

Army Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
Dec. 25th, 1861.

FRIENDLY FACILITY.

DEAR SIR:—According to promise I

transmit to you a few lines.

On leaving you at Scranton, Dec. 9th, I

thought quarters in the Mansion House,

where I stayed over night. Started for

Camp Curtin the morning of the 10th, at

5 o'clock 50 minutes. Did not find things

as expected. Orders had come that we

could not go to Port Royal, but must

wait for Washington, and when there

await further orders. After packing and

unpacking until the 14th, we finally got

under way for Washington, at 8 p. m.

We were not aware of some old freight

cars, which were unfit to transport cattle.

We suffered considerably during the

night with cold. Sunday morning at day-

light we found ourselves twenty-five miles

from Baltimore, and amid the splendors of

this beautiful morning had an opportunity

to view the picturesque landscape by

which we were surrounded. At ten o'clock

a. m. we formed into line and marched

through the city, to the Old & Baltimore

Depot, where we partook of our dinner

at 12 o'clock. (O! must not forget to

say that we were cheered on the road

along the lines, and through the city.

The people seemed to be loyal, and fre-

quently cried out "Hully for old Pennsylv-

ania!" We were soon en route again

for Washington, where we arrived at 9

o'clock p. m. Stayed one night at the

Scholar's Retreat, a large building con-

structed for the accommodation of a whole

regiment. We were aroused by the

beat of the drum at 5 o'clock to prepare

for breakfast. After daylight we visited

the Capitol and were privileged to go

through the whole building. It is the

nicest piece of work that I ever saw.

While standing on the Dome, we could

see the camp of about three hundred

thousand soldiers. In whatever direc-

tion we turned our eyes we beheld the

fields dotted with the warriors' tents.

And the drilling of the battalions, the din

of small arms, and the booming of cannon,

all seemed confusion here. After seeing

the sights, we formed in line and marched

about three miles to an open space where

we halted and pitched our tents.

Have the Shily tent, which is round, and

has a diameter of about twenty feet. There

are seven men in our tent. Our ration

is better than they were at Camp

Curtin. We have enough to eat and

plenty of coffee to drink. Our camp regu-

lations are very strict. Some of the boys

are very anxious to cross the Potomac

and have a brush with the rebels.

The next day after our arrival here, the

boys were shot at the shoulder while

going after a pile of wood. His name is

Wood, from Pike, Bradford county. The

ball grazed in his shoulder yet. It broke

no bones and we think he will get along

without much trouble. Who shot him

we do not know whether friend or foe,

there is so much firing here. We had

to leave some of our Sisco, county boys at

Camp Curtin, on account of the measles.

Three or four of them are sick with them

here, otherwise we are all well.

Yours truly,

J. W. GRANGER.

CAMP ANDY JOHNSON,

1, Johnsonville, Ind. Dec. 25, '61.

Dr. LAYMON:

DEAR SIR:—I now claim to be one of

Uncle Sam's boys, having as you well

know been mustered into the Federal ser-

vice nearly three months ago. Our regi-

ment was organized in Camp Cameron,

Pa., and four weeks ago at the Depart-

ment of Gen. Bull, Commander-in-Chief

of the forces in Kentucky, and all we ask

of him is to give us a fair chance at the

rebels. We pitched our tents on

Indiana soil nearly four weeks ago, and

when we folded ourselves in our blan-

kets and lay down to rest it was with the

thought that we were entitled to share

the dangers and participate in the glory

of sustaining our own government. For

which purpose the Secretary of War had

called us into the field. We have been

blessed with most excellent weather for

the last two weeks, (with the exception

of three stormy days). During the time

we have been here, the regiment has been

put through on company and battalion

drills four hours each day, except Sun-

days, then we were inspected, dress par-

ades and marching by the Regimental

Chaplain. Everything works as smooth-

ly with us as in a camp of regulars. At

six in the morning we are aroused from

our refreshing rest (which we enjoy after

the day's work) by the reveille; each

company then turns out and forms into

line in the front of their tents; after the

roll is called, the horses are cleaned and

fed. At seven o'clock the cups are

breakfast; then out comes the cups

and plates, and a grand rush is made

for the fat pork, hard bread and the regular

allowance of coffee, (some beans than coffee)

at 8:30 a. m. Surgeons call is beat-

at this hour all the sick lie in the

companies are taken to the hospital by

the Orderly Sergeant of each company,

to be returned, prescribed for and sent to

quarters, or returned to duty at the dis-

cretion of the surgeon. Plenty of clean

clothing is issued. At 9 a. m. First Sergeant

calls when the several company reports

are to be handed in. The reports show

how many are sick, absent, on guard, &c.,

five minutes after Sergeant's call comes

drill call; every one is to be on his horse

at the appointed time; we then attend

drill returning at one-quarter past eleven,

as soon as we get our horses to their respec-

tive places come water call; then off comes

saddles and carb bins, leaving on the

watering troughs and blankets; but very

little time passes before we are mounted

and marching in regular order towards

the river. We dine at 12 m. with the

table of fare before us, changed into bean

soup or boiled rice, and plenty of hard

bread and water. At 1 p. m. comes First

Sergeant's call for them to go to head

quarters after their reports, 5 minutes

after drill call sounds, then out we go

on our fiery steeds, with sabers clanging,

and put them through for two hours,

running, walking, trotting, jumping and

all other maneuvers which can be made

to go through with. At 4 p. m. the

bugle sounds for guard mounting, at 2:10

for the men to clean and feed their horses

again. Thereafter several calls for ar-

ious purposes are for drill call and I will

worry your patience by describing them

here, but would say that the watering

call and the call for supper is not allowed

to pass by any man in the regiment; we

now have seven steady roll calls a day.

I have no marks against me as yet, and

my mind is firm that there will not be

any. By strict attention to the drill, the

regiment is fast emerging from green re-

cruits into a well drilled and well dis-

ciplined regiment of efficient soldiers. The

spirit of insubordination, common and

natural to raw recruits, is fast becoming

extinct. Our boys employ their leisure

time in resting and preparing for work;

they are kept too busy to grumble.

Yours truly,

ROMINE P. SCOTT.

Congress—Work not Words.

It is to attempt to disguise the

fact that Congress is rapidly losing the

confidence of the people of this country.

We do not here allude to the cases of in-

dividual folly and bad taste which have

occurred, such as Mr. Stevens' ill-timed

things at France, though these are bad

enough, but to the systematic neglect of

their plain duty which has characterized

their proceedings from the first. Instead

of taking measures to insure success, they

fall to quarrelling as to what shall be

done when success shall be obtained. In-

stead of attending to their own duties, they

occupy themselves with investigations as to

why our army has not accomplished what

in their estimation, it should have done.

What is the use of deciding whether

slaves shall be emancipated or not at the

end of the year, if they will not devise

means to carry it on? Is it more impor-

tant to decide on whether we shall con-

demne Rebel property when we control it,

or to let that matter rest awhile and to

provide in the meantime against foreign

invasion? Congress appears to think

that the war will pay for itself or that

means can be obtained indefinitely from

the "bank of the ocean," and that the

banks of Philadelphia, New York and

Boston have loaned their whole capital

to the Government—a step which they

took in the conviction that Congress would,

by a well-digested system of taxation, sustain

the credit of the country. But they met

with no cooperation from the interior

banks, and found that Congress, instead

of going actively to work to provide

ways and means, was ready to occupy it-

self with anything else in preference.

It is, therefore, Congress that is responsi-

ble for the suspension, and for the pros-

pect of baseless paper inflation which is

before us.

When we reflect on the course of the

people in this emergency, on the self-

devotion of our volunteers, on the patience

of the mercantile classes under their enor-

mous losses, on the eagerness with which

the women of America have applied them-

selves to laboring for those who are

fighting in the cause of the Union; when

we contrast all this with the reckless in-

difference of Congress, which, instead of

making as many hours a day as possi-

ble to perfect a financial policy, and a

system of defense against all future emer-

gencies, is content to sit idle, and when

it does meet, meets to wrangle on ab-

stractions,—we are inclined to wonder

that a universal cry of indignation does

not arise from one end of the land to the

other. Nor is the contrast of the spirit of

the people with that of certain Govern-

ment Departments less striking. The

scenes of plunder which were lately re-

vealed are disgusting the people with the

management of the War Department.

The Medical Department of our army is

notoriously and shamefully inefficient, and

demands a thorough reorganizing. But

Congress has not time to consider the bill

before it for that purpose; it must enjoy

its holidays, and do no serious business

before the sixth of January. How are

the holidays enjoyed by the invalid

soldiers, struck down with "camp fever,"

and some of them lying on mere boards?

Let, then, Congress go to work! Let

it give over wrangling and disputing, and

let the members endeavor to consider

themselves as representing a great coun-

try in the crisis of its fate, and not as ad-

vocating party views and sectional dis-

sentiments. Above all, let them remember

that the lives of our brave soldiers, who

Mason and Slidell Given Up.

The correspondence of Secretary Sew-

ard, Lord Lyons, Russell and others, on

the Trent affair, is published at

length.

On the 9th of November Mr. Seward

addressed a despatch to our Minister to

England, rehearsing the particulars of the

Trent affair. The main point of this com-

munication is, that in the capture of

Messrs. Mason and Slidell on board a

British vessel, Captain Wilkes having ac-

ted without any instructions from the Gov-

ernment, the subject is therefore free from

the embarrassment which might have re-

sulted if the act had been specially di-

rected by us.

Russell, British Minister of Foreign

Affairs, writes to Lord Lyons, under date

of November 30, recapitulating the facts,

and concluding as follows:

Certain individuals have been forcibly

taken from on board a British vessel, the

ship of a neutral power, while such vessel

was pursuing a lawful and innocent voy-

age, an act of violence which was an af-

front to the British flag and a violation

of international law.

Her Majesty's Government having in

mind her friendly relations which have

long subsisted between Great Britain and

the United States, are willing to believe

that this aggression was not acting in com-

pliance with any authority from his Gov-

ernment, or that the Government itself

was authorized to do so, and that the

Government has greatly misunderstood

the instructions he had received.

For the Government of the United

States must be fully aware that such an