

343

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 fight at
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 opin-
ion of many in which I concur that he came on board
the Galena to save his bacon. But for the fire of the Ga-
lena the whole ~~force~~^{army} would have been lost. Just as
we opened fire at Turkey Bend, McClellan read the
following despatches "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 prisoners said they were confident of bagging Mc
Clellan & his whole army until they heard the gunboats
when they broke with the cry "there came the d___d Gunboats"

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 opin-
ion of many in which I concur that he came on board
the Galena to save his bacon. But for the fire of the Ga-
lena 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"

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

Nothing could 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".

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".

345
Hadn't you better rip this out at Washington?
You should show it to the President I think. I
wrote Ed. Logan your the original letter.
I hope you will get the Cong. 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.

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.