempted to make a charge upon us, but they could not stand the leader, Mort, and retired behind the wall again, soon after one man waved a white handkerchief above the wall, but he was immediately struck down by an officer. They stood it as long as they could, and at last, broke and run, to the rear, we gave them such a parting salute, as they will not soon forget, and those who remained
now gave themselves up to us, we took about eighty five prisoners. After the firing ceased, we went across to the wall, and found the dead Reb pile up, one upon another, as thick as they were at any place on the bloody field of Antietam, there was no more firing here after this, and during the day, our Brigade was sent to defend portions of the field, and were under some pretty severe shelling, but were in no more infantry engagements, the next day (the 2nd) it was quiet all day, except some slight skirmishing along the picket lines, and one or the 2d. started off on the retreating enemy, we followed them up closely and gave their warren. Train a shelling occasionally, but they had a very strong rear guard.

We are now about five miles from Boonsboro, on the Hagerstown road, the enemy lines are about a mile in front, yesterday we were out skirmishing while the cavalry fight was going on here, our troops are now throwing up earthworks in our rear, between us and Boonsboro, and it looks as if if we were making preparations for being driven back, or for forced back. We gave Lee a sound drubbing at Gettysburg and I feel confident that we can do it here, if he does not get across the river soon.

Please write

Yours

S. W. Freeman
as fast as our legs would carry us, but O! how the bullets whistled, our companions dropped at every step, and it seemed impossible for one of us to reach them alive, - but when once there we had the advantage of the enemy. They were behind a stone wall, between twenty and thirty rods distant, which ran at such an angle with our fortifications, that we had a raking fire on them, and we improved our opportunity each one of us was supplied with sixty rounds of Patten Cartridges, with which we could load very fast, - and before we got through we used them all up, and yet more from the rear - our fire was sharp and effective, while we were in

Dear Sister,

I sent you a line from Fletchberg a few days since, and I will now give you a more detailed history of the 122d during the past few weeks, - I believe I wrote you from Fairfax C.H., but have not yet read an answer to my letter, - from Fairfax we marched to Centreville, where we remained two days, while there our Regt went on Ricketts the old Bull run Battle field, here we found many sad indications of the severe struggle, still remaining from Centreville we started north, on a forced March, crossing the body me at
Edwards Ferry, near Leesburg, and passed up just east of Frederick, through Westminster, Md., and camped one day eight miles north of that place. Here we received marching orders, and started for Ellicottville, at eight o'clock P.M., and marched all night, and all the next day, until five o'clock P.M., at which time we arrived on the battlefield. This was on the second of July. We immediately took our position on the field, but did not have much to do, until the next day (the 3d) — our last march, we had twenty-one hours of steady marching, with only a half of twenty minutes for breakfast, and half an hour for dinner. On the morning of the 3d our Brigade was detached from the Corps, and sent to the assistance of the 12th Corps, which was hard pressed by the enemy, who were attempting to break through our lines, on the right, arriving there we found that our lines ran through a deep ravine, with a high bluff in front, which sheltered our troops from the fire of the enemy, about fifteen rods in front of our lines, was a breastworks, to which our Regt was ordered — a Regt in the 12th Corps had just fallen back from this place, they being short of ammunition, to reach it we had to cross a space of about ten rods, fully exposed to the fire of the enemy, we crawled on our hands and knees, to the top of the bluff, and raising up, ran to our position...
that Charleston is their destination, the 31st Mass Regt (the one that Myron Layton is in) left about two weeks ago, with orders to report at N.Y. There will be a very extensive rioting in N.Y. City, when they commence drafting again there, if they get a few Repts from the Army of the Potomac among them. — I will assure you of one thing, there would be no blank cartridges fired, nor no one killed who might be peaceably looking out of second or third story windows, — By the way, why don't they hurry along, with the draft, the men should be here now, so as to be ready to go in, and close this thing up this fall, it can be done, and I believe it will be.

Warrenton Va.
Aug 15th 1863

Sister

Yours of the "Yeeve eve" was this morning received. It finds me in Camp about two miles Rear of Warrenton, where we have been laging for two or three weeks past, and the prospects are that we shall remain in this vicinity for some time to come, probably until the Consights arrive, and get some of the "Arts and Sciences" of Warfare drilled into them. — We are comfortably situated, and enjoy ourselves as well as could be expected, under the circum.

stances. The weather is most oppressively warm, and we are having a
Steady full of it: no cool days mixed in, as you have them up North, but day and night week after week the intolerable heat continues.

In regard to furloughs, I also "see by the papers" that furloughs are again granted in Meads Army. But like many other things I "see by the papers" are taking place in the Army, we here get our only information of it from the papers. No furloughs have been given from our Corps, and I have not heard of any being given in any other. I have just asked our Adjutant, and he says that no Orders have been received relating to furloughs, and considering the weakened condition of this Army, I think it very disastrous about many, except sick and wounded, being allowed to leave as present; there are large numbers of Officers and Men, gone North, to guard the Conscrips, and bring them to the Right in the field, our Col. with a guard from each Regt in the Brigade has gone to Elmira N.Y., for this purpose, they have been absent for several weeks, and probably will not return for several weeks to come. Besides those gone after Conscrips, quite a large force has gone somewhere, and nobody seems to know where, a day or two ago, a whole Brigade from our Division started for New York, it was reported that they were to remain in N.Y. City to enforce the draft, but it is now thought
about two months ago our Regt went out to drill—we went into a field of tall grass. (the men that used to live around here, are all in the Rebel Army, and as there is no one to cut the grass, it is grown up with grass and weeds all over the country.) but as I was saying we went out to drill in a field of grass, but we had not been there long before we got into two or three hundred bees nests, and out they came by dozens, and pitched into us, and we had a regular battle with them, and what was the worst of it, we got whipped, yes, we changed our base, and that means that we retreated, and in fact we skedaddled,

and that means that we broke ranks and run, without orders, yes we run—and run as fast as the Rebels did on Frederick's heights, when we charged upon them last Spring, and that was about as fast running as you or I ever saw,—our men, who could stand the rebel bullets, without flinching, could not stand the bumble bees, and when one of them got stung, he would yell as loud as if he had been hit by a bullet, it made fine sport for us, but we did not learn much from that day's drill.

The idea of procuring a substitute never entered my mind, until I read your last letter—I have no intention of
The troops here are much pleased to know that the draft has really commenced, and to know that the President is bound to put it through, but we don't like the $300 exemption, we want, and had ought to have every drafted man, or his substitute, - no matter what they may say, or do at home, let them once be placed in our charge here, and they will make no more trouble, no matter how Copperhead they may be. They will be loyal enough after they have been in one realising good battle.

Tellies sending word of the bees stinging his foot reminds me of what occurred in our Rept. and I will write him about it.

Last Friday, for the first time since we left the Rappahannock
Camp 1222 Regt. N.Y.I.


Sept. 25th 1863

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 5th last came to me some time since, at Manassas, since which time we have advanced about 25 miles on to Richmond; at present we are encamped on the road leading from Culpeper C.R. to Harper's Ferry, about 4 miles from Culpeper, the locality where our Brigade is encamped, is known as Stone House Mountain. We are on the right of our Army, we are now under orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice, but I do not think that our position will be greatly changed at present. The enemy's cavalry have lately been making some demonstrations on our front, but I do not think that they will be foolish enough to attack us here. Neither do I think that our force is sufficient to drive the enemy from their entrenched position the other side of the Potomac. It is well known that Lee's force is divided, part being sent to the South, but since the Battle at GETTYSBURG they have been reinforced by Conscripts to a far greater extent than we have. I have been through different portions of our Army, considerably of late, and one regiment of 125 is all the Conscripts that I have seen, or know to have arrived to this Army. I have read in the papers of 10000 Conscripts hoping through Washington daily, but I am sure that they don't come here.
The draft it seems to me, is a shameful failure, and if it be true, as it seems to be, that all of the Patriots of the north have already in the Army, and the people remaining at home, are not willing to sustain an effective draft, then they are not worthy of enjoying the privileges of a United Confederacy.

The health of the Army is splendid, was never better, there has no death from our Red. Caused for several months, except those killed or wounded in Battle. While in our Co. alone we have had two and then forty, for a while last winter. The Army is well organized, but not large enough to make an attack, in a place where the force acting on the defensive, have such advantage as they do in this country.

In regard to the old Homestead, I don't think it would be advisable for me to "settledown" there, and I know of no reason why Edwain should not buy the place, and stay there, in a few years, by cutting off the wood, and perhaps selling a small portion of the farm.

Edwain sent me the sum total of the appraisal, which is more than I supposed it would be, I think that when I get a few months, I shall sell out to him, if I can make satisfactory arrangements.

If you please, you can send me a needle, and about two needles full of blue silk, if you have it, and a little black thread, in about a month or two, I should like a pair of mittens, with a fore-finger, enclosed please find 50c to pay the postage on the letters, which I have sent, and please have two or three stamps, don't and many as I cannot bare them. Mrs. Gower, at your service, Trumbull.
Carter's Station, Va.
Oct. 5th, 1863

Dear Sister,

Your welcome letter of the 29th last is at hand. Since my last to you, our Division, the 3d of 6th Corps, has "faced by the rear rank," and marched about 20 or 25 miles towards Washington, and now we are assigned to the duty of guarding this section of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad.

We are detached from our Corps, and quite likely shall remain here, until near Spring. The 11th & 12th Corps have been put away, probably to reinforce Rosencrans, but it is not known certain where they have gone, there are now only 5 Corps remaining in the Army of the Potomac, but since the two Corps have been sent off, the remaining Corps have been rapidly filling up, with Conscripts, or rather Substitutes, we are now encamped near the R.R., and can see several trains go down every day loaded with them.

We have got our tents pimped up, so as to make quite comfortable Winter quarters, and I understand that our Brigade is ordered to remain, and be prepared for an attack at any time, but at present there is no danger of our being disturbed, unless the guerrillas try us, which they will not be apt to do, when we come here, we marched about 20 miles on the R.R.
and by the whole distance did not see but 2 or 3 houses, all of the buildings near the road being burned, I have not seen a field of grain of any kind since I left Newbury.

When we started from this place, we were supplied with eight days' rations, and during our march, it rained most of the time, and most of our rations got wet and spoiled, and so we have not had our more delivered to us yet; the boys have to depend upon our little for provisions, this morning I bought a Cowfish at 25 cts a pound, a pound of Butter for 60 cts, and to-day I have been living high on Cowfish, in cooking Breakfast. I forgot to freshen my fish, and it was rather cold, but with my Sunday Supper, I succeeded famously.

In regard to home affairs, I am very glad to hear a thing manifested as seems to indicate between you and yourself, I have a letter from Mr. Adams, he says some time ago, Mrs. Adams says good morning, and adds, 'call it a letter, and says, 'call it a letter, a letter, a letter, a letter, and so on, but with my Sunday Supper, I succeeded famously.

In regard to home affairs, I am very glad to hear a thing manifested as seems to indicate between you and yourself, it says, 'call it a letter, and adds, 'call it a letter, a letter, and so on, but with my Sunday Supper, I succeeded famously.
at the R.R. Station, and it would come through in three or four days, — we are now in the recruiting camp we have had. Peace we have been in the service,

Hoping to hear from you again soon. I remain,

Yours affectionately,

[Signature]
The leg—cutting it off—so that it just hung by the flesh, at that moment—then Regt was ordered to move, and they went off, leaving him alone; the poor fellow, without making the least noise, took our his pocket-knife, cut off the remaining portion of his leg—tied his handkerchief around the stump, drew his bayonet from his sheath, run it under the handkerchief and twisting it around to draw the handkerchief tight—and sat holding it for at least half an hour—until they came with a "Strecher," to carry him from the field—when I see that Regt again I shall endeavor to learn that poor fellow's name, and residence.

We captured three Rebel Colonels in one fort, and a fourth attempted to escape by wading the river, when he was about halfway across—see 5th page.

Rappahannock Station
Nov. 15th 1863.

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 3d Inst. is at hand,—the needlebook, and continue came to hand in due season, they are just the things needed, many thanks for them. — We left Centerville the day after I wrote you last, and went to Warrenton, where we remained until last Saturday, the 7th last, when we broke camp early in the morning, and marched to this place, coming 18 miles in 6 hours, carrying 8 days rations, which with our other "Traps" weighed from 60 to 70 pounds,—the quickest march we ever made,—we found the Rabs here, and the sight of them made us forget our fatigue, immediately upon our arrival, we commenced operations, three Co's of our Regt deployed as Skirmishers, and led the advance, the remainder of the Regt was ordered to the support
of the two Batteries, which soon commenced shelling the forts, the enemy directed their Artillery fire to our Batteries, and gave us a pretty severe shelling for a few hours, one of their shells dropped into a Company next to ours, and exploding, killed two Sergeants, and one private and wounded a Lieutenant, and two Privates, while the shelling was going on our skirmish line advanced upon the enemy's skirmishers and drove them, into their earthworks, and then one of the most glorious charges was made by our whole skirmish line, upon the enemy's fort, and rifle pits, that I ever saw, looking upon the line as the charge was made, it seemed as though each man, was rushing forward to meet with certain death, but still there was no waverin, every man doing his duty nobly.

The enemy remained in their works until our men had reached them, and thence after a short hand to hand fight, I threw down their arms, some surrendering, others getting across the bridge, and escaping, — the force which captured the fort was very extremely small, the enemy our numbering them, only the Sixth Maine, was one of the regiments in the skirmish line, and proved themselves heroes, every one of them, they lost heavily, a few rods from our present camp is a row of about thirty graves, of members of the Sixth Maine, — Among the incidents of the fight, was one of the coolest performances I have seen during the war, while we were supporting the Battery, the 10th Maine RegTlay in line of battle about 5 rods in our rear, a solid shot came over and struck one of their men in
Oct. 18th 1863

Dear Sister,

I have yours of the 13th inst. and having leisure today I hasten to reply, not knowing when I may have another chance. We were surprised at Catletts Station, a few days ago, by the sudden appearance of the trains of Army wagons and ambulances from the Army on the front, around and past our Camp closely followed by a dozen lines of soldiers, on a steady march to the rear, it was the first notice we had of the falling back of our Army, our Corps was one of the first that reached us, and we packed up and joined it, and marched, un molested by the enemy to this place, the 2d Corps acted as rear guard to the Army, and covered the retreat, they had several
Skirmishes with the enemy, and generally came our first test, taking in all several hundred prisoners and some artillery, the "Johnnys" were particularly hungry for some of our wagon trains but I understand we got them all thing all soft. Our Corps is now on the right wing of the Army, about 8 miles north of Centreville. The Army occupies a very strong position, on the east banks of Bull Run, and Beale may have a Bull Run Fight No. 3, to record.

Every day since we have been here, there has been artillery firing on the front several miles to the left of us, but as yet the enemy have made no serious attempt on the right, most of the skirmishing has been done by Cavalry and Artillery so far, whether the enemy intend to attack us here on not, I cannot guess, but we are digging entrenchments, and getting ready for them. I fear they will give us another M. & C. Campaign, but enough of war matters.

Edwin sends me Republicans occasionally hereafter if you will send them I will depend upon you, = Our Shirts cost us $1.30 just what they cost the government would rather have other things sent in Bap, if any is sent, = no furloughs, probably, will be given from this Army, until we go into winter quarters, you need not send a shingle with the needle case, as I do not use one, we get black pepper with our rations occasionally, but not often, = when our rations are short, or yet behind hand. They give us more rations in the place of them, when the Brigade Commissary gets them, but our extra expenses are made up to us, in no other way, = a Bap should be directed as follows, S. N. Friendwell, 1st Brigade, = 3rd Div: 6 Corps.

Washington D.C, = It is essential
Brendy Station, Va.,
Dec. 4th, 1863.

Dear Sister,

I write to give you the particulars of your last trip on "Dunn Brownes Coach line." Soon after I wrote you last, we came to this place, and remained until Thurs., near Dec 26th, (Thanksgiving,) when we broke camp at 4 o'clock A.M., and started for the Rappidan. All day long, we kept on the march, without even stopping for dinner, and reached the river at about 11 o'clock P.M., and crossing over, lay down on the South Bank, for the night.
we were called up at 4 o'clock the next morning, and kept ready for the enemy until afternoon, when we were moved out to support the 3rd Corps, which had become engaged with the enemy in front of us. That day we were not called upon to go into the engagement, and at night we lay down until 12 o'clock, when we were called up and sent to another portion of the field about 6 miles distant. That day it rained all day, and we had to stand and take it without lights, or shelter of any kind.

The next day we were sent to the front on the extreme left of our lines, where we remained until we retreated. The enemy sent us a few shells occasionally which kept us laying close to the ground, while we were here, and one of them striking in the Rept. at the rear of killed 30 men, but none of our Rept. was injured. The weather, after the rain was very cold, and had we had a general engagement almost every wounded man, must have died. Probably you think strange that we did not give the enemy battle after taking the trouble of finding them. But I think that Mead showed good judgment in declining to do so. The enemy were in position on the top of a high hill, at the bottom of which there was a creek of considerable size, and while we were crossing this and ascending the hill, ...
Mrs. Rev. & A. Merrill
Mystic
Conn.

[Postmark: New York, July 7, 1863]
NOT A STAR MUST FALL,

Soldiers Letter
A. W. Beekly
A. D. 122, N. Y. Oct

Mid Rn. G. Head
Leiptte Campf. Rhode Island
Mrs. Rev. E. A. M. Merril
Mystic
Conn.
Mrs. C. A. Merrill
Millville, N.J.
Mrs. Rev. C. A. Merrill
Mystic Conn.
Mrs. Rev. E. A. Merrill
Mystic
Conn.
M Sophia Merrill
Mystic
Conn.