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Samuel Adams (Civil War Surgeon) Papers, 1862-1933

Extracted on Apr-08-2020 07:04:14

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[[pencil note across top of letter]] Battle of Antietam - in Maryland Sept. 17 - 1862 ^[[Heart of fighting]] Dunkard Chapel of Red brick - mile north of Sharpsburg
Sometimes called battle of Sharpsburg]]

Camp Near Sharpsburg, Sept. 28th 1862

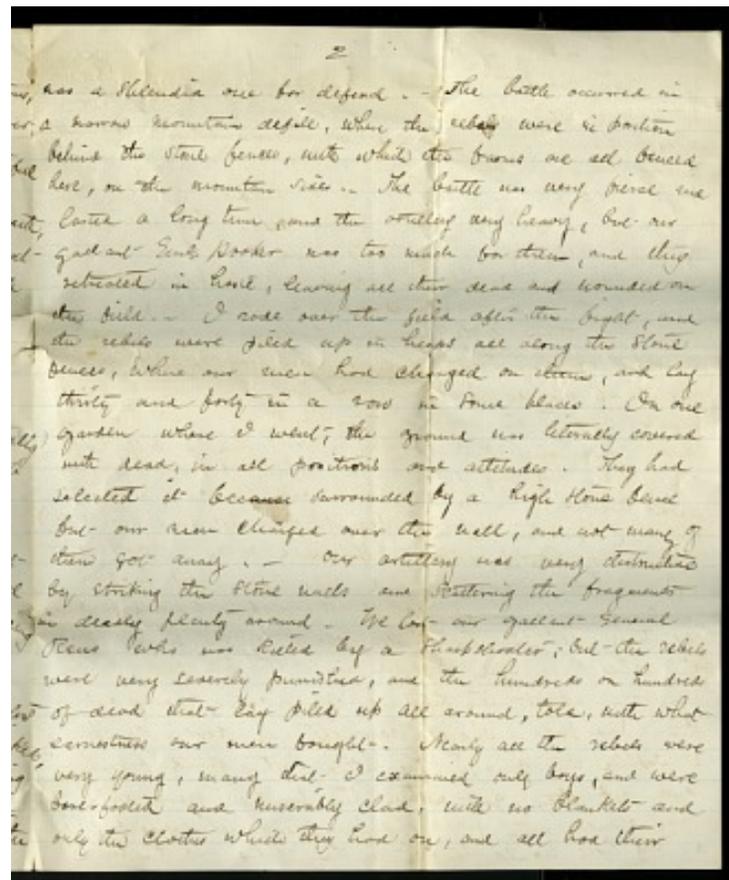
My Dear Mother-

I wrote you a line, telling you about our great seven days fighting, ending in the great battle of Antietam, and of my safe egress from all kinds of deadly missiles and hoarse artillery. We have been through all kinds of hardships, and the last ten days have brought some of the hardest work and fatigue we have yet had in all our marches, and rapid moves since leaving the Peninsular.- We left Rockville and marched to Fredrick, where the enemy was in force near by, and only left the town on our approach. Our reception was a perfect ovation and triumph. The ladies turned out "en masse" and flags and handkerchiefs were waving from every house in town, and a general delight seemed to pervade the people, as they saw the Union flag again later, where the rebel army, only a short time before thought they had taken up their permanent abode.- Last Sunday, week we crossed the Blue Ridge, and was the most terrible day we have yet had, going through mountain defiles, over creeks, and hills, and all manner of obstacles with artillery and immense bodies of troops, and bad roads, made it the worst of all our bad days.- We reached Middletown Heights just in time to see the fight which occurred there and resulted in the disastrous defeat of the rebels, notwithstanding their position

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was a splendid one for defence. - The battle occurred in a narrow mountain defile, where the rebels were in position behind the stone fences, with which the farms are all fenced here, on the mountain sides. - The battle was very fierce and lasted a long time, and the artillery very heavy, but our gallant Genl Hooker was too much for them, and they retreated in haste, leaving all their dead and wounded on the field. - I rode over the field after the fight, and the rebels were piled up in heaps all along the stone fences, where our men had charged on them, and lay thirty and forty in a row in some places. In one garden where I went, the ground was literally covered with dead, in all positions and attitudes. They had selected it because surrounded by a high stone fence but our men charged over the wall, and not many of them got away. - Our artillery was very destructive by striking the stone walls and scattering the fragments in deadly plenty around. We lost our gallant General Reno who was killed by a sharpshooter; but the rebels were very severely punished, and the hundreds on hundreds of dead that lay piled up all around, told, with what earnestness our men fought. Nearly all the rebels were very young, many that I examined only boys, and were bare-footed and miserably clad, with no blankets and only the clothes which they had on, and all had their



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haversacks full of corn cakes. The scenery from the mountains, of the Middletown Valley, is the most beautiful I have ever seen, and the most splendidly cultivated land, and beautiful farms. Well, on we went over mountains and hills, marching along, to the great grave yard and valley of death, which the banks of the Antietam proved to be on the next Wednesday. We reached the field where the great battle came off, on Monday, when the rebels opened on us with shell, and line after line of our troops came in, in solid columns. - The next morning they opened again with shell bright and early, and this was the most terrific fire I have ever been under. - The whole ground was literally ploughed with shot and bursting shells, and the whole air filled with screaming fragments, which killed our horses, and tore our artillery wheels, as they came hounding into our batteries and down the hill sides. - But we did not respond much, this day to their fire, as all the day was occupied in posting our troops, and arranging the order of battle for the next day. - We were less than a quarter of a mile from the enemy, but that night I slept elegantly, although the fire of the rebel sharpshooters could be heard all night, who were shooting at our pickets, who held a bridge over the creek. - The next morning (Wednesday Sept 17) everything was ready, McClellan had been there, and McClellan was there and at early dawn we began the

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attack by opening on them with our twenty pounder batteries of rifled Parrotts, and soon the air was filled with artillery. - Genl. Sumner and Hooker had crossed the creek during the night and were now driving the rebels before them on the extreme right. - All along the right flank was our blaze of smoke and fire, and

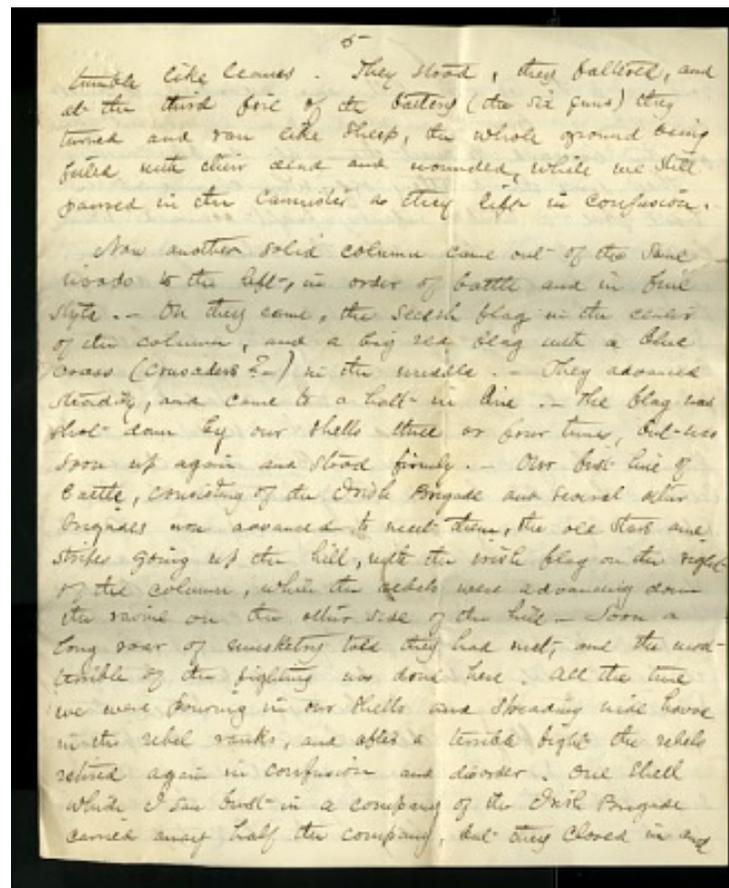
^[[the]] rebels were falling back before us. - They fell back in good order, slowly retreating, and came out of the woods on our right in solid column (apparently without knowing that our batteries were on the hills) when we opened on them with all our batteries a terrible fire. Instantly they broke and ran in confusion for another skirt of woods just in front, all the time our big shells bursting in among them, and adding to the haste and confusion which everywhere prevailed. All this time the whole fighting was on the right flank, and was most terrible. - Now our solid columns came out of the woods (following the rebels) (which the rebels had just left) in line of battle, and in splendid order, a battery leading the advance, and were drawn up in line in front of a house, which the rebels had just fired as they left. The battery opened on the woods where the rebels were, and poured in a terrible fire, when suddenly about ten thousand rebels came moving out of the woods, at a charge bayonets and double quick to capture the guns. - The little battery stood firmly and let them get within two hundred yards when they opened with grape and cannister. At every fire a big hole would be cut in the ranks and the men

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tumble like leaves. They stood, they faltered, and at the third fire of the battery (the six guns) they turned and ran like sheep, the whole ground being filled with their dead and wounded, while we still poured in the canister as they left in confusion.

Now another solid column came out of the same woods to the left, in order of battle and in fine style. - On they came, the Secesh flag in the center of the column, and a big red flag with a blue cross (Crusaders?) in the middle. - They advanced steadily, and came to a halt in line. - The flag was shot down by our shells three or four times, but was soon up again and stood firmly. - Our first line of battle, consisting of the Irish Brigade and several other brigades now advanced to meet them, the old stars and stripes going up the hill, with the Irish flag on the right of the column, while the rebels were advancing down the ravine on the other side of the hill. - Soon a long roar of musketry told they had met, and the most terrible of the fighting was done here. All the time we were pouring in our shells and spreading wide havoc in the rebel ranks, and after a terrible fight the rebels retired again in confusion and disorder. One shell which I saw burst in a company of the Irish Brigade carried away half the company, but they closed in and

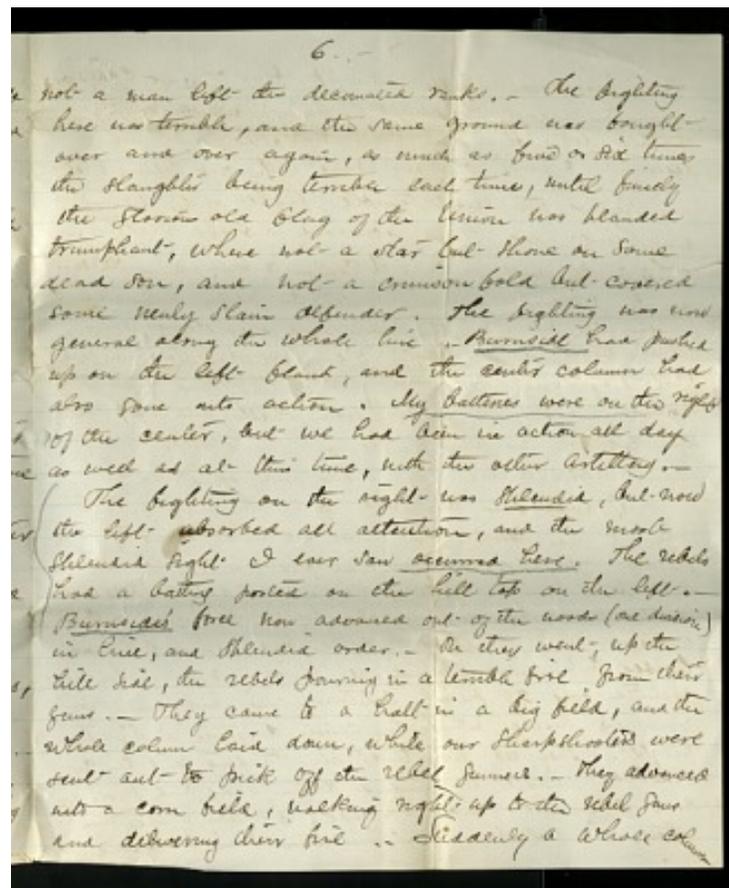


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not a man left the decimated ranks.- The fighting here was terrible, and the same ground was fought over and over again, as much as five or six times the slaughter being terrible each time, until finally the glorious old flag of the Union was planted triumphant, where not a star but shone on some dead son, and not a crimson bold but covered some newly slain defender. The fighting was now general along the whole line.- Burnside had pushed up on the left flank, and the center column had also gone into action. My batteries were on the right of the center, but we had been in action all day as well as at this time, with the other artillery.-

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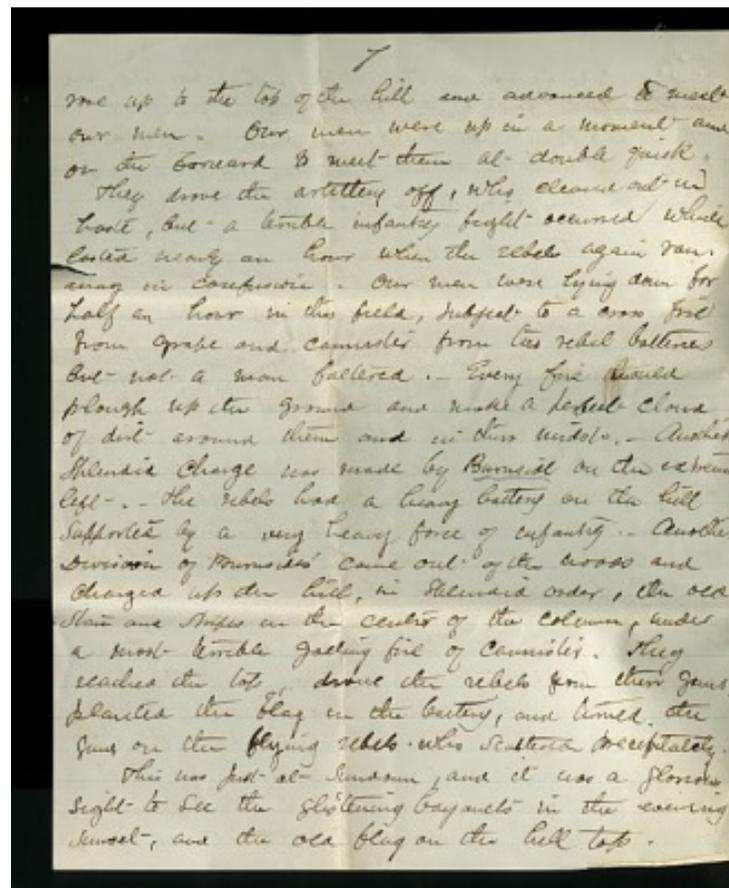
The fighting on the right was splendid, but now the left absorbed all attention, and the most splendid fight I ever saw occurred here. The rebels had a battery posted on the hill top on the left.- Burnside's force now advanced out of the woods (one division) in line, and splendid order.- On they went, up the hill side, the rebels pouring in a terrible fire from their guns.- They came to a halt in a big field, and the whole column laid down, while our sharpshooters were sent out to pick off the rebel gunners.- They advanced into a corn field, walking right up to the rebel guns and delivering their fire.- Suddenly a whole column



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rose up to the top of the hill and advanced to meet our men. Our men were up in a moment and on the forward to meet them at double quick. They drove the artillery off, who cleared out in haste, but a terrible infantry fight occurred which lasted nearly an hour when the rebels again ran away in confusion. Our men were lying down for half an hour in this field, subject to a cross fire from grape and cannister from two rebel batteries but not a man faltered.- Every fire would plough up the ground and make a perfect cloud of dirt around them and in their midst.- Another splendid charge was made by Burnside on the extreme left.- The rebels had a heavy battery on the hill supported by a very heavy force of infantry.- Another Division of Burnside's came out of the woods and charged up the hill, in splendid order, the old Stars and Stripes in the center of the column, under a most terrible galling fire of cannister. They reached the top, drove the rebels from their guns, planted the flag in the battery, and turned the guns on the flying rebels who scattered precipitately.

This was just at sundown, and it was a glorious sight to see the glistening bayonets in the evening sunset, and the old flag on the hill top.



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Our percussion shells blew up four of their caissons (ammunition wagons, which go with the batteries) which made terrible destruction in their batteries, and we destroyed several of their guns with our heavy shot.-

This is the most terrible fight of the whole war, but we have achieved a Great Victory.-

This is the result of having McClellan to command.- He was on the field all day and excited the greatest enthusiasm among the men. The rebels had over 120,000 men, while we had but eighty, but McClellan was there and that was equal to an army. I had some terrible wounds in my batteries, from shells, and amputated two legs on the field.- We lost two killed and many horses killed from shells and solid shot.

I rode over the field to see the sights. I tell you it was terrible the havoc we made among the rebel hordes. They left all their dead and wounded in our hands and fled in the night. I saw 145 dead rebels in one ditch to be buried, and the field was covered with thousands and thousands of dead and wounded, dead horses by hundreds and all kinds of ruin.- We have captured over 25 pieces of artillery and any quantity of prisoners besides what the rebels destroyed in their hasty flight. They left their tents all standing and their guns stacked, muskets by hundreds thrown away and fresh beef and flour all ready for use. In their whole invasion there did not 500 men join them from Maryland.

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It is really wonderful how we drove them from their position, when the ground is looked at. They had the advantage of us in every way both for infantry and artillery. But I think their army is about tired.- More than a third of Jackson's force are barefooted, none of them have any blankets, and many no coats, and all on very short rations.-

I told you about meeting Ned Howard, we had a long talk about old times, but he is still a great rebel and thinks the South will come out all right.- We have been quiet now for the last few days for the only time in ten days, and not a day but some fighting going on until now.- We are in position on the banks of the river guarding the ford where the army got across.- If it had not been for the traitors at Harpers' Ferry the whole rebel army would have been destroyed, but their captures there will keep them agoing for some time yet.-

Send me in a newspaper some of the tooth powder as I had - Tell Pa to go to Grahame's Drug Store on Baltimore St corner of Eutaw and get me some, it comes in ounce papers and can be sent easily.- Dont send my box at all until I find out where I am going.- Dont know what

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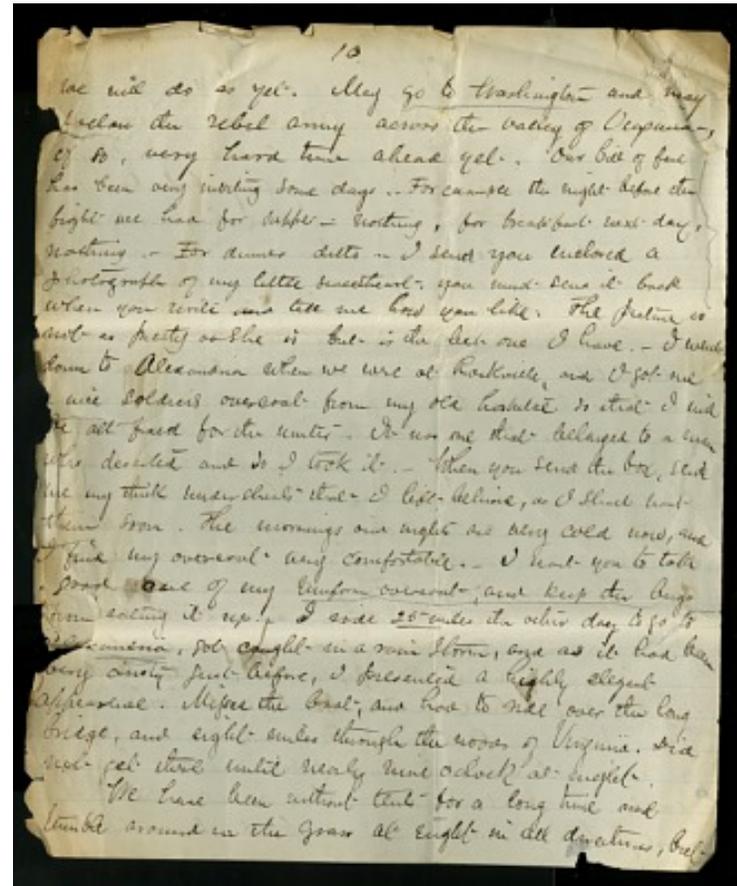
we will do as yet. May go to Washington and may follow the rebel army across the valley of Virginia. If so, very hard time ahead yet.

[A vertical pencil line in right margin highlights the following sentences.] Our bill of fare has been very inviting some days.- For example the night before the fight we had for supper-- nothing, for breakfast next day, nothing.- for dinner ditto.- I send you enclosed a photograph of my little sweetheart.- You must send it back when you write and tell me how you like.

[/vertical pencil line in right margin]

The picture is not as pretty as she is but is the best one I have.- I went down to Alexandria when we were at Rockville, and I got me a nice soldiers overcoat from my old hospital so that I will be all fixed for the winter. It was one that belonged to a man who deserted and so I took it.- When you send the box, send me my thick undershirts that I left behind, as I shall want them soon. The mornings and nights are very cold now, and I find my overcoat very comfortable.- I want you to take good care of my uniform overcoat, and keep the bugs from eating it up.- I rode 25 miles the other day to go to Alexandria, got caught in a rain storm, and as it had been very dusty just before, I presented a highly elegant appearance. Missed the boat, and had to ride over the long bridge, and eight miles through the woods of Virginia. Did not get there until nearly nine o'clock at night.

We have been without tents for a long time and tumble around in the grass at night in all directions, but



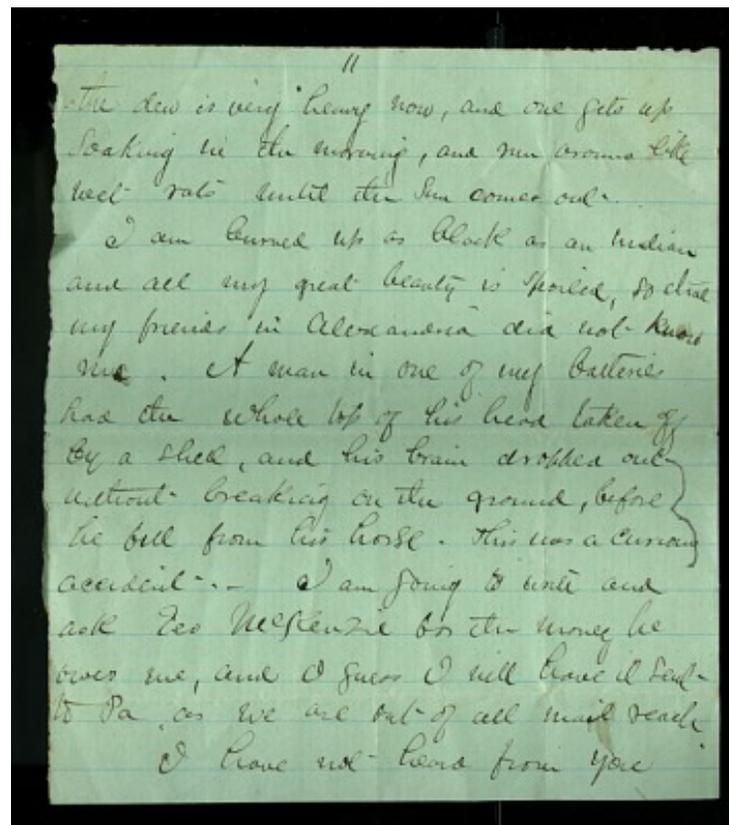
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the dew is very heavy now, and one gets up soaking in the morning, and run around like wet rats until the sun comes out.

I am burned up as black as an Indian and all my great beauty is spoiled, so that my friends in Alexandria did not know me.

A man in one of my batteries had the whole top of his head taken off by a shell, pencil bracket in right margin to highlight and his brain dropped out without breaking on the ground, before he fell from his horse. This was a curious accident. - [/bracket] I am going to write and ask Leo McKenzie for the money he owes me, and I guess I will have it sent to Pa, as we are out of all mail reach.

I have not heard from you



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for nearly a month, and we have not received our accumulated mail since leaving the Peninsular, and I am beginning to think we never will get them.

But I don't feel in a writing mood at all and so I will stop.

I am elegant in health and spirits.

Love to Pa and Ava [[Ann ?]]

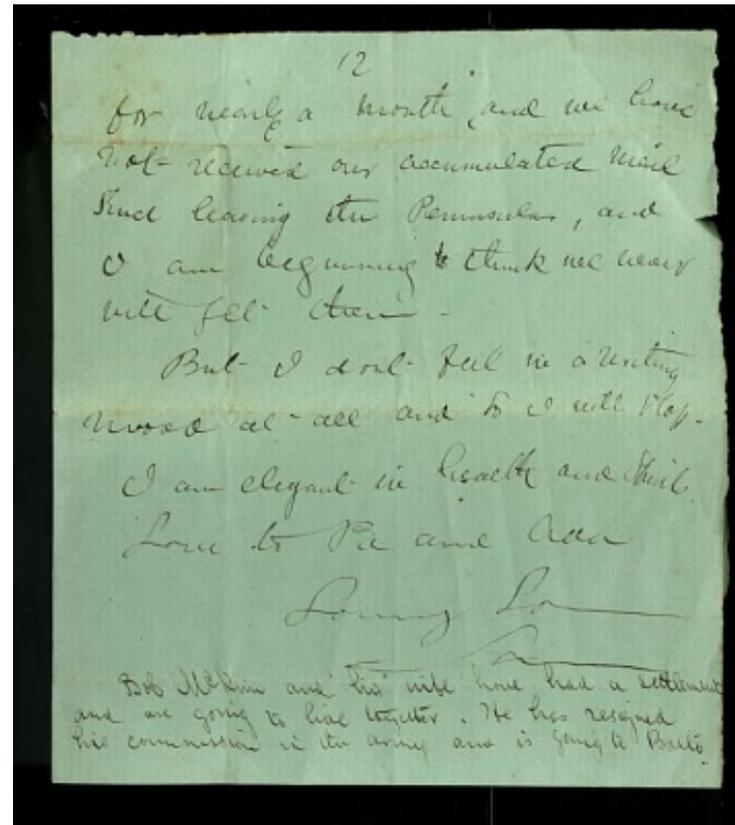
Loving Son

Sam

[[note in different/changed handwriting]]

Bob McKim and his wife have had a settlement and are going to live together. He has resigned his commission in the army and is going to Balto.

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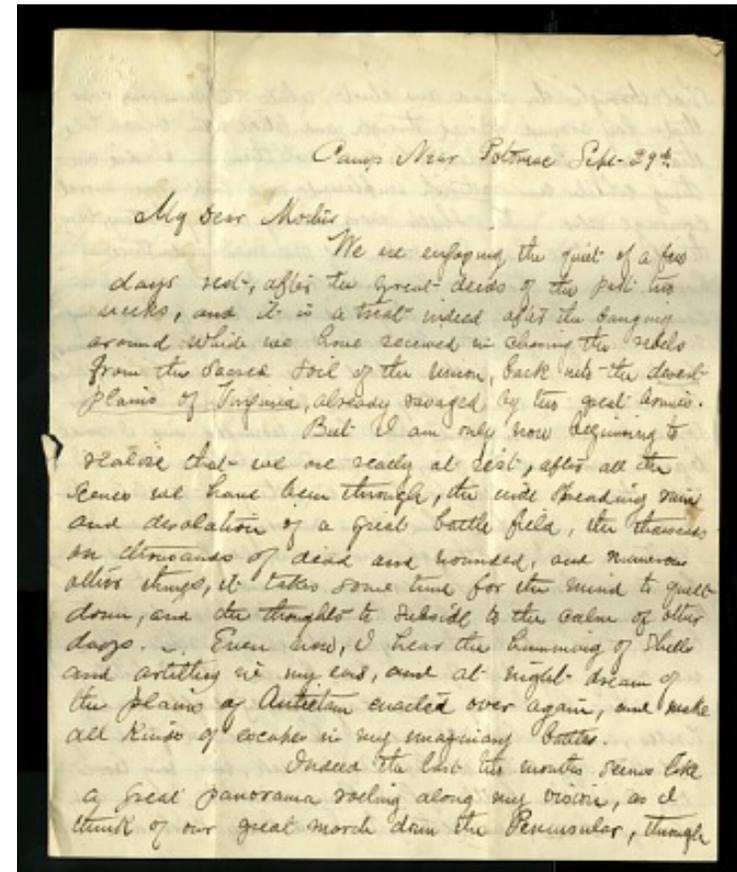
Camp Near Potomac Sept 29th

My Dear Mother

We are enjoying the quiet of a few days rest, after the great deeds of the past two weeks, and it is a treat indeed after the banging around which we have received in chasing the rebels from the Sacred Soil of the Union, back into the desert plains of Virginia, already savaged by two great Armies.

But I am only now beginning to realize that we are really at rest, after all the scenes we have been through, the wide spreading ruin and desolation of a great battle field, the thousands on thousands of dead and wounded, and numerous other things, it takes some time for the mind to quiet down, and the thoughts to subside to the calm of other days. - Even now, I hear the humming of shells and artillery in my ears, and at night dream of the plains of Antietam enacted over again, and make all kinds of escapes in my imaginary battles.

Indeed the last two months seems like a great panorama rolling along my vision, as I think of our great march down the Peninsular, through



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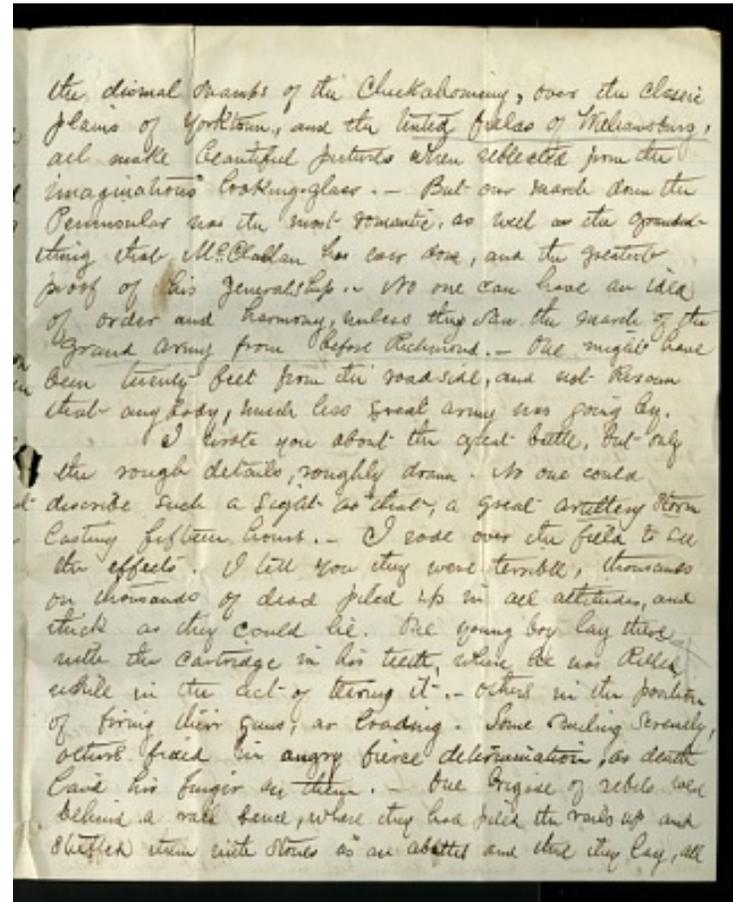
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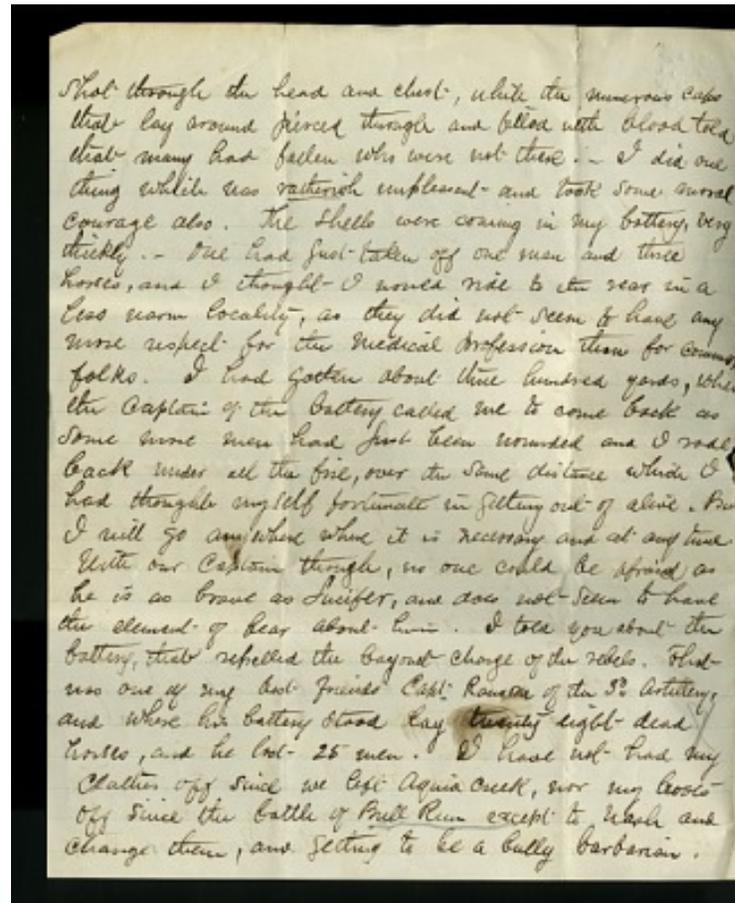
the dismal swamps of the Chickahominy, over the classic plains of Yorktown, and the tented fields of Williamsburg, all make beautiful pictures when reflected from the imagination's looking-glass.- But our march down the Peninsular was the most romantic, as well as the grandest thing that McClellan has ever done, and the greatest proof of his generalship.- No one can have an idea of order and harmony, unless they saw the march of the grand army from before Richmond.- One might have been twenty feet from the roadside, and not known that anybody, much less great army was going by.

I wrote you about the great battle, but only the rough details, roughly drawn. No one could describe such a fight as that, a great artillery storm lasting fifteen hours.- I rode over the field to see the effects. I tell you they were terrible, thousands on thousands of dead piled up in all attitudes, and thick as they could be. One young boy lay there with the cartridge in his teeth, where he was killed while in the act of tearing it.- Others in the position of firing their guns, or loading. Some smiling serenely, others fixed in angry fierce determination, as death laid his finger on them.- One brigade of rebels were behind a rail fence, where they had piled the rails up and shifted them with stones as an abattis and there they lay, all

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page in cursive ink on aged, slightly yellowed paper. The text is written in a fluid, somewhat slanted hand. There are some ink blots and variations in line thickness. The page is oriented vertically but the text is written horizontally. The handwriting is consistent throughout, with some larger letters and flourishes. The paper shows signs of age, including some staining and uneven coloring.

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shot through the head and chest, while the numerous caps that lay around pierced through and filled with blood told that many had fallen who were not there. - I did one thing which was unpleasant and took some moral courage also. The shells were coming in my battery, very thickly. - One had just taken off one man and three horses, and I thought I would ride to the rear in a less warm locality, as they did not seem to have any more respect for the medical profession than for common folks. I had gotten about three hundred yards, when the Captain of the battery called me to come back as some more men had just been wounded and I rode back under all the fire, over the same distance which I had thought myself fortunate in getting out of alive. But I will go anywhere where it is necessary and at any time. With our Captain though, no one could be afraid as he is as brave as Lucifer, and does not seem to have the element of fear about him. I told you about the battery, that repelled the bayonet charge of the rebels. That was one of my best friends Capt. Ransom of the 3d Artillery, and where his battery stood lay twenty eight dead horses, and he lost 25 men. I have not had my clothes off since we left Aquia Creek, nor my boots off since the battle of Bull Run except to wash and change them, and getting to be a bully barbarian.



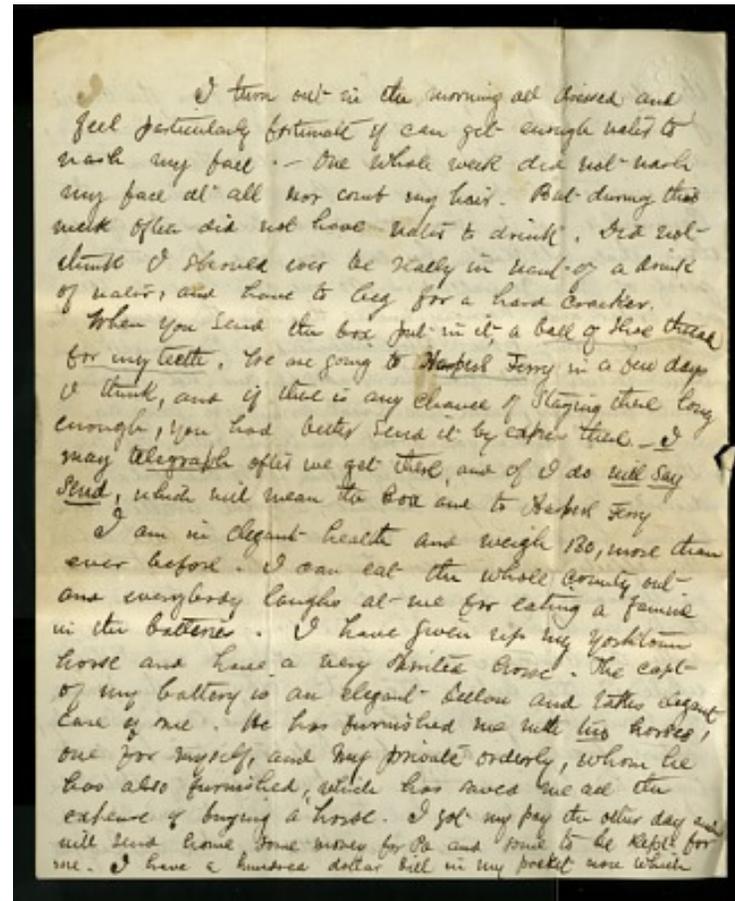
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I turn out in the morning all dressed and feel particularly fortunate if I can get enough water to wash my face. - One whole week did not wash my face at all nor comb my hair. But during this week often did have water to drink. Did not think I should ever be really in want of a drink of water, and have to beg for a hard cracker.

When you send the box put in it, a ball of shoe thread for my teeth. We are going to Harpers Ferry in a few days I think, and if there is any chance of staying there long enough, you had better send it by express there. I may telegraph after we get there, and if I do will say send, which will mean the box and to Harpers Ferry

I am in elegant health and weigh 130, more than ever before. I can eat the whole county out and everybody laughs at me for eating a famine in the batteries. I have given up my Yorktown horse and have a very spirited horse. The Capt of my battery is an elegant fellow and takes elegant care of me. He has furnished me with two horses, one for my myself, and my private orderly, whom he has also furnished, which has saved me all the expense of buying a horse. I got my pay the other day and will home some money for Pa and some to be kept for me. I have a hundred dollar bill in my pocket now which



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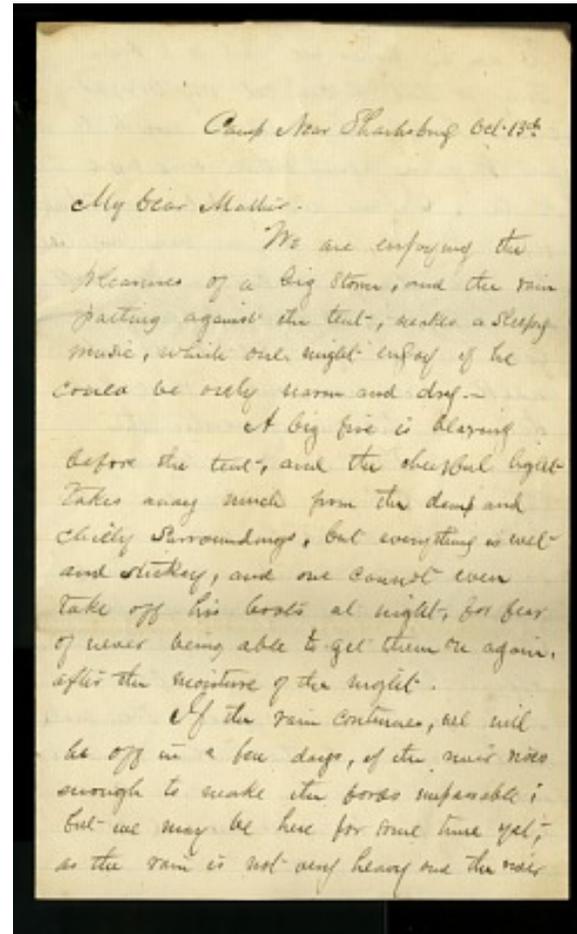
Camp Near Sharpsburg Oct. 13th

My Dear Mother.

We are enjoying the pleasures of a big storm, and the rain patting the tent, makes a sleepy music, which one might enjoy if he could be only warm and dry.

A big fire is blazing before the tent, and the cheerful light takes away much from the damp and chilly surroundings, but everything is wet and sticky, and one cannot even take off his boots at night, for fear of never being able to get them on again, after the moisture of the night.

If the rain continues, we will be off in a few days, if the river rises enough to make the fords impassable; but we may be here for some time yet, as the rain is not very heavy and the river



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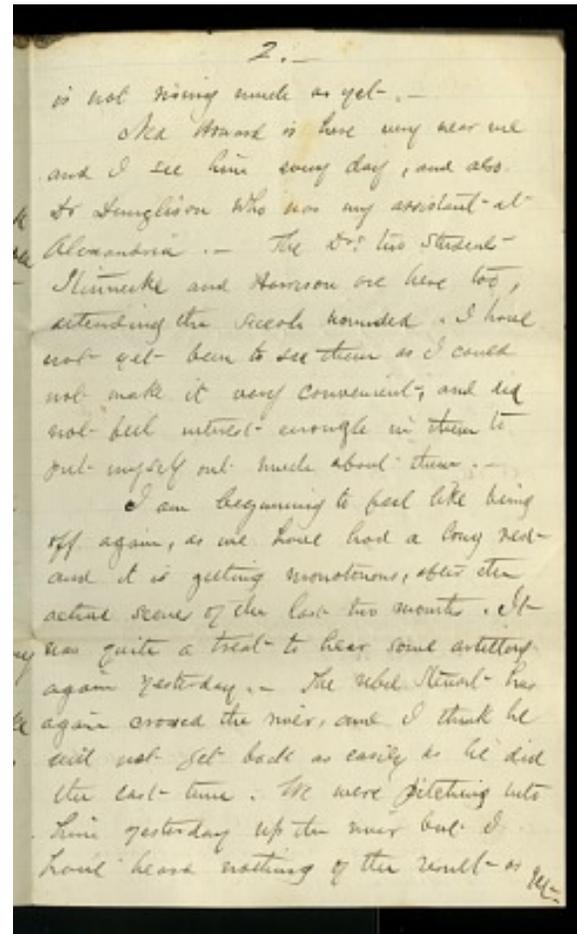
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Ned Howard is here very near me and I see him every day, and also Dr. Duglison who was my assistant at Alexandria.- The Drs two students [[Stinriecke?]] and Harrison are here too, attending the secesh wounded. I have not yet been to see them as I could not make it very convenient, and did not feel interest enough in them to put myself out much about them.-

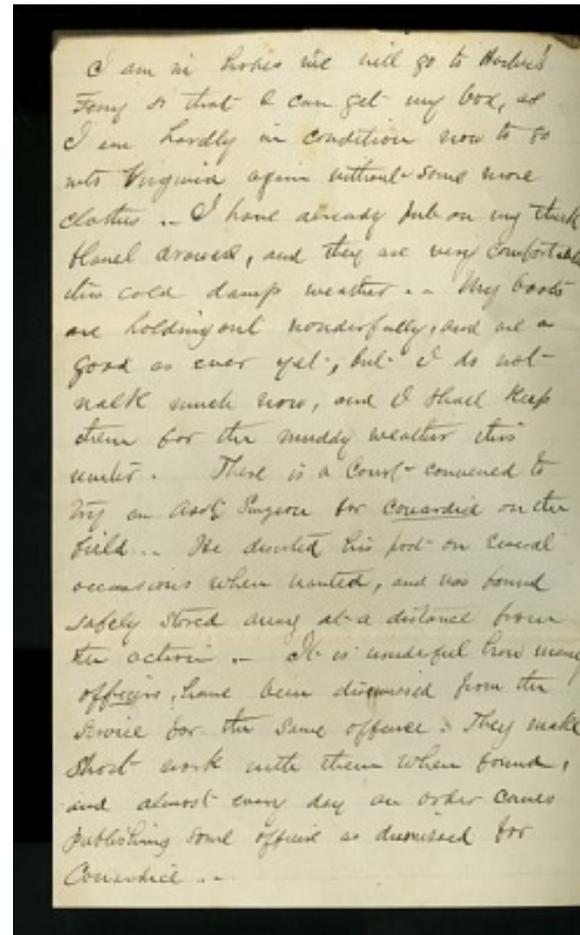
I am beginning to feel like being off again, as we have had a long rest and it is getting monotonous, after the actual scenes of the last two months. It was quite a treat to hear some artillery again yesterday.- The rebel Stuart has again crossed the river, and I think he will not get back as easily as he did the last time. We were pitching into him yesterday up the river but I have heard nothing of the result as yet.-

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page. The page is numbered '2.' at the top. The text is written in cursive and matches the typed transcription on the left. The paper appears aged and slightly yellowed. The handwriting is clear but somewhat slanted. There are some faint markings and a small signature or initials at the bottom right of the page.

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I am in hopes we will go to Harper's Ferry so that I can get my box, as I am hardly in condition now to go into Virginia again without some more clothes. - I have already put on my thick flannel drawers, and they are very comfortable this cold damp weather. - My boots are holding out wonderfully, and are as good as ever yet, but I do not walk much now, and I shall keep them for the muddy weather this winter. There is a Court convened to try an Asst Surgeon for cowardice on the field. - He deserted his post on several occasions when wanted, and was found safely stored away at a distance from the action. - It is wonderful how many officers have been dismissed from the service for the same offence. They make short work with them when found, and almost every day an order comes publishing some officers as dismissed for cowardice. -



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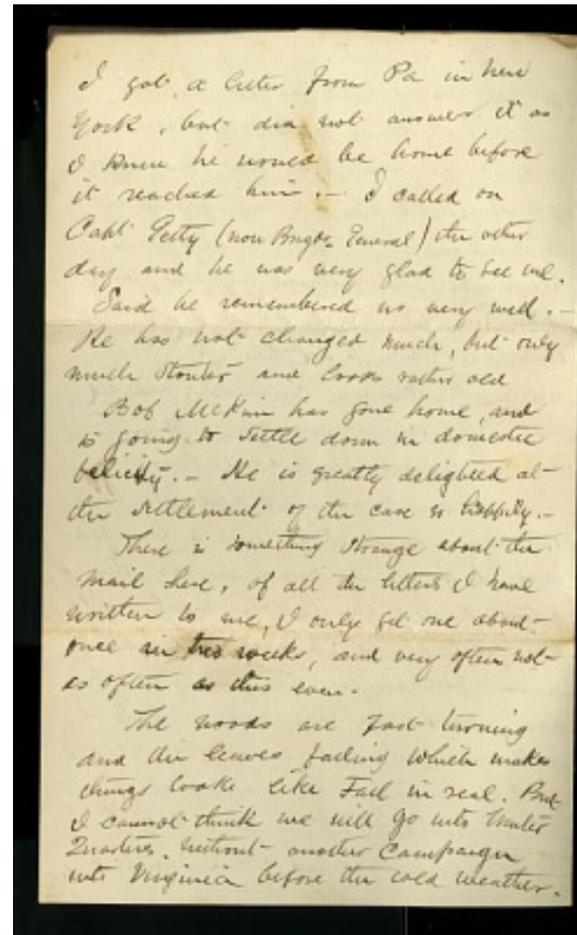
I got a letter from Pa in New York, but did not answer it as I knew he would be home before it reached him.-
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Said he remembered us very well.- He has not changed much, but only much stouter and looks rather old

Bob McKim has gone home, and is going to settle down in domestic felicity.- He is greatly delighted at the settlement of the case so happily.-

There is something strange about the mail here, of all the letters I have written to me, I only get one about once in two weeks, and very often not as often as this even.

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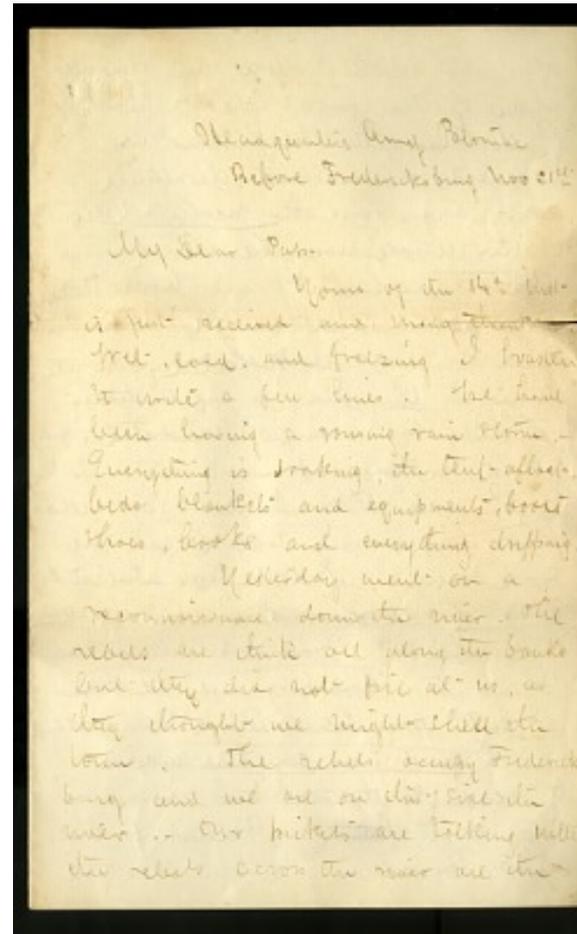
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Headquarters Army Potomac
Before Fredericksburg Nov 21st

My Dear Pap.

Yours of the 14th inst is just received and many thanks. Wet, cold, and freezing I hasten to write a few lines. We have been having a rousing rain storm. - Everything is soaking, the tent afloat, beds blankets and equipments, boots, shoes, books and everything dripping.

Yesterday went on a reconnoissance down the river. The rebels are thick all along the banks but they did not fire at us, as they thought we might shell the town. The rebels occupy Fredericksburg and we are on this side the river. - Our pickets are talking with the rebels across the river all the



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after the terrible stampede and demoralization of the army of Pope at
the 2d Bull Run. McClellan takes this defeated, demoralized, disaffected
army and gains the greatest victory of the whole war.
[[/ink underline]]

[[/vertical pencil line in left margin]]

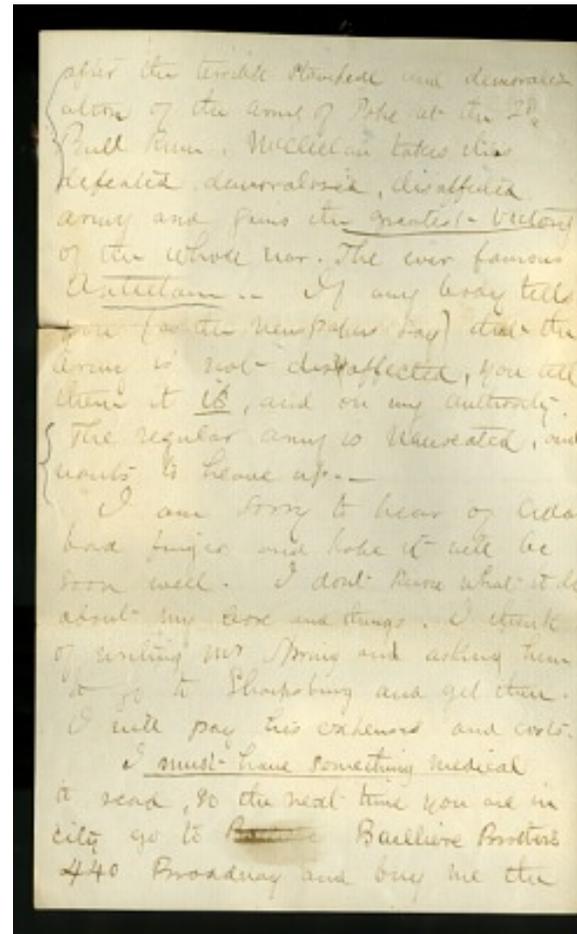
The ever famous Antietam - If
any body tells you (as the newspapers say) that the army is not
dissaffected, you tell them it is, and on
my authority.

[[A pencil bracket in left margin highlights the next sentence.]]

The regular army is nauseated, and wants to heave up.-
[[/pencil bracket in left margin]]

I am sorry to hear of Ava's bad finger and hope it will be soon well. I
dont know what to do about my box and things. I think of writing Mr.
Sprag and asking him to go to Sharpsburg and get them.
I will pay his expenses and costs.

I must have something medical to
read, so the next time you are in city go to ~~Balliese~~
~~[[/strikethrough]]~~ Bailliere Brothers 440 Broadway and buy me the



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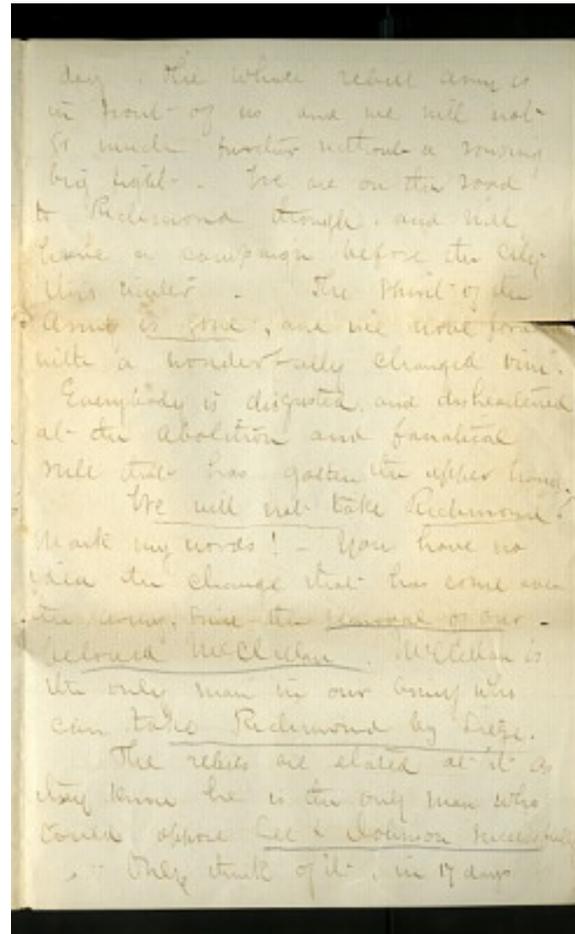
day. The whole rebel army is in front of us and we will not go much further without a rousing big fight. We are on the road to Richmond though, and will have a campaign before the city this winter. The spirit of the army is gone, and we move forward with a wonderfully changed vim?.

Everybody is disgusted and disheartened at the abolition and fanatical vile that has gotten the upper hand.

We will not take Richmond. Mark my words! - You have no idea the change that has come over the army, since the removal of our beloved McClellan. McClellan is the only man in our army who can take Richmond by siege.

The rebels are elated at it as they know he is the only man who could oppose Lee & Johnson successfully.

Only think of it, in 17 days



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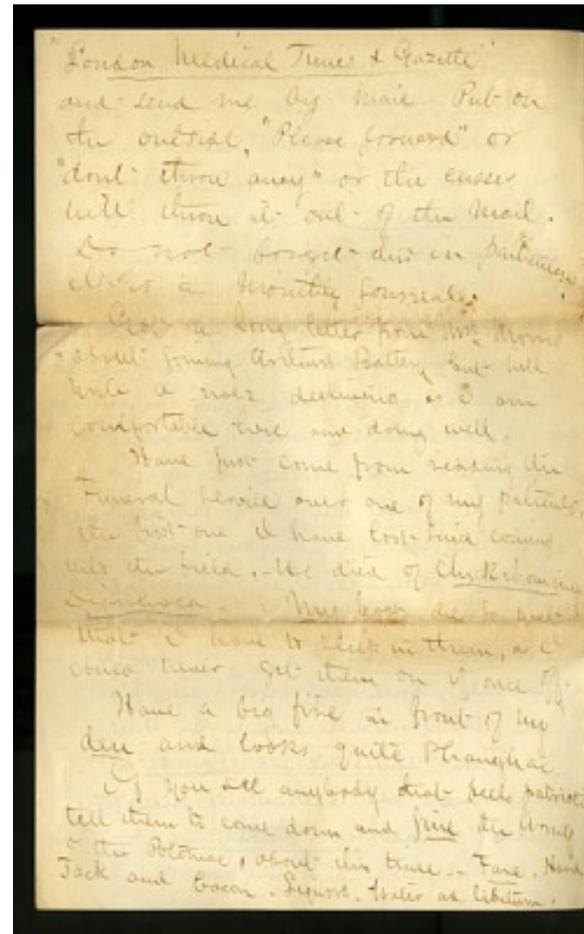
"London Medical Times & Gazette" and send me by mail. Put on the outside, "Please forward" or "dont throw away" or the cusses will throw it out of the mail. Do not forget this in particular
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Got a long letter from Mrs. Morris about joining Arthurs Battery but will write a note declining as I am comfortable here and doing well.

Have just come from reading the Funeral service over one of my patients, the first one I have lost since coming into the field.- He died of Chickahominy Diarrhea. My boots are so wet that I have to sleep in them, as I could never get them on if once off.

Have a big fire in front of my den and looks quite Shanghai ?.

If you see anybody that feels patriotic tell them to come down and give the Army of the Potomac, about this time.- Fare, Hard Tack and bacon, Liquors, Water and libation?



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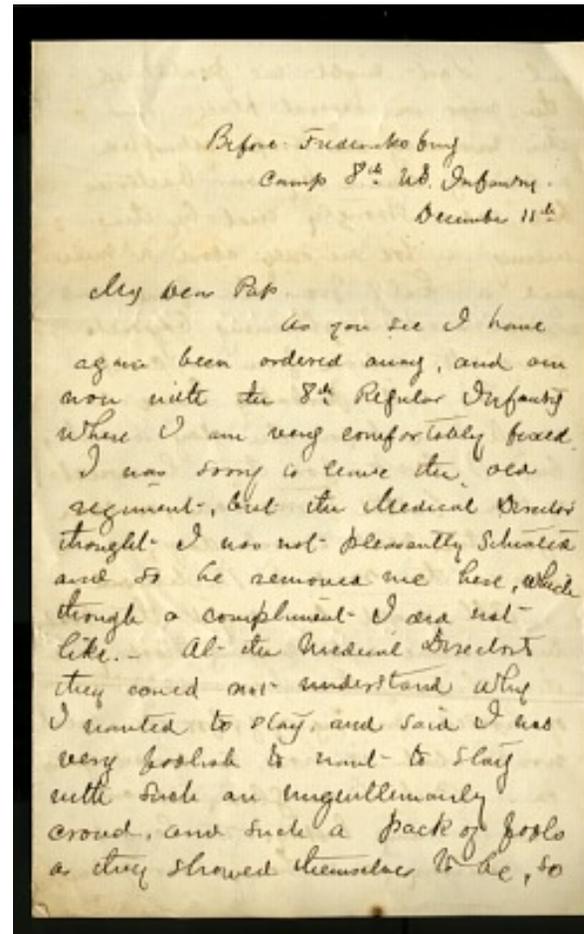
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Before Fredericksburg
Camp 8th US. Infantry
December 11th

My Dear Pap

As you see I have again been ordered away, and am now with the 8th Regular Infantry where I am very comfortably fixed.

I was sorry to leave the old regiment, but the Medical Director thought I was not pleasantly situated and so he removed me here, which though a compliment I did not like. - At the Medical Directors they could not understand why I wanted to stay, and said I was very foolish to want to stay with such an ungentlemanly crowd, and such a pack of fools as they showed themselves to be, so



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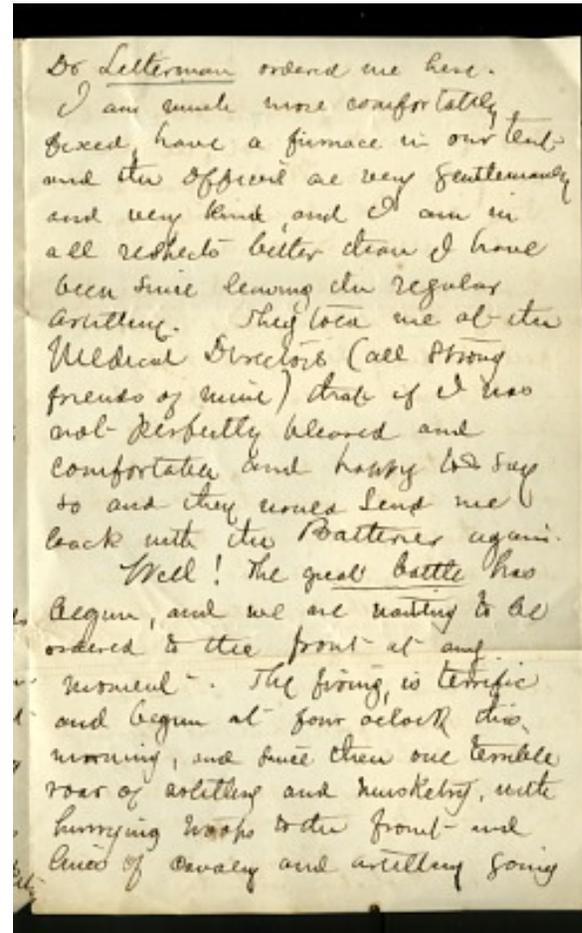
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Well! The great battle has begun, and we are waiting to be ordered to the front at any moment. The firing is terrific and begun at four o'clock this morning, and since then one terrible roar of artillery and musketry with hurrying troops to the front and lines of cavalry and artillery going

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page. The text is written in cursive and matches the typed transcription on the left. The paper is aged and yellowed. The handwriting is clear but somewhat slanted. There are some faint markings on the left edge of the page, possibly from a binder or another page.

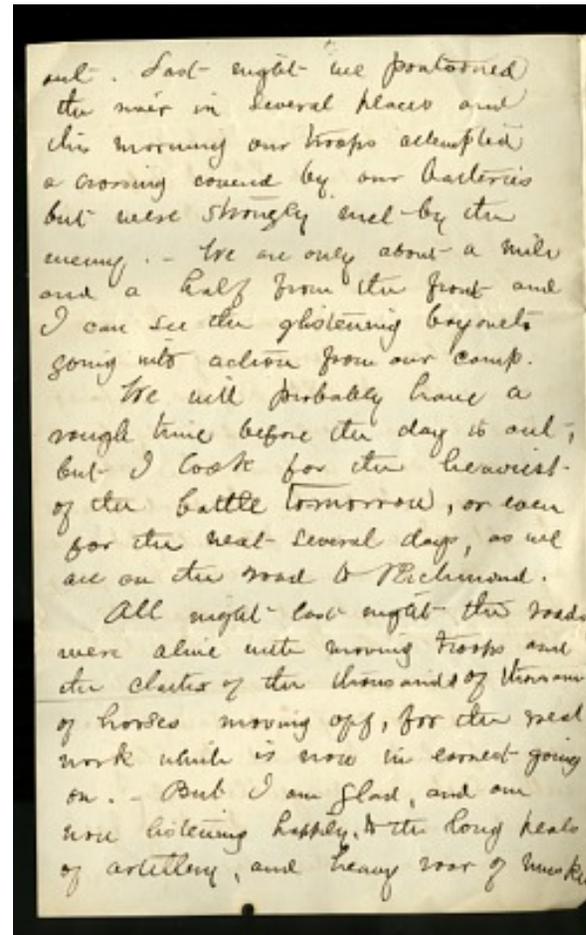
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We will probably have a rough time before the day is out, but I look for the heaviest of the battle tomorrow, or even for the next several days, as we are on the road to Richmond.

All night last night the roads were alive with moving troops and the clatter of the thousands of thousands of horses moving off, for the great work which is now in earnest going on. - But I am glad, and am now listening happily, to the long peals of artillery, and heavy roar of musketry



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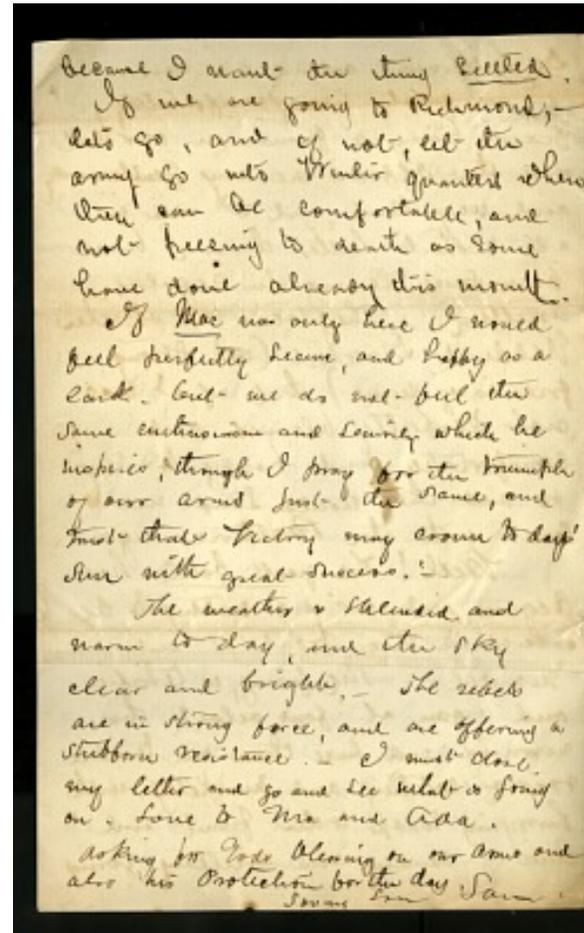
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If Mac was only here I would feel perfectly secure, and happy as a lark, but we do not feel but the same enthusiasm and security which he inspires, though I pray for the triumph of our arms just the same, and trust that victory may crown today's sun with great success.

The weather is splendid and warm today, and the sky clear and bright. - The rebels are in strong force, and are offering a stubborn resistance. - I must close my letter and go and see what is going on. Love to Ma and Ava.

Asking for Gods blessing on our arms and also his protection for the day

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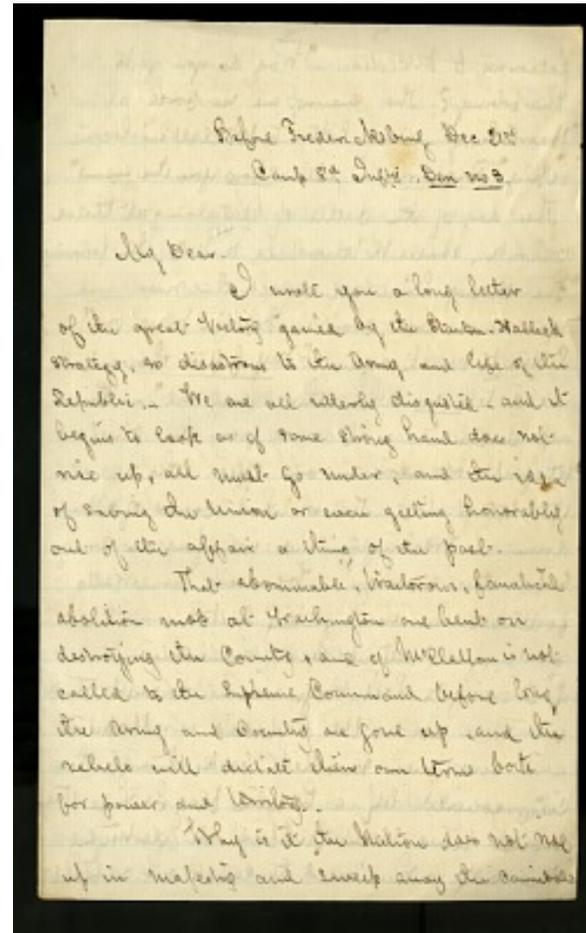
Before Fredericksburg Dec 21st
Camp 8th Infy. Den no 3.
Den no 3.

My Dear.

I wrote you a long letter of the great Victory gained by the Stanton-Halleck Strategy, so disastrous to the Army and life of the Republic.- We are all utterly disgusted, and it begins to look as if some strong hand does not rise up, all must go under, and the idea of saving the Union or even getting honorably out of the affair a thing of the past.

That abominable, traitorous, fanatical abolition mob at Washington are bent on destroying the Country, and if McClellan is not called to the Supreme Command before long the Army and Country are gone up, and the rebels will dictate their own terms both for power and territory.

Why is it the Nation does not rise up in majesty and sweep away the cannibals



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that are preying on her sick and dying body? Are not the thousand dead men on the heights of Fredericksburg stimulus enough to arouse somebody to avenge their blood?

But I am delighted to see the papers come out boldly and denounce the evils as they find them at the head of the Nation, and it seems to me that some hope would be the proper argument to use on those who sent our gallant army into that terrible valley. They may publish and telegraph, but I tell you there were not less than twenty thousand men lost on that day, and I never want to see such another valley of death, as this on the banks of the Rappahannock. But still if it has the effect of calling back McClellan and cleaning out the vile pesthouse of the Seal of Government it will be a blessing to the Nation as dear as it has cost us to learn the lesson.

I have long known Halleck's ignorance and unfitness for his office. - The day before the Antietam Halleck telegraphed the

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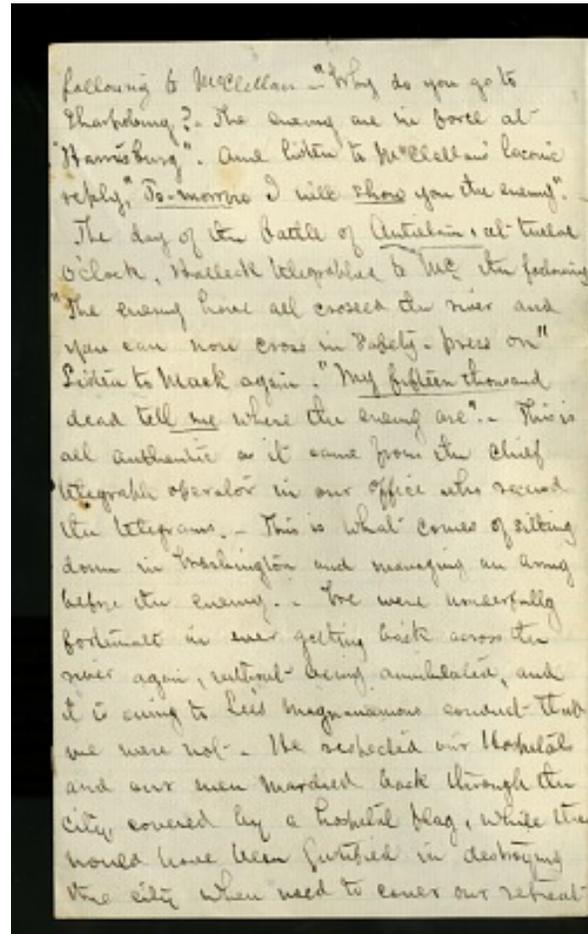
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following to McClellan--"Why do you go to Sharpsburg?- The enemy are in force at Harrisburg." And listen to McClellan's laconic reply, "[ink underline] To-morrow [ink underline] I will [ink underline] show [ink underline] you the enemy."

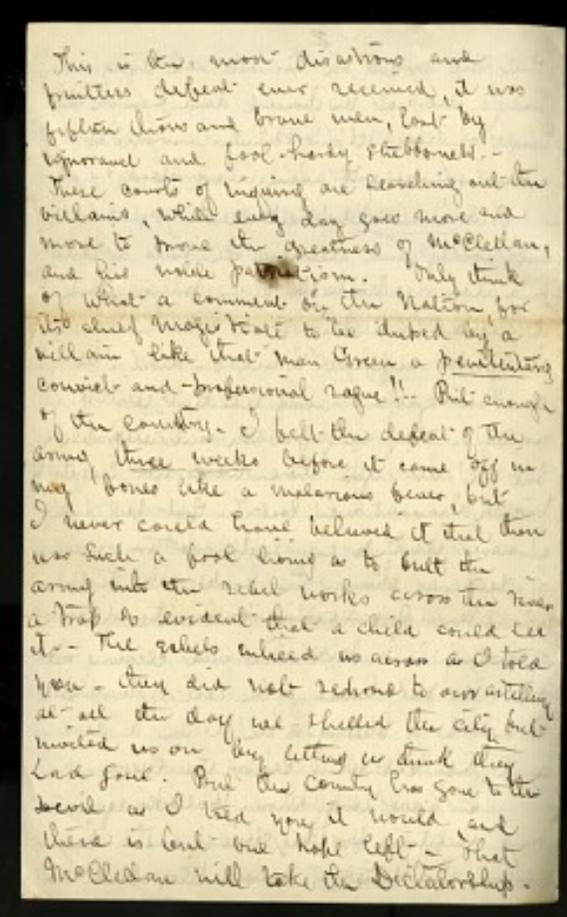
The day of the battle of [pencil underline] Antietam, [pencil underline] at twelve o'clock, Halleck telegraphed to Mc the following, "The enemy have all crossed the river and you can now cross in Safety--press on" Listen to Mack again. "[ink underline] My fifteen thousand [ink underline] dead [ink underline] tell me [ink underline] where the enemy are." - This is all authentic as it came from the chief telegraph operator in our office who received the telegrams.- This is what comes of sitting down in Washington and managing an army before the enemy.- We were wonderfully fortunate in ever getting back across the river again, without being annihilated, and it is owing to Lee's magnanimous conduct that we were not. He respected our Hospitals and our men marched back through the city covered by a hospital flag, while they would have been justified in destroying the city when used to cover our retreat

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page. The text is written in cursive and matches the typed transcription on the left. The paper is aged and yellowed. The handwriting is clear but somewhat slanted. There are some ink blots and variations in line thickness. The text is arranged in several paragraphs, with some lines starting with a capital letter. The overall appearance is that of a historical document.

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This is the most disastrous and fruitless defeat ever received, it was fifteen thousand brave men, lost by ignorance and fool-hardy stubbornness.-

These courts of Inquiry are searching out the villains, while every day goes more and more to prove the greatness of McClellan, an his noble patriotism. Only think of what a comment on the Nation, for its chief Magistrate to be duped by a villain like that man Green a penitentiary convict and professional rogue!! But enough of the country I felt the defeat of the army three weeks before it came off in my bones like a malarious fever, but I never could have believed it that there was such a fool living as to butt? the army into the rebel works across the river a trap so evident that a child could see it.- The rebels enticed us across as I told you- they did not respond to our artillery at all the day we shelled the city but invited us on by letting us think they had gone. But the country has gone to the Devil as I told you I would, and there is but one hope left- that McClellan will take the Dictatorship.

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive hand and matches the typed transcription on the left. The page is framed by a black border.

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[[symbol: pencil question mark in top left corner]]

Camp ~~[[strike lines]]~~ Infty Jan 21st 1862.
Camp Near Falmouth, Va

My Dear---

The "grand move" a failure! Oh, the mud! Oh the artillery stuck in the mud! Oh the Sogers sleeping in the mud! Oh the rain! Oh the wet feet and blankets! Burnside made an address to the Army,-- he was going to take us out to meet the enemy-the Army of the Potomac (old in battles) now going to fill another stripe on its flag with a battle-field-- the road to Richmond was alive with the advancing columns, and a terrible, deadly fight was coming off. Sixty thousand men had gone and hundreds of pieces of artillery, but the storms came, and the rains and the winds, and we were halted by the elements. But 60,000 men had slept out doors two days and nights without tents or shelter, and in the most terrible rain and cold that we have had.

But just our luck,---we have never had an hours luck since McClellan left us, and had we not come back, I think we would have been all buzzard meat on the other side of the river before now. We were ordered out with three days' cooked rations in our haversacks, and I expected the most deadly business that I have

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yet butted any head into, notwithstanding the four pitched battles that I have been in. - I moved off with the expectation of not getting out of Dixie even in an ambulance. The army with not fight under Burnside lessons of the Heights of Fredericksburg are too fresh -- the men have no confidence in him, and are dispirited --. He led us into one terrible slaughter here, and the men are afraid and dont care to be killed for no purpose. -- Several of the regiments refused to march, and cavalry was placed in rear of the Ground ranks !!! The truth is this Army is dispirited and disheartened and so demoralized. -- Unless McClellan comes back the cause is lost in a month. The Army is thirsting for him, and his presence would be equal to sixty thousand men added to the army. -- I am disgusted with Lincoln and the whole abolition fanatical cut-throats that are running the country to ruin to please their own devilish designs. -- They see that the army will not fight and have no confidence in their leaders, (and have ample cause after what old Lincoln calls only an "accident" at Fredericksburg (old fool)! and yet because McClellan is not a vile filthy abolitionist like themselves they will not give him the command. -- Cannot something be done? -- Is there no person in New York to say he shall

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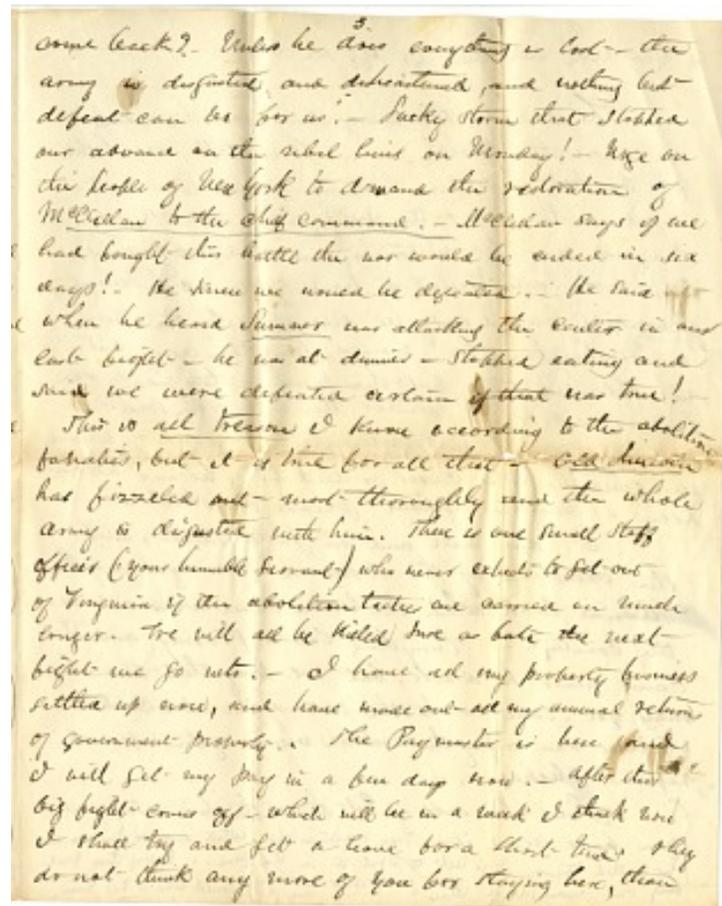
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3.

come back? - Unless he does everything is lost -- the army is disgusted and disheartened, and nothing but defeat can be for us. -- Lucky storm that stopped our advance on the rebel lines on Monday! -- Urge on the people of New York to demand the restoration of McClellan to the chief command. McClellan says if we had fought this battle the war would be ended in six days! - He knew we would be defeated. - He said when he heard Sumner was attacking the center in our last fight -- he was at dinner -- stopped eating and said we were defeated certain if that was true! --

This is all treason I know according to the abolition fanatics, but it is true for all that -- Old Lincoln has fizzleed out most thoroughly and the whole army is disgusted with him. There is one small staff officer (your humble servant) who never expects to get out of Virginia if the abolition tactics are carried on much longer. We will all be killed sure as bats the next fight we go into. -- I have all my property business settled up now, and have made out all my annual returns of government property. The Paymaster is here and I will get my pay in a few days now. -- After this big fight comes off -- which will be in a week I think now I shall try and get a leave for a short time. They do not think any more of you for staying here, than

[[end page]]



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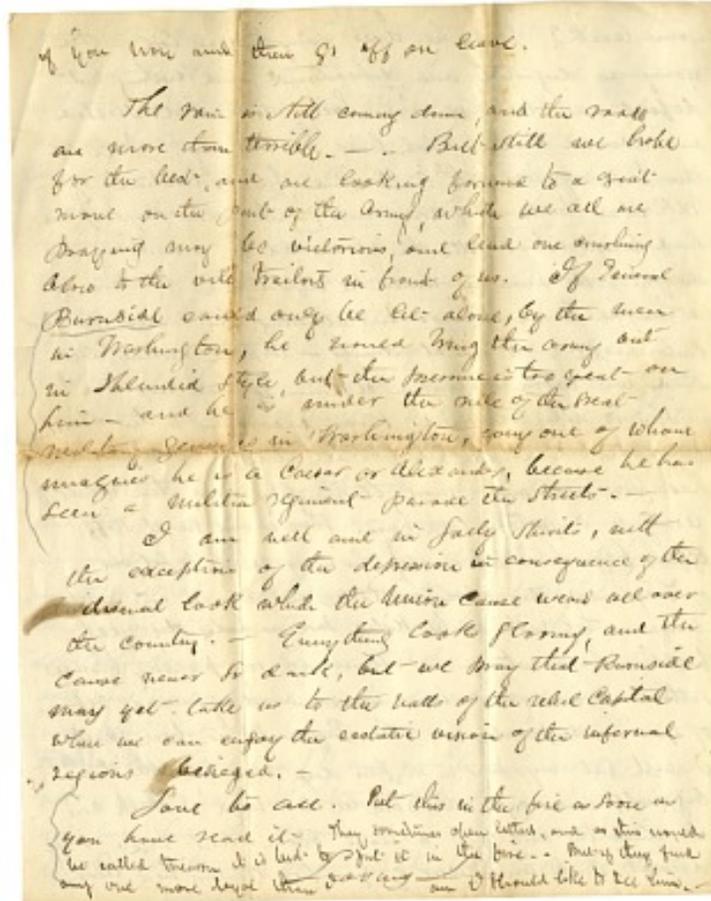
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The rain is still coming down, and the roads are more than terrible.-- But still we hope for the best, and are looking forward to a great move on the part of the Army, which we all are praying may be victorious, and lend one crushing blow to the vile traitors in front of us. If General Burnside could only be let alone, by the men in Washington, he would bring the army out in splendid style, but the pressure is too great on him - and he is under the rule of the great Washington geniuses in Washington, every one of whom imagines he is a Caesar or Alexander, because he has seen a militia regiment parade the streets. - [[end bracketed section]]

I am well and in jolly spirits, with the exception of the depression in consequence of the dismal look which the Union cause wears all over the country. - Everything looks gloomy, and the cause never so dark, but we pray that Burnside may yet take us to the halls of the rebel Capital where we can enjoy the ecstatic vision of the infernal Legions besieged.-

[[pencil bracket to highlight section]] Love to all. Loving [[handwriting changes]] Put this in the fire as soon as you have read it. They sometimes open letters, and as this would be called treason it is best to put it in the fire.- But if they find any one more loyal than I am I should like to see him. [[end bracketed section]]



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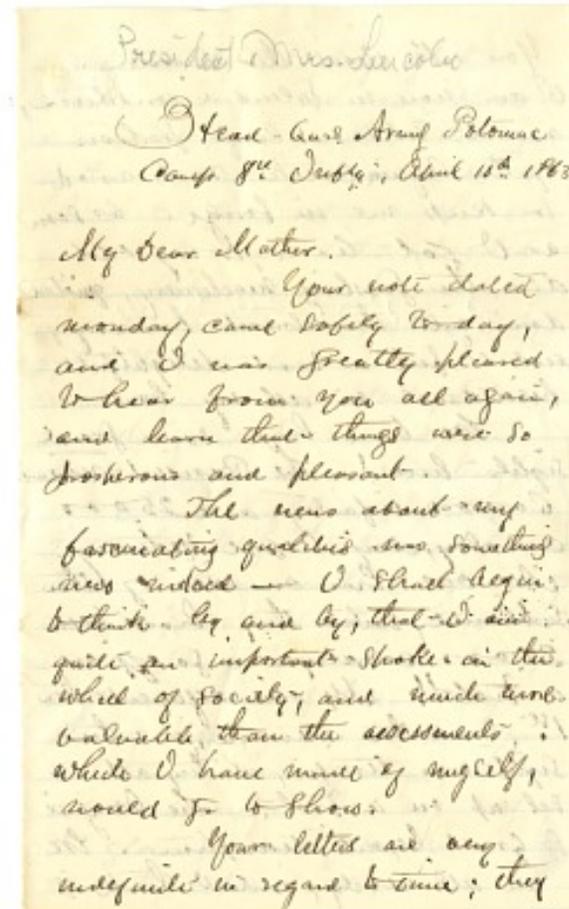
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President + Mrs. Lincoln
Stead - Qu28 Army Potomac
Camp 8th Infy April 10th 1863
My Dear Mother.

Your note dated monday, came safely today, and I was greatly pleased to hear from you all again, and learn that things were so prosperous and pleasant.

The news about my fascinating qualities was something [[?]] [[?]]-- I should begin to think by and by; that I am quite an important spoke in the wheel of society, and much more valuable than the assessments which I have made of myself, would go to show.

Your letters are very indefinite in regard to time; they



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2

are dated by the days of the week, and as we never know one day from another, the age of the interesting documents is hard to find out. - this is much like your letters directed Saml Adams U.S. Army. I got one the other day, dated July 27th; it had been all over creation, and out West, but was immortal, and so escaped the dead house up in Washington. [[end bracketed passage]]

I am highly delighted that the Wife's Ritchens? should have such an exalted opinion of me. You must tell little Annie I am going to mail for her, and ask her if time is any Star of Hope, in the precious constellation of her affections, which will condescend to shed one ray of its glowing intensity on her unworthy admirer.

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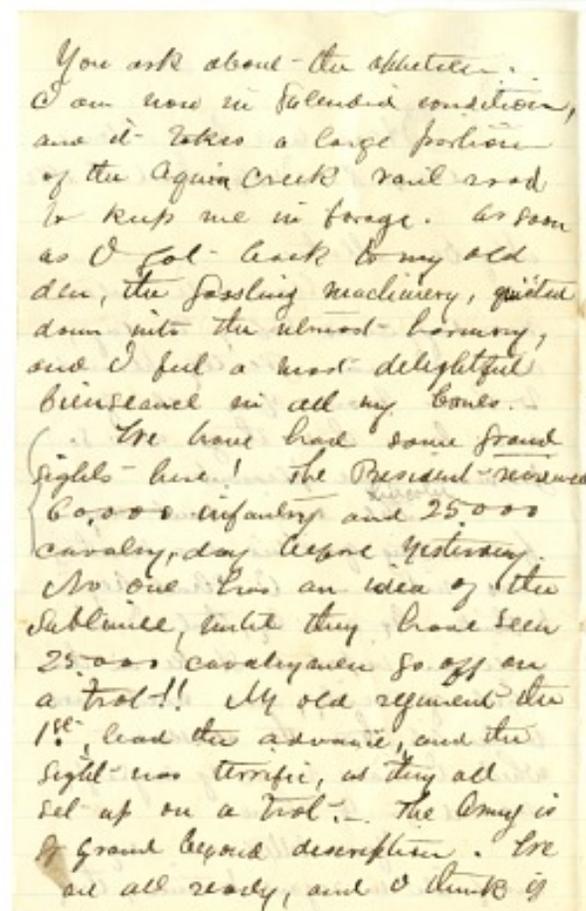
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You ask about the appetites.

I am now in splendid condition, and it takes a large portion of the Aquia Creek rail road to keep me in forage. As soon as I got back to my old den, the [[gossling?]] machinery, quieted down into the utmost harmony, and I feel a most delightful bienveillance in all my bones.-

[[pencil bracket in left margin]] We have had some grand sights here! The President received 60,000 infantry and 25,000 cavalry, day before yesterday. No one has an idea of the sublime, until they have seen 25,000 cavalymen go off on a trot!! My old regiment, the 1st, had the advance, and the sight was terrific, as they all set up on a trot.- The Army is ~~gr~~ grand beyond description. We are all ready, and I think

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4

we have two more days, like to day we will be off. But we have some of the most fearful work before us, that flesh and blood have yet had to do. All other things will fail into insignificance before this great advance. - Never before has such an army been lead into action. - The men are splendid, and perfect in all respects, and the numbers innumerable. - they will be fought until not one man is left to tell the history, if it comes to a desperate thing with us. Hooker is cheerful and confident and full of enthusiasm; but when I look across the river at our desperate opponents and the terrible work before us, I am fearful of the results. - But we cannot fail I am confident - we can never be defeated if these

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is any virtue in valor, or if courage can call Victory on our banners.

I am attending General Patrick who commands our Brigade.

It was a great compliment for him to send for me, as there are several old surgeons in the Brigade. He told me to night that we would leave in two days if the weather holds as good as it is now.

I began to feel folly at the idea of going off again, and my enthusiasm is quite up to Summer heat again. I have visions of the shores of Richmond, but the clouds of Battle, and the thunders and lightning of red artillery, and the storm of bullets show them only faintly through their

6-

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[[pencil note]] Name Lincoln was often spelled Linkum [[end note]]
6
[[Cimmerian veil?]], while Death dances hideously around. - [[pencil underline]] M^{rs} is down also, and has [[honored ?]] us with her presence.

The president looks well, but the pressure is too great on him, and shows on his prognathous countenance.

I saw this evening, today's Richmond Enquirer. It has a story by telegraph of the sinking of one of our Monitors. But [[scholars?]] will prevaricate.

The box has arrived, at last, but everything spoiled except the bottles and the plates - in such a case the expenses ought to be liable as it is all their fault.

I bought in Washington Ruskin's Stones of Venice, a fine book. Next time you go in town enquire the price of a book

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7

called the "Tombs of the Scipios".-

Tell Dear little Annie not to forget the photograph she promised, as I am expecting it. - I am going about all the important questions which you forgot, but [[symbol ?]] can answer any of them yet, if in the range of my understanding. -

What did you think of Allie being married!! Lucky miss I made in getting out of that scrape! I am happy as a lark, all my friends around me - Tom Mackenzie and [[Bruton ?]] at Head Qurs. and a splendid fellow at the 1st Cavalry [[br ?]] McGill of my class.

Have plenty of books, and am very popular in the regiment, and at Headquarters. -

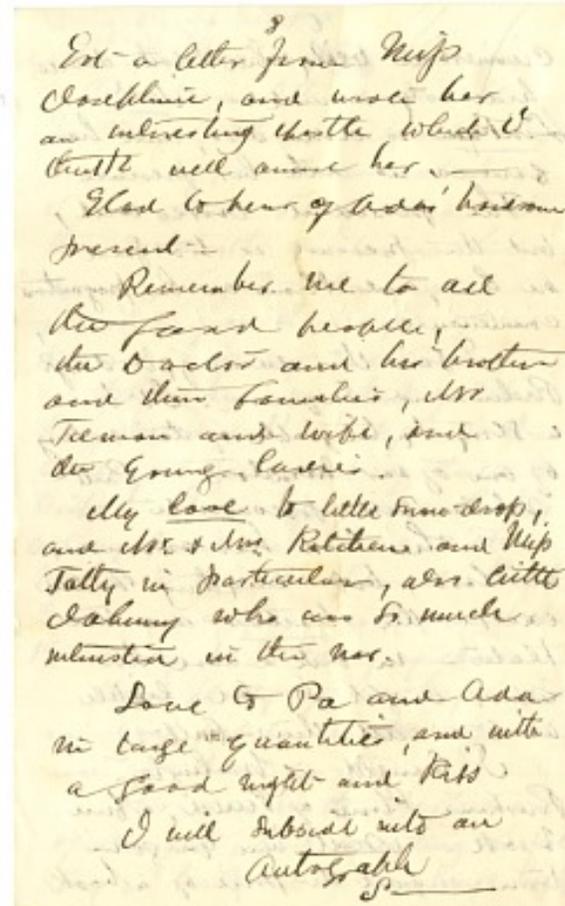
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8

Got a letter from [?], and wrote her an interesting epistle which I think will amuse her.
Glad to hear of Adas' handsome present.
Remember me to all the fond people, the Doctor and his brother and their families, also [Tilman?] and wife, and the young ladies. My love to little snow-drop, and Mr. & Mrs. Ritcher and [Mrs?] Talty in particular, also little Johnny who was so much interested in the war. Love to Pa and Ada in large quantities, and with a good night and kiss I will subside into an Autograph S-



3
Got a letter from Miss
Josephine, and wrote her
an interesting epistle which I
think will amuse her.
Glad to hear of Adas' handsome
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Remember me to all
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when he told me about his Brigade, I knew he was a dead man the next engagement we would go into. Indeed there is nothing like the dead and wounded our loss in generals is perfectly astonishing; more than three-quarters of our generals are hors de combat. The artillery suffered fearfully in the numbers of gallant officers killed. We were ordered out about ten o'clock at night of the 2nd day; the rebels made a sortie at night to try and regain their lost ground, which was very desperate, but when on the move, the order was countermanded as the number of prisoners was so great that we were detailed to take charge of them. We had 4,300 in charge during the fighting. I must tell you about a gallant deed done by my old battery. - The rebels came up over the hill suddenly in mass and charged the battery at double-quick. The battery stood firm, delivering a deadly fire of canister until the rebels were in pistol range, when the men used their pistols, and after discharging their revolvers the commanding officer ordered them to leave, when in a few seconds the rebels were in and through the battery. The commanding officer, regiment Peoples - was shot, and the command devolved on the next Lieutenant. - He rushed off to find Genl. Sykes, to get a brigade to try and retake the battery; in the mean time the other officer Lt. Peoples, had gotten a Regiment of infantry, jumped off his horse, seized a musket, led the charge of the regiment on foot and re-took the whole battery, driving the rebels like chaff before him! This is the gallant Genl. Weed's old Battery, and the last thing he said when he saw Watson going with action was to "fight the Battery well, and not let its reputation fall in his hands". Was it not well fought? - I should think so!!

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We are all in mourning, everybody it seems to me were killed this time. The whole field where we lay is piled up with dead. The rebels are thick as hops in all attitudes, and all of them Black and swollen up like barrels. The field is perfectly indescribable, it looks as if a gigantic tornado had swept over it and left utter ruin everywhere. On the 3d of July, we had every gun in the army of the Potomac in action, over 350 pieces of artillery!! There were death songs that day! To day (Sunday) as usual we marched 24 miles. - The whole army to night are on the move to intercept Lee, and prevent his getting back into Virginia. The chances are much in favor of his being destroyed. - I have been riding over the field taking a look at the doings of our deadly missiles. - I tell you it is terrible. The rebels are all heaped up dead, black as tar, and swollen up like barrels. I never saw the laws of animal matter begin so soon to take effect, or putrefaction so rapid. The field is literally spread with dead artillery horses, and the air is odoriferous in the extreme, with the rebels, and horses and general ruin. - So far we have taken over twelve thousand prisoners and they are coming in squads every day, taken up by our cavalry advance. - The field where the fighting occurred was very rocky and filled with immense boulders; here the rebels deployed their men as skirmishers, and each man had a breast work of stone, but our men charged up the mountain hill and drove the rebels before them, killing nearly all their skirmishers behind the rocks. I saw many of their skirmishers lying dead, and around where they had been we saw many balls flattened against the rock

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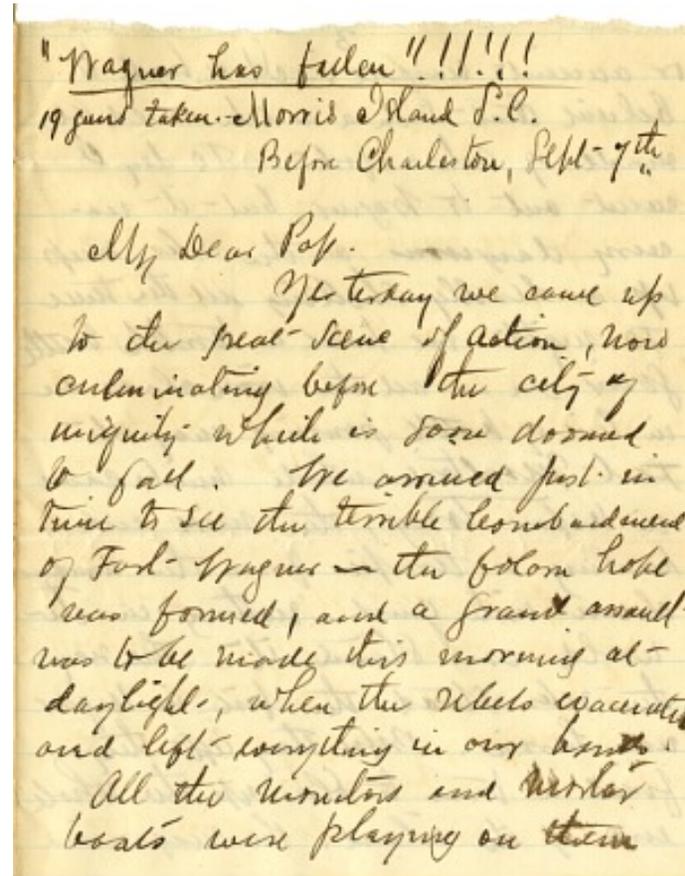
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"Wagner has fallen"!!!!
19 guns taken.-Morris Island S.C.
Before Charleston, Sept 7th

My Dear Pop.

Yesterday we came up to the great scene of action, now [[guess]] culminating before the city of [[?]] which is soon doomed to fall. We arrived just in time to see the terrible bombardment of Fort Wagner_ the solemn hope was formed, and a grand assault was to be made this morning at daylight, when the rebels evacuated and left everything in our hands.

All the monitors and mortar boats were playing on them



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fought in this battle too [[blue ink]]
all night and the scene was magnified beyond acception [[guess]].
Yesterday we carried our fifth parallel beyond Battery Wagner, and
turned the flank of the enemy, and this morning we exhorted [[guess]] to
make the assault and capture the garrison, but their pickets [[guess]]
discovered the engineering plot, we had formed and evacuated both
Wagner and Battery Tregg [[guess]] thus leaving us in full possession of
the whole island. - You can have no idea of the magnificence of military
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3

or ancient warfare. - Its hard to believe that such a wreck could be made of such a fort. - To day I went out to Wagner, but it was very [[dangerous?]] as the rebs keep up a deadly shelling all the time To night we have a terrible battle going on - all the iron clads are in line of battle pouring away at Fort Moultrie [[?]] which must cave in before long, the noise and howling is terrific from the [[?]] eleven side guns - nothing in the world can stand it. The way the rebs stood the fire in Wagner was heroic. Before they left they fixed a train to blow up the whole end of the island. the magazines

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were ready and the train fixed. A deserter came in with news that they were evacuating, when our forces in the trenches, rushed over the parapet, and when they got in, the man had the rope in this hand to ignite the magazines when one of our men rushed up and knocked him down with his musket; one moment later and the whole end of the island would have gone up with a crash that would have made the sea tremble. The shelling has been constant for the last twenty days, night and day, not a moments rest. - Gillmore is the greatest man in the world next to George B. - Everything is lovely. - We look for great deeds from the navy to night. - The army has covered itself with glory. - Direct me at Hilton Head, care of Genl. Hammond Sam.

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[[preprinted]] Head Quarters Ninth Army Corps,
OFFICE COMMISSARY OF MUSTERS [[/preprinted]]

Nov 29th 1864.

My Dear Pap,

Ada's letter with the announcement of this Thanksgiving came last night and I am quite glad, as it shows a good feeling and that your work is appreciated.-

[[Only?]] think tomorrow we change camp, and are going down into our old place in the trenches before Petersburg, where we had such a terrible time last summer with the constant artillery and musketry.- We were first getting into muster quarters and were fixed up so nicely, that

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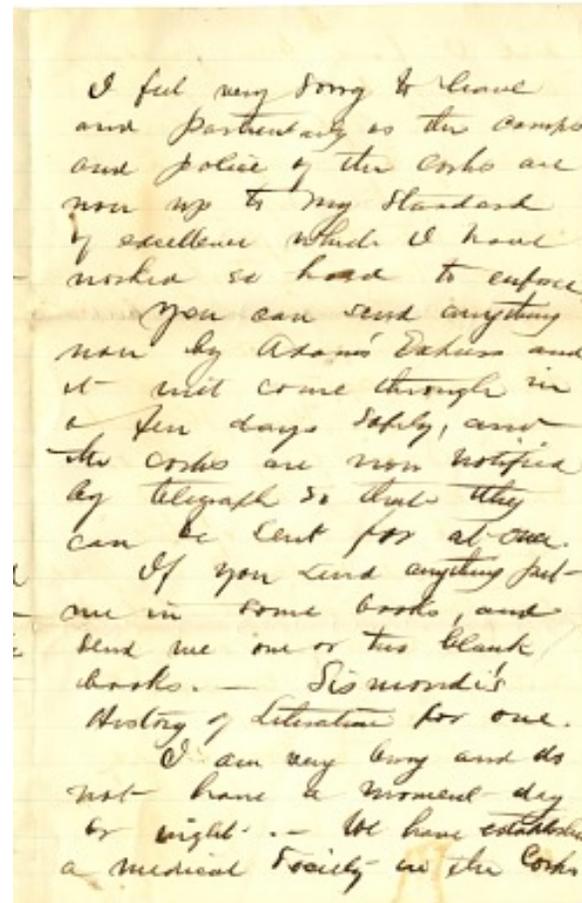
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I feel very sorry to leave and particularly as the camps and police of the [[corps?]] are now up to my Standard of excellence which I have worked so hard to enforce.

You can send anything now by Adam's Express and it will come through in a few days safely, and the [[corps?]] are now notified by telegraph so that they can be sent for at once.

If you send anything put one in some books, and send me one or two blank banks. - Sismondi's History of Literature for one.

I am very busy and do not have a moment day or night. - We have established a medical faculty in the corps



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the day after. - Got a letter from Mary, she asks what I am going to on
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Send me a quire or so of note paper with envelopes to
match. -

Love to Ma & Ada

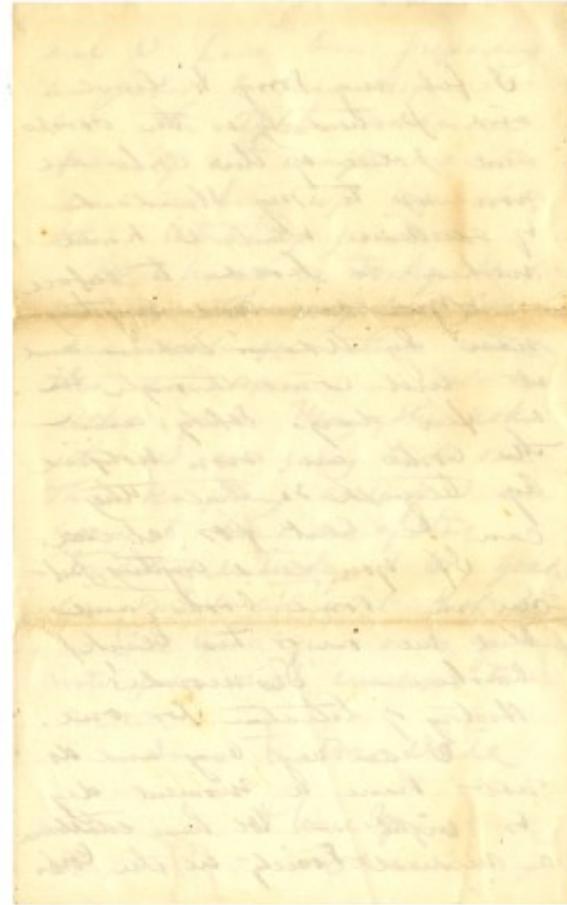
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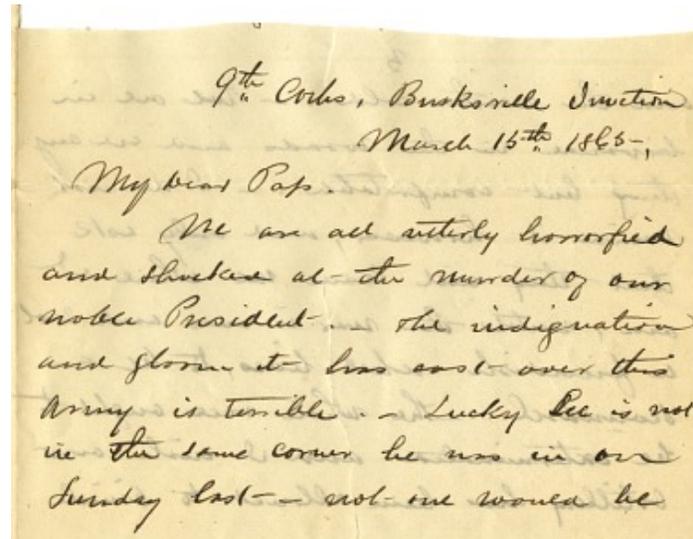
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9th Corps, Busksville Junction

March 15th 1865

My Dear Pap.

We are all utterly horrified and shocked at the murder of our noble President. - The indignation and gloom it has cast over this Army is terrible. - Lucky Lee is not in the corner he was in on Sunday last - not one would be



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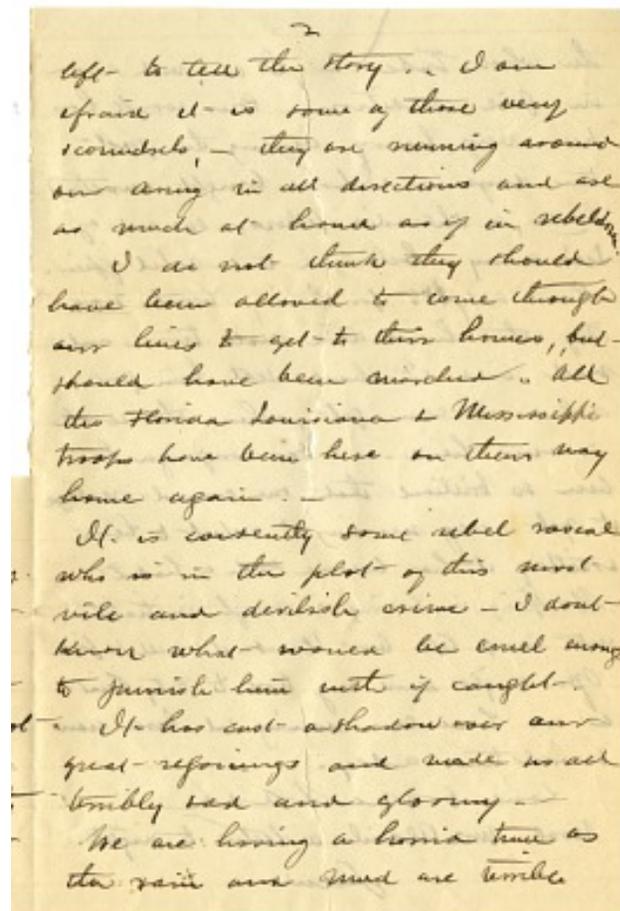
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left to tell the story.- I am afraid it is some of those very scoundrels.- they are running around our army in all directions and are as much at home as if in [[sebelone?]].

I as not think they should have been allowed to come through our lines to get to their homes, but should have been [[marched?]]. All the Florida Louisiana & Mississippi troops have been here on their way home again.-

It is [[corrently?]] some rebel rascal who is in the plot of this most vile and devilish crime - I don't know what would be cruel enough to punish him with if caught- It has cast a shadow over our great rejoicings and made us all terribly sad and gloomy-

We are having a horrid time as the rain and mud are terrible



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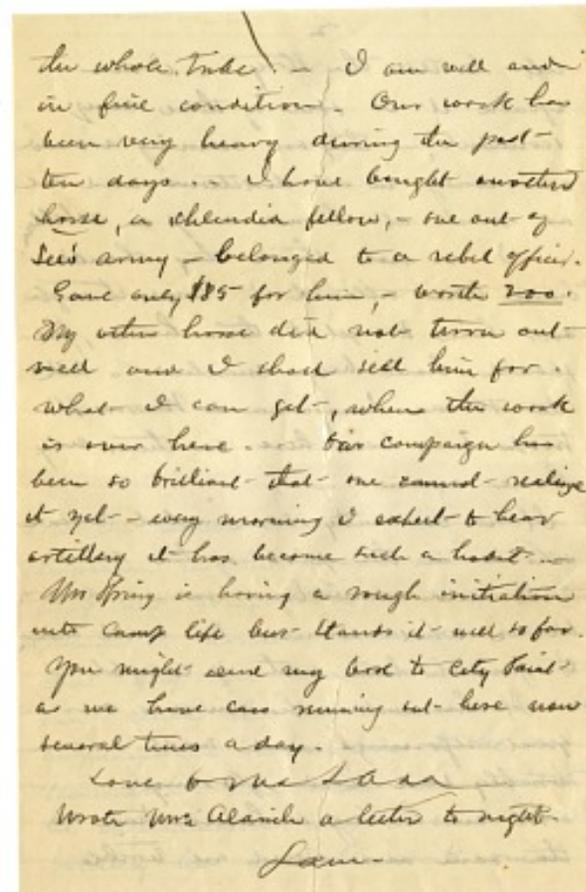
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and the weathers cold.- We are in bivouac in the woods and are any thing but comfortable.- I do not mind it however, and only ask that they will leave me where I am, until the war is over and not a fiendish rebel lives, to be a scoundrel.- The whole race ought to be exterminated and I wish our artillery have been allowed to finish

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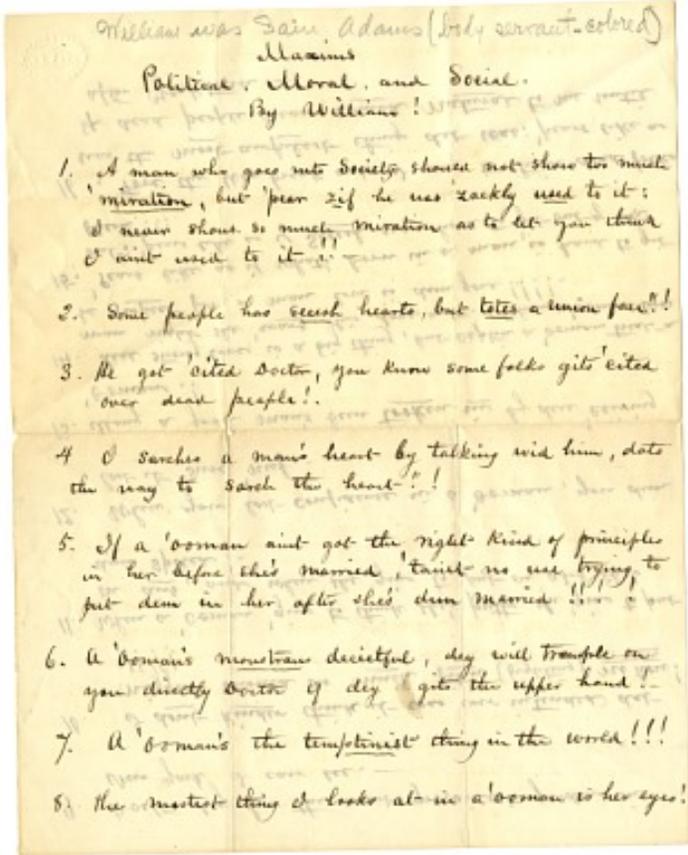
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^William was Sam Adams (body servant-colored)

Maxims
Political, Moral and Social.
By William!

1. A man who goes into Society should not show too much miration [[guess]] [[underlined]], but 'pear zif [[underlined, guess]] he was zackly used [[underlined]] to it: I never shows so much miration as to let you think I aint used to it!!-
2. Some people have secesh [[underlined]] hearts, but totes [[underlined]] a union face!!!
3. He got 'cited Doctor, you know some folks gits 'cited over dead people!.
4. I sarches a man's heart by talking wid him, dats the way to sarch the heart!!!
5. If a 'ooman aint got the right kind of principles in her before she's married, 'taint no use trying to put dem in her after she's dun married!!!!
6. A 'ooman's monstraus [[underlined]] decietful, dey will trample on you directly Doctor if dey gits the upper hand!-
7. A 'ooman's the temptinist [[underlined, thing in the world!!!]]
8. The mostest thing I looks at in a 'ooman is her eyes!



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9. Doctor dey has the most growinest gardens in New York I ever see.-

10. I dont kinder think it was ever intended dat niggers should do much fitin (fighting) no how !!!!

11. When a 'ooman 'gins to think she's putty, she 'gins to put on airs !!!! and when she 'gins to put on airs she's dun spiled!!

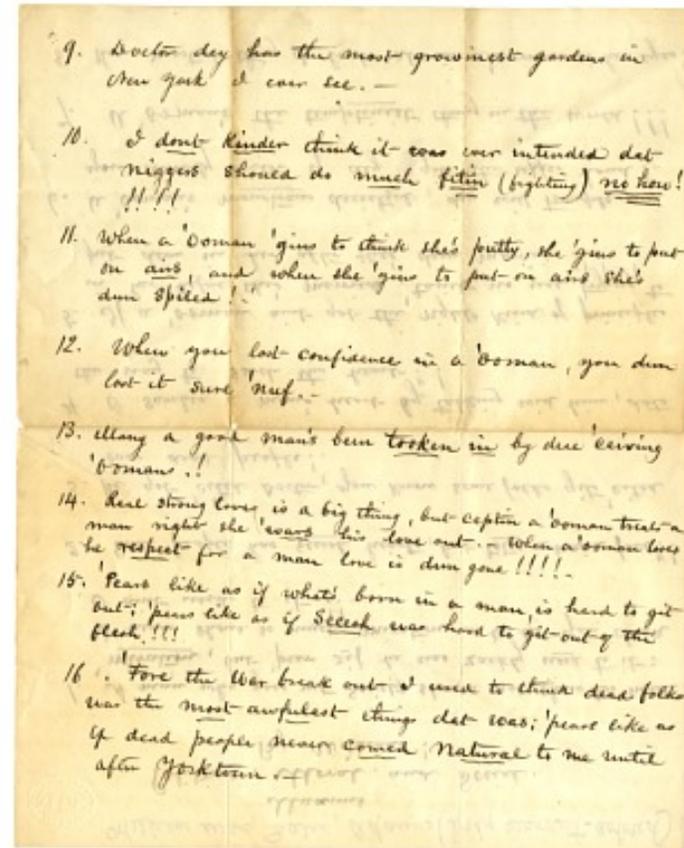
12. When you lost confidence in a 'ooman, you dun lost it sure 'nuf.-

13. Many a good man's been taken in by dere ceiving 'ooman.!

14. Real strong loves is a big thing, but ceptin a 'ooman treats a man right she 'wars his love out.- When a 'ooman loses he respect for a man love is dun gone!!!!-

15. 'Pears like as if what's born in a man, is hard to git out; 'pears like as if Secesh was hard to git-out-of the flesh!!!

16. 'Fore the War break out I used to think dead folks was the most awfulest things dat was; 'pears like as if dead people never comed natural to me until after Yorktown.-



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Some Cases of Acute Alcoholism,
With a Remarkable ~~Condition~~ Affection ~~of the~~ Diastaltic Ave;

Together with some remarks upon the

uses of Chloroform.-

By Samuel Adams,

Brevt. Major & Asst Surgeon U.S. Army,

Late Medical Inspector 9th Army Corps,

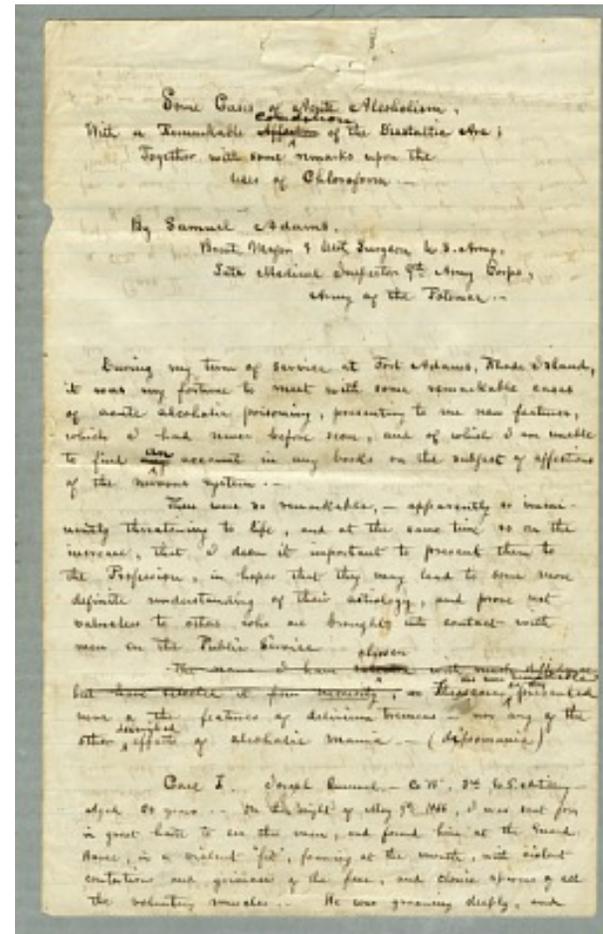
Army of the Potomac.-

During my term of service at Fort Adams, Rhode Island, it was my fortune to meet with some remarkable cases of acute alcoholic poisoning, presenting to me new features, which I had never before seen, and of which I am unable to find ~~any~~ account in any books on the subject of affections of the nervous system.-

These were so remarkable,- apparently so imminently threatening to life, and at the same time so on the increase, that I deem it important to present them to the Profession, in hopes that they may lead to some more definite understanding of their aetiology, and prove not valueless to others who are brought into contact with men in the Public Service.- ~~The name I have~~ ~~selected~~ ~~with much diffidence~~ but have selected it from necessity

These cases ^{as they} presented none a the features of delirium tremens - nor any of the other ^{described} effects of alcoholic mania - (dipsomania)

Case I. Joseph Quesnel, -Co "B", 3rd U.S. Artillery- Aged 25 years.- On the night of May 9th 1866, I was sent for in great haste to see this man, and found him at the Guard House, in a violent "fit", foaming at the mouth, with violent contortions and grimaces of the face, and clonic spasms of all the voluntary muscles.- He was groaning deeply, and



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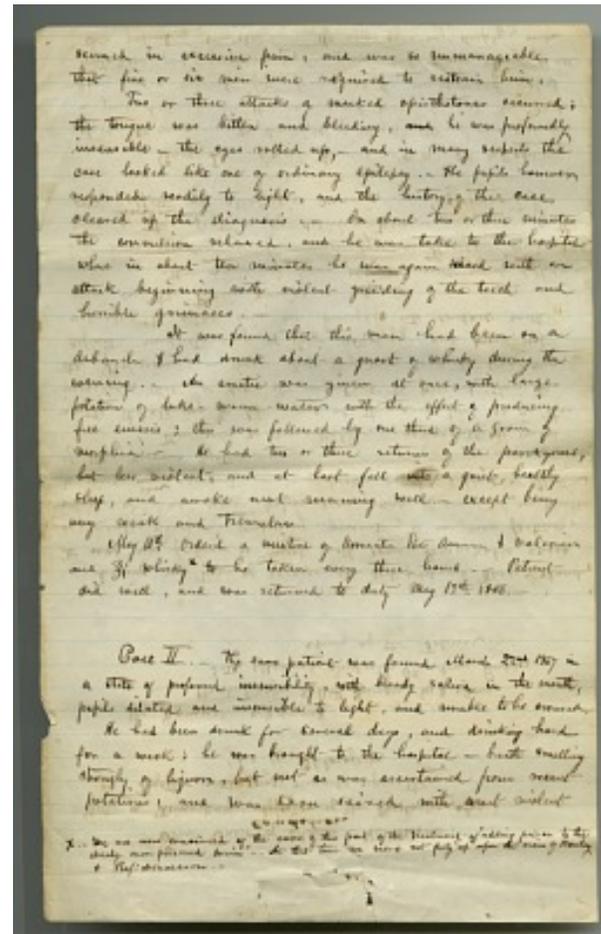
seemed in excessive pain, and was so unmanageable that five or six men were required to restrain him.- Two or three attacks a marked opisthotonos occurred; the tongue was bitten and bleeding, ~~and~~ and ~~he~~ he was profoundly insensible- the eyes rolled up,- and in many respects the case looked like one of ordinary epilepsy.- The pupils however responded readily to light, and the history of the case, cleared up the diagnosis.- In about two or three minutes the convulsion relaxed, and he was taken to the hospital where in about ten minutes he was again seized with an attack beginning with violent grinding of the teeth and horrible grimaces.-

It was found that this man had been on a debauch & had drunk about a quart of whisky during the evening.- An emetic was given at once, with large potations of luke-warm water with the effect of producing free emesis; this was followed by one ~~of~~ of a grain of morphine.- He had two or three returns of the paroxysms, but less violent, and at last fell into a quiet healthy sleep, and awoke next morning well.- except being very weak and tremulous

May 10th ordered a mixture of aromatic ~~of~~ ammon & valerian and Zi whisky ^{x/1} to be taken every three hours.- Patient did well, and was returned to duty May 12th 1866.-

Case II.- The same patient was found March 22nd 1867 in a state of profound insensibility, with bloody saliva in the mouth, pupils dilated and insensible to light, and unable to be aroused. He has been drunk for several days, and drinking hard for a week; he was brought to the hospital- breath smelling strongly of liquor, but not as was ascertained from recent potations, and was soon seized with most violent

x.- We are now convinced of the error of this part of the treatment of "adding poison to the already over-poisoned brain".- At that time we were not fully "up" upon the views of Barclay & Prof. Donaldson.-



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convulsions of the same character as those of his first attack presenting many of the phenomena of epileptiform convulsions, - but became perfectly furious requiring eight or ten men to hold him. - The paroxysms grew constantly more violent, during which he would pinch and tear at the skin over the chest, and it would seem as if the bones must break with the violence of the muscular contractions. - These paroxysms were precisely of the character of those of the first attack, - beginning with the grinding of the teeth and loud groaning and ending in a general convulsion lasting two or three minutes. - He finally became so unmanageable that it was deemed best to give him an anaesthetic, and the mixture proposed by the Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons was cautiously administered - remembering the warning of Sanson in such cases. -

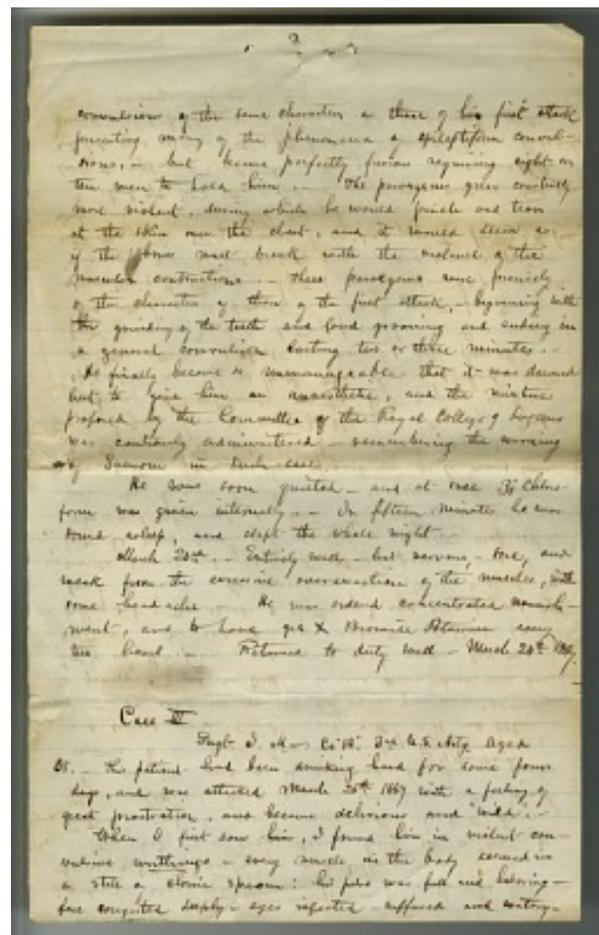
He was soon quieted - and at once 3i chloroform was given internally. - In fifteen minutes he was sound asleep; and slept the whole night. -

March 23rd - Entirely well - but nervous, - sore, and weak from the excessive overexertion of the muscles, with some headache. - He was ordered concentrated nourishment, and to have [gre ?] X Bromide Potassium every two hours. - Returned to duty well - March 24th 1864.

Case III

Sargt I. M. Co "B". 3rd U.S. Arty Aged 38. - This patient had been drinking hard for some four days, and was attacked March 26th. 1864 with a feeling of great prostration, and became delirious and "wild". -

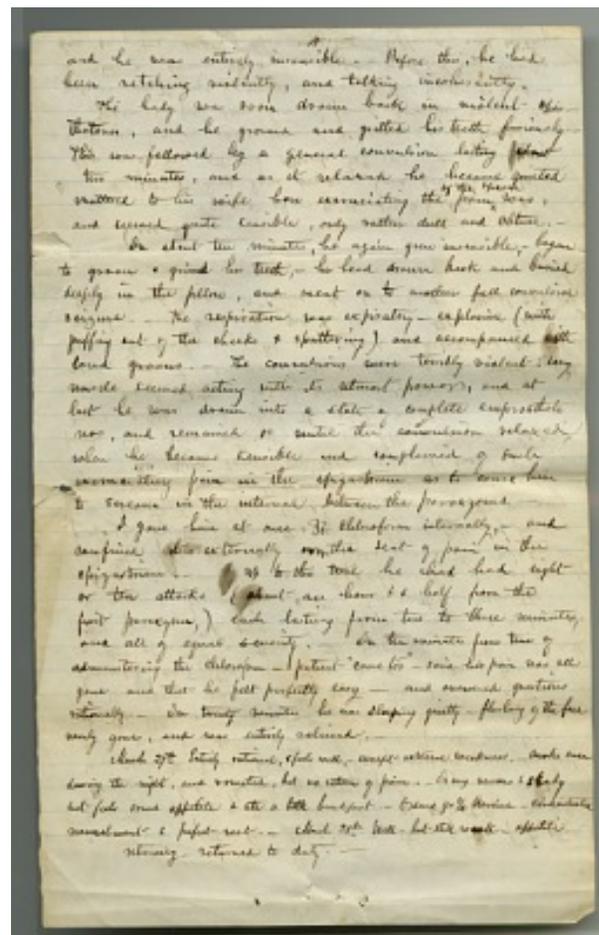
When I first saw him, I found him in violent convulsive writhings every muscle in the body seemed in a state of clonic spasm: his pulse was full and laboring - face congested deeply - eyes infected - suffused and watery -



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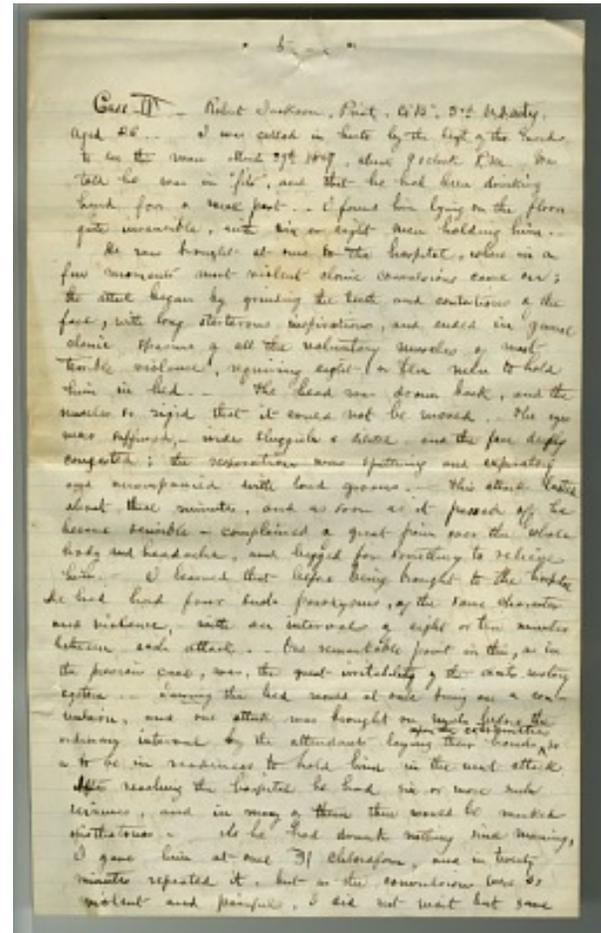
and he was entirely insensible. Before this, he had been retching violently, and talking incoherently. The lady was soon drawn back in violent his thatour, and he ground and gritted his teeth furiously. This was followed by a general convulsion lasting about two minutes, and as it relaxed he became quieted muttered to his wife how excruciating the pain[^][[of the spasm]] was, and seemed quite sensible, only rather dull and obtuse. In about ten minutes, he again grew insensible, began to groan & grind his teeth, - his head drawn back and buried deeply in the pillow, and went on to another full convulsive seizure. The respiration was expiratory - explosive (with puffing out of the cheeks & sputtering) and accompanied with loud groans. _ The convulsions were terribly violent; long muscle seemed acting with its utmost power, and at last he was drawn into a state of complete emprostoto was, and remained so until the convulsion relaxed, when he became sensible and complained of such excruciating pain in the epigastrium as to cause him to sereous in the interval between the parolgsus. I gave him at once Zi chloroform internally, - and confined citiloor externally over the seal - of pain in the epigastrium. Up to this time he had had eight or ten attacks (about an hour & a half from the first paroxysm,) each lasting from two to three minutes, and all of equal severity. _ In ten minutes from time of administering the chloroform _ patient "came too" _ said his pain was all gone and that he felt perfectly easy _ and answered questions rationally. _ In twenty minutes he was sleeping quietly _ flushing of the face nearly gone, and was entirely relieved. _ March 24th. Entirely rational, & feels well, _ except extreme weakness. _ Awoke once during the night, and vomited, but no return of pain. _ Is very nervous & shaky but feels some appetite & ate a little breakfast. _ Ordered gr 1/4 Marcaine concentrated nourishment & perfect rest. _ March 28th Well _ but still weak _ appetite returning _ returned to duty. _



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Case IV. - Robert Jackson, Private, Co "B", 3rd Infantry, Aged 26. I was called in haste by the Sergt. of the Quord to see this man. March 29th 1864, about 9 o'clock P.M. _ Was told he was in "fits", and that he had been drinking hard for a week past. I found him lying on the floor quite insensible, with six or eight men holding him. _ He was brought at once to the hospital, where in a few moments most violent clonic convulsions came on; the attack began by grinding the teeth and contortions of the face, with long stertorous inspirations, and ended in general clonic spasms of all the voluntary muscles of most terrible violence, requiring eight or ten men to hold him in bed. _ the had was drawn back, and the muscle so rigid that it could not be moved. the eyes were suffused, _ irides sluggish & dilated _ and the face deeply congested; the usheration was sputtering and expiratory and accompanied with loud groans. this attack lasted about three minutes, and as soon as it passed off he became sensible _ complained of great pain over the whole body and headache, and begged for something to relieve him. I learned that before being brought to the hospital he had had four lual paroxysms, of the the same character and violence, with an interval of eight of ten minutes between each attack. One remarkable point in this, as in the previous case, was, the great irritablaty of the secto notary system. Jarring the bed would at once bring on a convulsion, sure one attack was brought on much before the ordinary interval by the attendants laying their hands from the extremeties so as to be in readiness to hold him in the next attack. After reaching the hospital he had six or more such seizures, and in many of them there would be marked opisthatouos. So he had drank nothing since morning, I gave him at once 31 chloroform, and in twenty minutes repeated it, but as the convulsions were so violent and painful, I did not wait but gave



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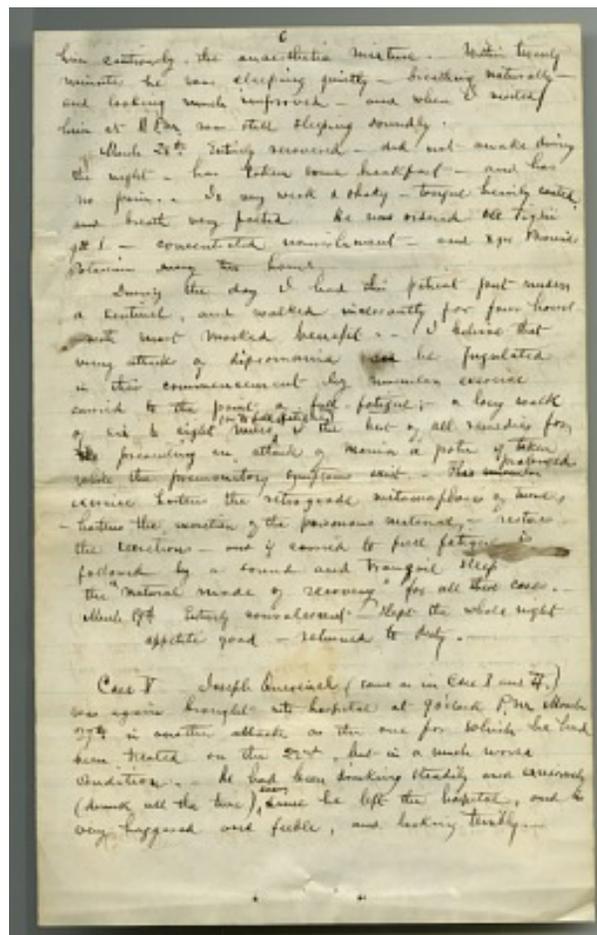
him cautiously, the anaesthetic mixture. Within twenty minutes he was sleeping quietly - breathing naturally - and looking much improved - and when I visited him at 11 P.M. was still sleeping soundly.

March 28th Entirely recovered - did not awake during the night - has taken some breakfast - and has no pain. - Is very weak & shaky - tongue heavily coated, and breath very foetid. He was ordered ole Tiglii gtt i.- concentrated nourishment - and x grs Bromide Potassium every two hours.

During the day I had this patient put under a sentinel, and walked incessantly for four hours with most marked benefit. - I believe that many attacks of dipsomania can be ~~[[fugulated?]]~~ in their commencement by muscular exercise carried to the point a ~~[[underline]]~~ full-fatigue ~~[[underline]]~~; - a long walk of six to eight miles [^][[or to full fatigue]] is the best of all remedies for ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ the ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ preventing an attack of mania á potu if taken while the premonitory symptoms exist. - This ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ muscular ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ [^][[prolonged]] exercise hastens the retrograde metamorphosis of tissue, - hastens the exertion of the poisonous material - restores the secretions - and if carried to full fatigue is followed by a sound and tranquil sleep the "natural mode of recovery" for all these cases. -

March 29th Entirely convalesced. - Slept the whole night appetite good - returned to duty. -

Case V. - Joseph Quesenel (same as in Case I and II.) was again brought into hospital at 9 o'clock P.M. March 27th in another attack as the one for which he had been treated on the 22nd but in a much worse condition. - He had been drinking steadily and excessively (drunk all the time) [^][[ever]] since he left the hospital, and is very haggard and feeble, and looking terribly. -



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He had a repetition of the convulsive paroxysms while in the Guard House, but not so violent, owing to his prostrate condition. - The attacks are of precisely the same character as previously - but he is excessively nervous, and in the intervals between the attacks has constant subsultus tendinum, and sudden startings. After the paroxysms he came too, and told we he had taken a quart of whiskey during the evening and had been drinking steadily since he left the hospital before, but [^] soon relaxed into a condition of stupor and partial insensibility. - At this time jarring the bed or touching him would instantly bring on an attack. - Gave him gr xx Pulv Ipecac followed by large draughts of warm water, which caused free emesis, and after the stomach was well cleared out gave at once 31 Chloroform as usual. - The convulsions continued though less violent, and as they caused extreme pain, the anaesthetic mixture was given to save time. - Within half an hour he was completely quieted - fell into a sound natural sleep - and did not wake until morning. -

March 28th. Very greatly improved. Slept well, and looks wonderfully changed. - Ate some breakfast but is still weak & tremulous. Ordered concentrated nutrient, and Bromide Potass: gr x every 3 hours. - In the afternoon was walked four hours under a sentinel - returned to the hospital completely fatigued, and slept soundly all night.

March 29th Entirely convalesced - returned to duty.

Case VI. George Russell, Co B. 3rd US Arty aged 19 years. A weak, cachectic lad, was brought into the hospital insensible about 10 o'clock P.M. April 8th 1867 - He had been over to the city on "pass", where he had drunk over a quart of whiskey, and was taken to the station house drunk and

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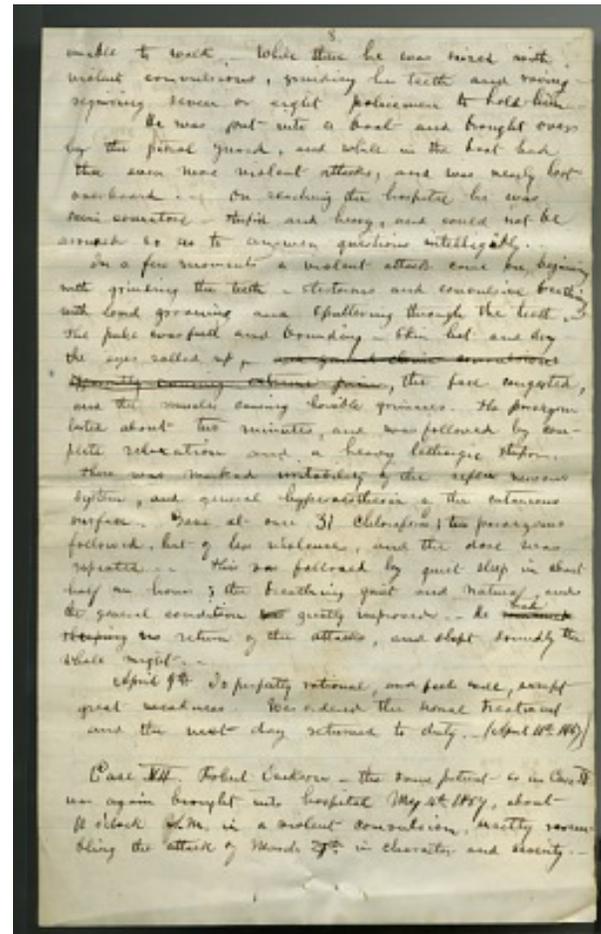
unable to walk. While there he was seized with violent convulsions, grinding his teeth and raving requiring seven or eight policemen to hold him.

He was put into a boat and brought over by the patrol guard, and while in the boat had three even more violent attacks, and was nearly lost overboard. On reaching the hospital he was [?], stupid and heavy, and could not be aroused so as to answer questions intelligibly.

In a few moments a violent attack came on, beginning with grinding the teeth, strenuous [good guess?] and convulsive breathing with loud groaning and sputtering through the teeth. The pulse was full and pounding [good guess?] - skin hot and dry - the eyes rolled up, [strikethrough] and [?] convulsions apparently causing extreme pain [strikethrough], the face congested, and the muscles causing horrible grimaces. The paroxysm lasted about two minutes, and was followed by complete relaxation and a heavy lethargic stupor. There was marked irritability of the reflex [good guess?] nervous system, and general hyperesthesia of the cutaneous surface. Gave at once 31 Chloroform; two paroxysms followed, but of less violence, and the dose was repeated. This was followed by quiet sleep in about half an hour; the breathing quiet and natural, and the general condition [strikethrough] was [strikethrough] greatly improved. He [strikethrough] remained [strikethrough] had [strikethrough] sleeping [strikethrough] no return of the attacks, and slept soundly the whole night.

April 9th Is perfectly rational, and feels well, except great weakness. Was ordered the usual treatment and the next day returned to duty. (April 10th 1867)

Case VIII. Robert Jackson - the same patient as in Case II - was again brought into hospital May 4th 1867, about 10 o'clock A.M. in a violent convulsion, exactly resembling the attack of March 27th in character and severity.



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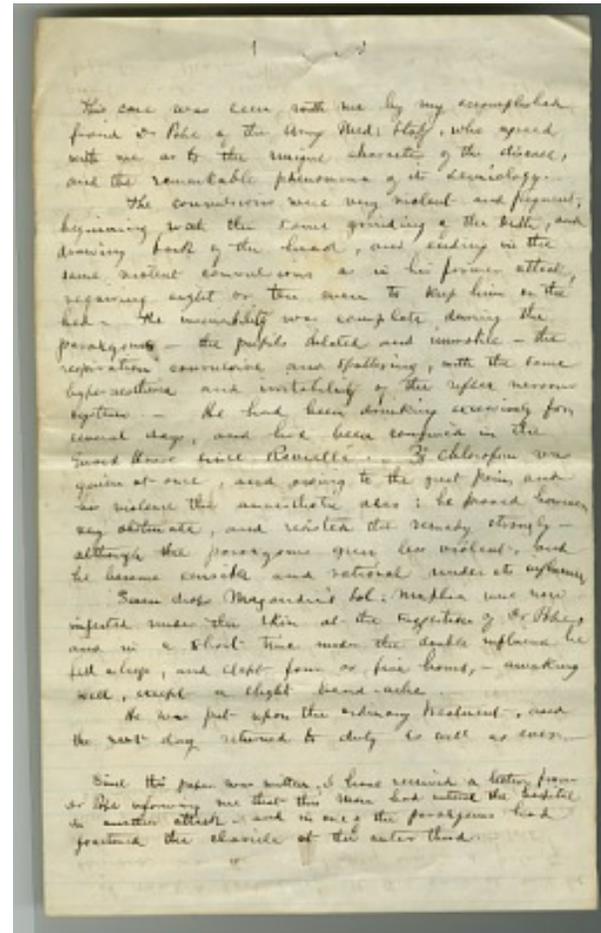
this case was seen with me by my accomplished friend Dr. Poke [[guess]] of the Army Med: Staff, who agreed with me as to the unique characteristics of the disease, and the remarkable phenomena of its Semiology,

The convulsions were very violent and frequent, beginning with the same grinding of the teeth, and drawing back of the head, and ending in the same violent convulsions as in his former attack, requiring eight or ten men to keep him on the bed - The insensibility was complete during the paroxysms - the pupils dilated and immobile - the respiration convulsive and sputtering, with the same hyperaesthesia and instability of the reflex nervous system - He had been drinking excessively for several days, and had been confined in the Guard House since Reveille' - 3i chloroform was given at once, and owing to the great pain, and his violence the anaesthetic also: he proved however very obstinate, and resisted the remedy strongly - although the paroxysms grew less violent, and he became sensible and rational under its influence.

Seven drops Magandii's [[guesss]] Sol: morphia were now injected under the skin at the suggestion of Dr Poke in a short time under the double influence he fell asleep, and slept four or five hours, - awaking well, except a slight head ache.

He was put upon the ordinary treatment, and the next day returned to duty as well as ever.-

Since this paper was written, I have received a letter from Dr Poke informing me that this man had entered the hospital in another attack and in one of the paroxysms had fractured the clavicle at the outer third.



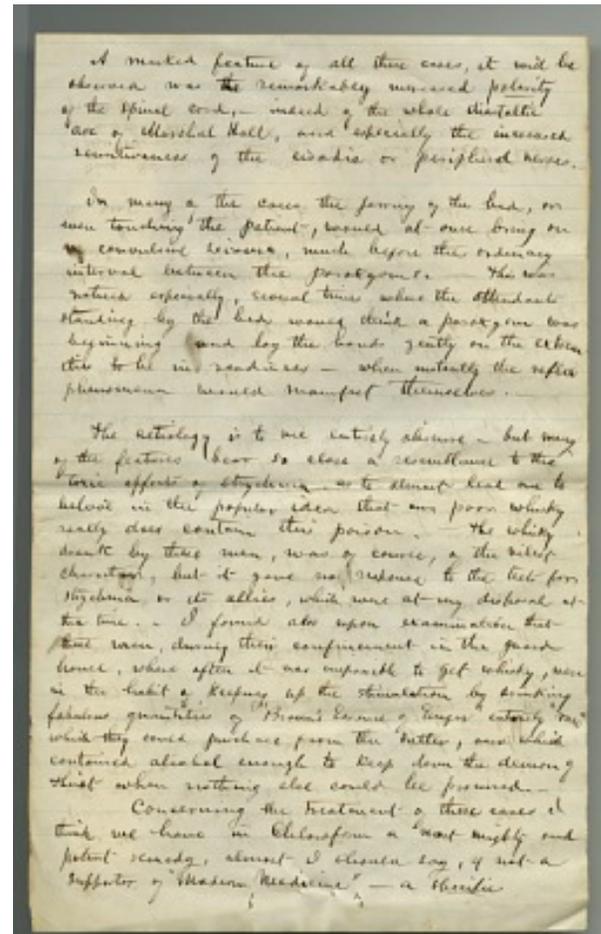
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A marked feature of all these cases, it will be observed was the remarkably increased polarity of the spinal cord, - indeed of the whole diastaltic arc of Marshal Hall, and especially increased sensitiveness of the eisdic or peripheral nerves.

In many of the cases the jarring of the bed, or even touching the patient, would al-once bring on convulsive seizures, much before the ordinary interval between the paroxysms. This was noticed especially, several times where the attendants standing by the bed would think a paroxysm was beginning and lay the hands gently on the extremities to be in readiness - when instantly the reflex phenomenon would manifest themselves. -

The aetiology is to me entirely obscure - but many of the features bear so close a resemblance to the toxic effects of strychnia . as to almost lead one to believe in the popular idea that our poor whisky really does contain this poison. The whisky drank by these men, was of course, of the vilest character, but it gave no response to the test for strychnia or its allies, which were at my disposal at the time. - I found also upon examination that these men, during their confinement in the guard house, where often it was impossible to get whisky, were in the habit of keeping up the stimulation by drinking fabulous quantities of "Brown Essence of Ginger" entirely "raw" which they could purchase from the Sutter, and which contained alcohol enough the keep down the demon of thirst when nothing else could be procured. -

concerning the treatment of these cases I think we have in Chloroform a most mighty and potent remedy, almost I should say, if not a supporter of "Modern Medicine" - a specific or



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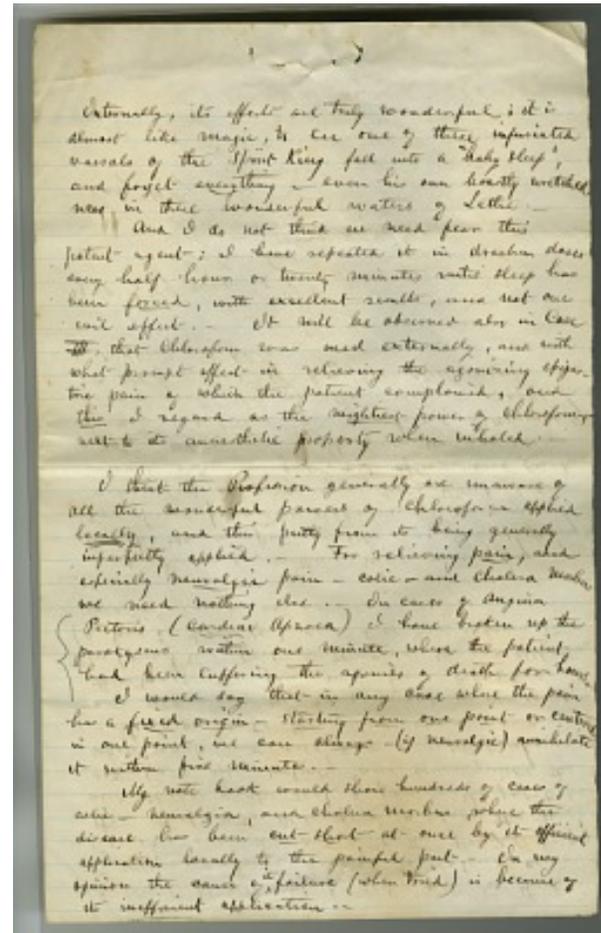
Internally, its effects are truly wonderful; it is almost like magic to see one of these infuriated vassals of the Spirit King fall into a "baby sleep", and forget everything - even his own beastly wretchedness in these wonderful waters of Lethe guess.-

And I do not think we need fear this potent agent; I have repeated it in drachm guess doses every half hour or twenty minutes until sleep has been forced, with excellent results, and not one evil effect.- It will be observed also in Case III, that Chloroform was used externally, and with what prompt effect in relieving the agonizing epigastric pain of which the patient complained, and this I regard as the mightiest power of Chloroform, next to its anaesthetic property when inhaled.-

I think the Profession generally are unaware of all the wonderful powers of Chloroform applied locally, and this partly from it being generally imperfectly applied.- For relieving pain, and especially neuralgic pain - colic - and cholera morbus we need nothing else.- In cases of Angia Pectoris Cardiac Apnea I have broken up the paroxysms within one minute, where the patient had been suffering the agonies of death for hours.

I would say that in any case where the pain has a fixed origin - starting from one point or centered in one point, we can always - (if neuralgic) annihilate it within five minutes.-

My note book would show hundreds of cases of colic - neuralgia, and cholera morbus, where the disease has been cut short at once by its efficient application locally to the painful part.- In my opinion the cause of its failure (when tried) is because of its inefficient application.-

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page, likely a medical note or journal entry. The text is written in cursive and discusses the effects of chloroform, particularly its use for relieving pain and its application in cases of Angia Pectoris and Cardiac Apnea. The handwriting is somewhat faded and the paper shows signs of age. The text is organized into several paragraphs, with some words underlined for emphasis. The overall appearance is that of a historical medical document.

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A towel should be folded into six thicknesses, and large enough to extend considerably over the outside of the painful part; then wet with Chloroform a piece the size and shape of the seat of pain - this part to be saturated; apply instantly and cover quickly the whole towel with oild silk or gutta percha.

Leave on until the patient screams, and can endure it no longer, and on removing the towel the pain will have vanished.- Then cover the part with some warm application (a bag of hops etc.) and keep from exposure to cold or damp air.-

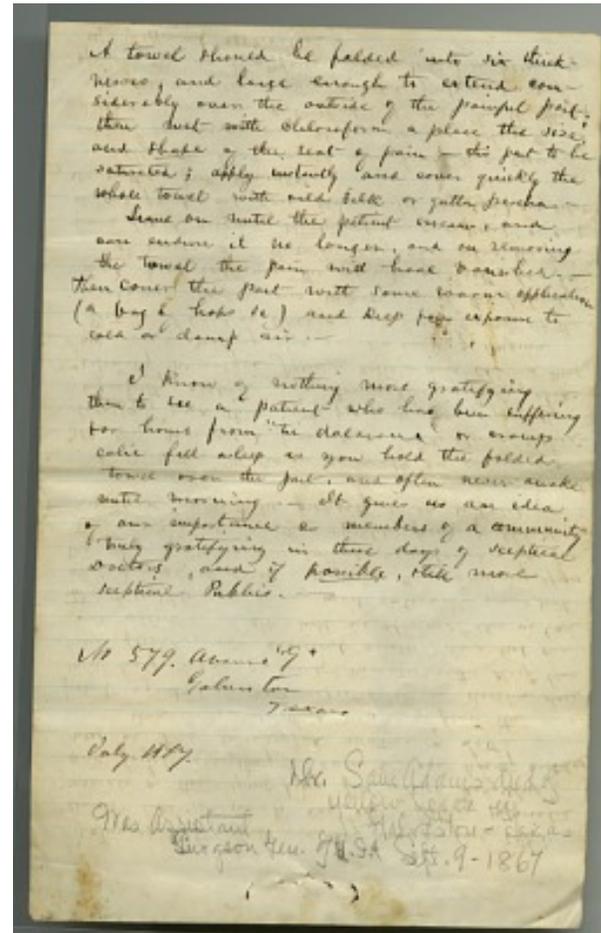
I know of nothing more gratifying than to see a patient who has been suffering for hours from "the dolorous or cramp colic fall asleep as you hold the folded towel over the part, and often never awake until morning - It gives us an idea of our importance as members of a community truly gratifying in these days of sceptical Doctors, and if possible, still more sceptical Publics.-

No 579. Avenue "9"
Galveston
Texas
July 1867

[[written in pencil]]

Dr. Sam Adams died of yellow fever in Galveston-Texas Sept. 9-1867 was Assistant Surgeon Gen, of U.S.A.

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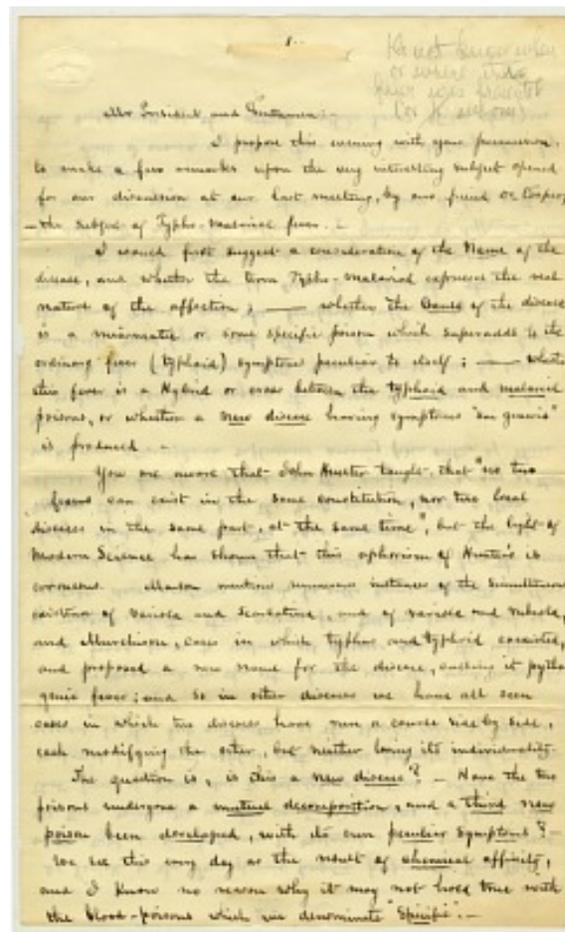
Mr President and Gentlemen;-
I propose this evening with your permission,
to make a few remarks upon the very interesting subject opened for our
discussion at our last meeting, by our friend Dr. Cooper;- the subject of
Typho-Malarial fever. -

I would first suggest a consideration of the Name of the disease, and whether the term Typho-Malaria expresses the real nature of the affection; - whether the Cause of the disease is a miasmatic or some specific poison which super adds to the ordinary fever (Typhoid)symptoms peculiar to itself; - Whether this fever is a Hybrid or cross between the typhoid and malarial poisons, or whether a new disease having symptous "sui generis" is produced. -

You are aware that John Hunter taught that "no two fevers can exist in the same constitution, no two local diseases in the same part, at the same time", but the light of Modern Science has shown that this aphorism of Hunter's is erroneous. Mason mentions numerous instances of the simultaneous existence of variola and scanlatina, and of variola and rubeola, and Murchison cases in which typhus and typhoid coexisted, and proposed a new name for disease, calling it pytho-genic fever; and so in other diseases we have all seen cases in which two diseases have run a course side by side, each modifying the other, but neither losing it individuality.

The question is, is this a new disease? Have the two poisons undergone a mutual decomposition, and a third new poison been developed, with its own peculiar symptoms?

We see this everyday as the result of chemical affinity, and I know no reason why it may not hold true with the blood-poisons which we denominate "Specific".



Handwritten manuscript page, likely a letter or note, dated 1862-1893. The text discusses the nature of Typho-Malarial fever, questioning the name and the nature of the disease, and proposing a new name for the disease, calling it pytho-genic fever. The text is written in cursive and includes several underlined words and phrases. The signature at the top right reads "S. Adams" and "Civil War Surgeon".

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2.

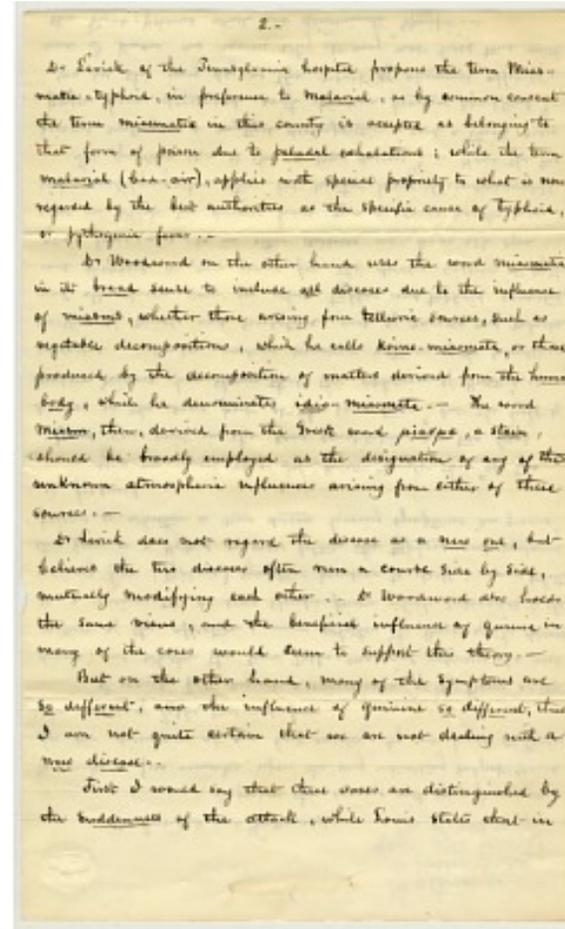
Dr. Levick of the Pennsylvania hospital proposes the term Miasmatic-typhoid, in preference to Malarial, as by common consent the term miasmatic in this country is accepted as belonging to that form of poison due to paludal exhalations; while the term malarial (bad-air, applies with special propriety to what is now regarded by the best authorities as the specific cause of typhoid, or pythogenic fever

Dr. Woodward on the other hand uses the word miasmatic in its broad sense to include all diseases due to the influence of miasms weather those arising from telluric sources, such as vegetable decomposition, which he calls Koino-miasmata, or those produced by the decomposition of matters derived from the human body, which he denominates idio-miasmata. The word Miasm, then, derived from the Greek word, a stain, should be broadly employed as the designation of any of the unknown atmospheric influences arising from either of these sources.

Dr. Levick does not regard the disease as a new one, but believes the two diseases often run a course side by side, mutually modifying each other. Dr Woodward also holds the same views, and the beneficial influence of quinine in many of the cases would seem to support this theory.

But on the other hand, many of the symptoms are so different, and the influence of quinine so different that I am not quite certain that we are not dealing with a new disease.

First I would say that these cases are distinguished by the suddenness of the attack, while Louis states that in



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the great majority of cases of typhoid, the attack is gradual and comes on slowly with general malaise for a week or ten days before the patient is brought to bed. --

Second, by the intense "splitting" pain in the head and back of the neck, while the headache of typhoid is dull and heavy, not the "splitting" pain of this fever.

Third, by the attack being ushered in by a well-marked chill.

Fourth, by the regularly periodical exacerbation and remission of the fever, the exacerbation occurring towards evening.

Fifth, by the absence of tympanites in the majority of cases, and,

Sixth, by the yielding of the malarial element to quinia.

There are bruises there, two symptoms which have occurred

in the cases that have fallen under my observation which I think too are very important points in the differential diagnosis of the class of miasmatic, from the continued type of fevers, and these are, first, the pain and soariness, -- a bruised feeling, -- in the calves of the legs, and fronts of the thighs, (the quadriceps extensor), and second, the herpetic eruption on the lips.

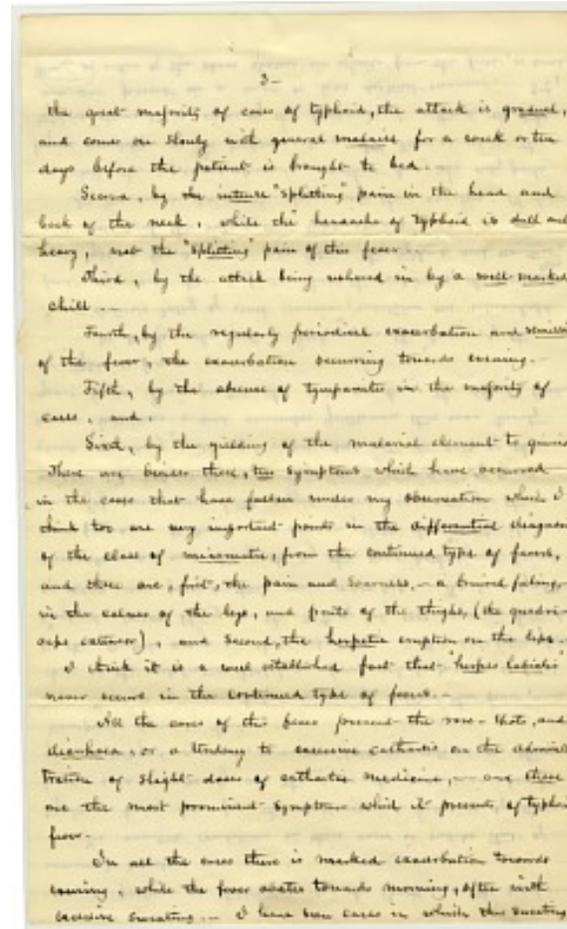
I think it is a well established fact that "herpes labialis" never occurs in the continued type of fevers.

All the cases of this fever present the rose-spots, and diarrhea, or tendency to excessive catharsis on the administration of slight doses of cathartic medicine, -- and these

are the most prominent symptoms which it presents of typhoid fever.

In all the cases there is marked exacerbation towards evening, while the fever abates towards morning, often with excessive sweating. I have seen cases in which this sweating

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was as profuse as that described by Barthel -- as the washer womans sweat.

The mental condition in these cases is unlike that of typhoid, being free from the dullness and habitude of that fever, and in nearly all the cases the patient is able to give intelligent answers, and manifests an interest in things transpiring around him.

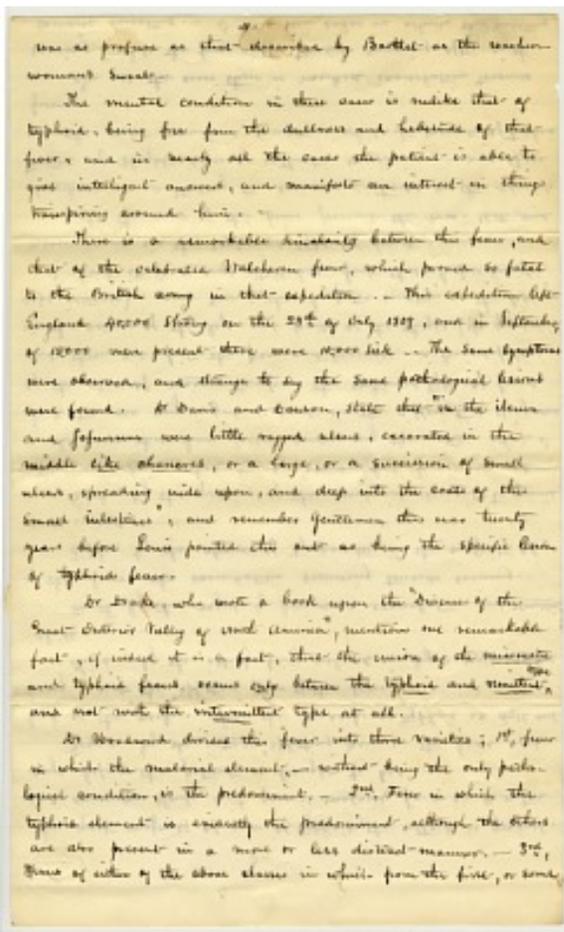
There is a remarkable similarity between this fever, and that of the celebrated Walcheren fever, which proved so fatal to the British army in that expedition.. This expedition left England 40,000 strong on the 28th of July 1809, and in September, of 15,000 men present there were 10,000 sick.. The same symptoms were observed, and strange to say the same pathological lesions were found. Dr. Davis and Dawson, state that "in the ileum and jejunum were little ragged ulcers, excavated in the middle like chancres, or a large, or a succession of small

ulcers, spreading wide upon, and deep into the coats of the small intestines", and remember gentlemen this was twenty years before Louis pointed this out as being the specific lesion of typhoid fever.

Dr. Drake, who wrote a book upon the "Diseases of the Great Interior Valley of North America," mentions one remarkable fact, if indeed it is a fact, that the union of the miasmatic and typhoid fevers occurs only between the typhoid and remittent type and not with the intermittent type at all.

Dr. Woodward divided this fever into three varieties; 1st, fever in which the malarial element, -- without being the only pathological condition is the predominant. -- 2nd, Fever in which the typhoid element is evidently the predominant, although the others are also present in a more or less distinct manner. -- 3rd, Fevers of either of the above classes in which from the first, or some

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time during the progress of the affection the scorbutic element becomes predominant.. He thinks the existence of early abdominal tenderness, wholly independent of any gastric disorder which may exist, should direct our attention to the probable nature of the case.. The point of tenderness is the right iliac region, with gurgling, and this too, often without any diarrhea or even with constipation.. The tongue he says is large, flabby, pale, and indented at the edges; the surface smooth, papillae hardly noticeable, and covered with white fur which is thickest at the edges. I have noticed one condition of the tongue which I think important in a prognostic point of view, which is, that towards the end of the second or early part of the third week the tongue becomes clean, the furring all passes off, and the tongue is glazed, red, and shining, as if a coat of varnish had been applied to it. I have never seen a case die with this character of tongue, and while in the Genl Hospital at Alexandria Va., where at one time a large number of these cases were present, have more than once prognosticated

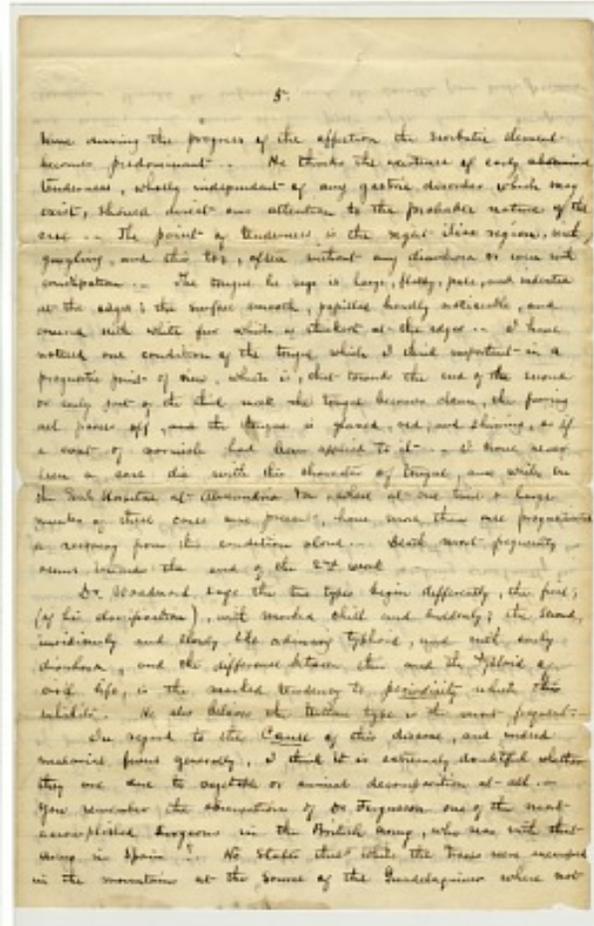
a recovery from this condition above.. Death most frequently occurs towards the end of the 2nd week.

Dr. Woodward says the two types begin differently, the first; (of his classification), with marked chill and suddenly; the second, insidiously and slowly like ordinary typhoid, and with early diarrhea, and the difference between this and the typhoid of civil life, is the marked tendency to periodicity which this exhibits.

He also believes the tertian type is the most frequent. In regard to the Cause of this disease, and indeed

malarial fever generally, I think it is extremely doubtful whether they are due to vegetable or animal decomposition at all. -- You remember the observation of Dr. Ferguson one of the most accomplished Surgeons in the British Army, who was with that army in Spain? He states that while the troops were encamped in the mountains at the source of the Guadelaquiver where not

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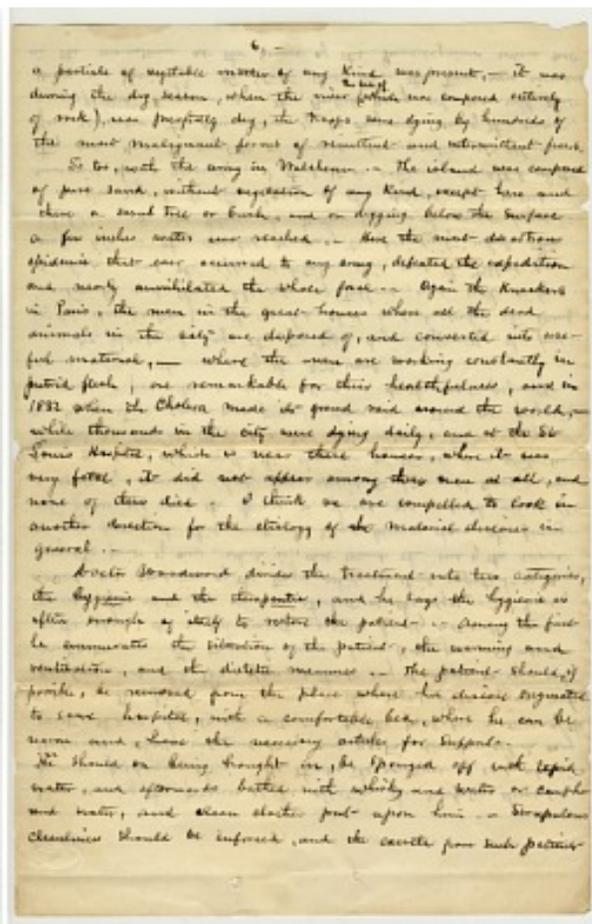
a particle of vegetable matter of any Kind was present, -- it was during the dry season, when the river (the bed of which was composed entirely

of rock), was perfectly dry, the troops were dying by hundreds of the most malignant forms of remittent and intermittent fevers.

So too, with the army in Walcheren. The island was composed of pure sand, without vegetation of any kind, except here and there a scrub tree or bush, and on digging below the Surface a few inches water was reached. Here the most disastrous epidemic that ever occurred to any army, defeated the expedition and nearly annihilated the whole force. Again the Knackers in Paris, the men in the great houses where all the dead animals in the city are disposed of, and converted into useful material, where the men are working constantly in putrid flesh, are remarkable for their healthfulness, and in 1832 when the cholera made its grand raid around the world, while thousands in the city were dying daily, and at the St. Louis Hospital, which is near these houses, where it was very fatal, it did not appear among these men at all, and none of them died. I think we are compelled to look in another direction for the etiology of the malarial diseases in general.

Doctor Woodward divides the treatment into two categories, the hygienic and the therapeutic, and he says the hygienic is often enough of itself to restore the patient. Among the first he enumerates the situation of the patient, the warming and ventilation, and the dietetic measures. The patient should, if possible, be removed from the place where his disease originated to some hospital, with a comfortable bed, where he can be warm and, have the necessary articles for support. He should on being brought in, be sponged off with tepid water, and afterwards bathed with whisky and water or camphor and water, and clean clothes put upon him. Scrupulous cleanliness should be enforced, and the excreta from such patients

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promptly removed. Dr. Woodward recommends also the use of disinfectants around the patient. Small quantities of Bromine allowed to evaporate in the ward, and the use of the chlorine powders furnished by the Medical Departments.

The diet should be simple and readily digestible, and no greater mistake can be committed than to let the patient run down by delaying too long the use of nutrients.

Beef tea, beef essence, and chicken tea are the best, with wine, whey. The patient should have his nourishment regularly, and should never be allowed to sleep longer than

two hours at a time without being awake to have his nourishment and stimulants; the stimulating effect, otherwise is not kept up, and the patient may sink or get below a point from which he cannot be rallied.

Stimulants should be administered every hour of the case in a quantity, and ten or twelve ounces taken in the course of the day. Brandy, milk punch, or wine are the best.

In the therapeutic measures we have all been disposed to rely chiefly upon quinine, and have all too been frequently disappointed. The disease is seldom cut short by its use, but in some cases it influences the malarial

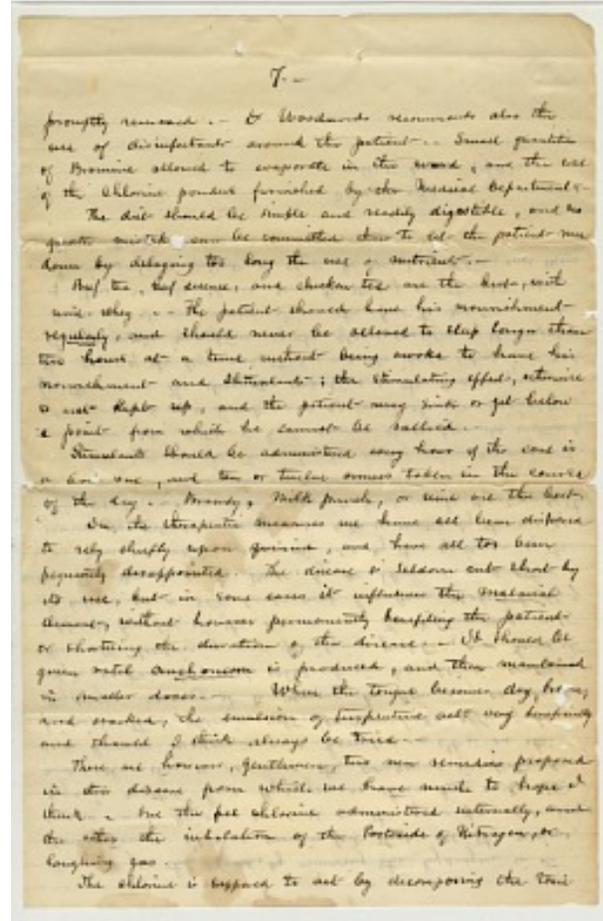
element, without however permanently benefiting the patient or shortening the duration of the disease. It should be given until conclusion is produced, and then maintained in smaller doses. When the tongue becomes dry, brown, and cracked, the emulsion of turpentine acts very beneficially and should I think always be tried.

There are, however, gentlemen, two new remedies proposed in this disease from which we have much to hope I think, one the free chlorine administered internally, and

the other the inhalation of the Protoxide of Nitrogen, or laughing gas.

The chlorine is supposed to act by decomposing the toxic

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8. element in the blood, by removing the hydrogen in its combination. It is a curious fact that all the noxious vapors and poisons, as well as the gases from decomposing organic matters have Hydrogen as their base or keystone, and when this is removed the compound is destroyed and becomes inodorous and harmless. It is on this principal that chlorine acts, its remarkable affinity for Hydrogen causing it to remove this from any compound, which contains it, with which it is brought in contact. Hence its deodorizing and purifying qualities, and hence its supposed benefit in this disease. The nitrous oxide acts I believe as a stimulant, and has been spoken highly of in the armies of the West, by Dr. Hammond and others.

Some remarkable cases are cited by these gentlemen of the recovery of patients, even when in asticulo-mortis, by the use of this agent, and in milder cases it shortened the duration of the disease, and hastened the convalescence.

These few remarks thrown together hastily whilst occupied with numerous other duties, I have derived chiefly from the writings of Drs Woodward and Leveck, and of course claim no originality for them. - The diagnostic importance of the muscular pain in the calves of the legs and thighs, and the "herpes labialis";- and the prognostic importance of the glazed condition of the tongue, so far as I am aware, I am the first to mention, and of these remarks should serve to stir up our thoughts upon this important subject, I shall be much gratified, and more than amply rewarded.

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