

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Washburn Norlands Living History Center

MMN # 100655 Date: May 21, 1864

Description: Israel Washburn on the battle of Malvern Hills, Portland

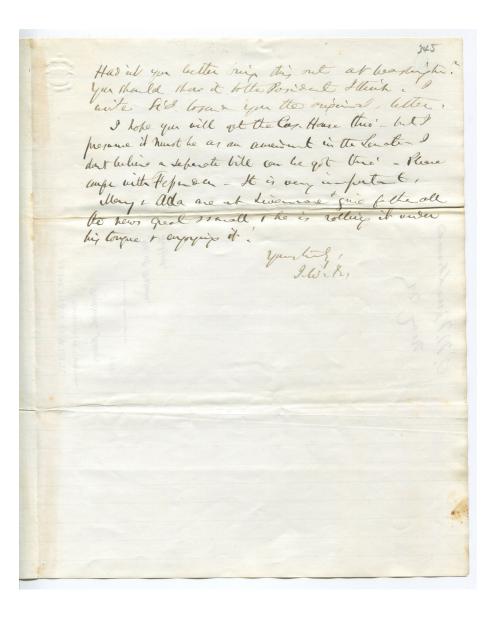
Custom House Portland Collector's Office, May 21 1864

Dear Bro,

Sid gives me the following extract from Sam's letter of date Oct. 5 1862 "He" (Mac) "came on board" (the Galena) the 30 of June & was on board the ship at the Right of Turkey Bend & at Malvern Hills. The army was very nearly whipped. When they reached the river & I have no doubt McClellan was badly frightened. It was the opinion of many in which I concur that he came on board the Galena to save his bacon. But for the fire of the Galena the whole army would have been lost. Just as we opened fire at Turkey Bend. McClellan read the following dispatches "McCall is breaking" "Porter division is falling back" "Sumner is having a hard time", we shelled them for an hour or more & then ceased firing. Old Heintzelman went in with the bayonet & we soon had the gratifying report that he was dividing the rebels They say the slaughter was terrible when the shells fell whole brigades being swept away Rebel prisoner said they were confident of bagging Mc Clellan & his whole army until they heard the gun boats when they broke with the cry "there came the d d Gunboats

Nothing wild hold theur or keep them under fire ofter we commenced frieing - I never had any Moult that It dellan sound dered himself whipped when he reaches the river. One thing I am here of when these was any pring going on he was an board the quaboat? hat the gotte be state that

nothing would hold them or keep them under fire after we commenced firing. I never had any doubt that McClellan considered himself whipped when he reached the river. One thing I am sure of when there was any firing going on he was on board the gunboat".



Hadn't you better rip this out at Washington? you should show it to the President I think. I write Sid to send you the original letter.

I hope you will get the Cus. House thro' [?] but I presume it must be as an amendment in the Senate. I don't believe a separate bill can be got thro' [?] Please confer with Fessenden it is very important.

Mary & Ada are at Livermore give father all the news great & small he is rolling it under his tongue & enjoying it.

Yours Truly I. W. Jr.