



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
(Coll. S-602, Misc. Box 23/4)  
MMN #25213

Date: July 20, 1863

Description: John Marshall Brown letter from Aldie, Virginia

JMB

5 miles from Aldie Va.

July 20<sup>t</sup> 1863

Dear Nellie

Since June 15 I have re<sup>cd</sup> two letters from you dated June 17 & July 11'. I have only written one to you June 30<sup>t</sup>. I am afraid you have never received it for I told you of my appointment by the Pres. and none of the home people have alluded to it yet.

Here we are again in Virginia, going over very nearly the same ground we went over last fall. In a couple of days we shall probably reach Warrenton and shall have then completed another circle. I wonder what the people at home think of this army fighting and marching as it does. I confess I wonder and admire: just look at the map for yourself & find Fredericksburg

and trace out the line of march  
as I have indicated in my  
letters.

I wrote to Jim on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
since that Gen Gordon formerly  
Col of the 2<sup>d</sup> Mass. has taken  
command of our division and  
I have had the pleasure of hearing  
his views of the war. He thinks  
the rebels won't fight any more  
that the late victories have so  
crippled them that they must  
give it up. I haven't time or  
space to give his argument  
which is very logical & fair  
although I do not entirely agree  
with him. Probably a week  
will settle the question.

So Ned Rand is the lion  
and hero of the day at home.  
do you think he will come  
back again?

I wish you could see  
"Brigade Hd. Qrs." as I am  
writing this letter. I am sitting  
under a huge tree, in a beau-

and trace out the line of march  
as I have indicated in my  
letters.

I wrote to Jim on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
since that Gen Gordon formerly  
Col of the 2<sup>d</sup> Mass. has taken  
command of our division and  
I have had the pleasure of hearing  
his views of the war. He thinks  
the rebels won't fight any more  
that the late victories have so  
crippled them that they must  
give it up. I haven't time or  
space to give his argument  
which is very logical & fair  
although I do not entirely agree  
with him. Probably a week  
will settle the question.

So Ned Rand is the lion  
and hero of the day at home.  
do you think he will come  
back again?

I wish you could see  
"Brigade Hd. Qrs." as I am  
writing this letter. I am sitting  
under a huge tree, in a beau-

tiful grove; without coat or hat  
my portfolio on my knee.  
The General is lying down reading  
a paper. At some distance in  
front are the troops just in  
bivouac cooking their suppers  
and getting ready for the night.  
Our horses, orderlies and servants  
are busy about us, and the  
whole place 6 hours ago a  
quiet seclusion now teems with  
life. Such campaigning as  
this in pleasant weather is the  
most charming life one can  
lead. All day, to day, the sides  
of road were lined with berry  
bushes, blackberries &c, and in  
one field there were so many  
that the ground was black  
with them. I never saw such  
a sight before. Then too we  
have been marching along  
the crest of a ridge of hills,  
looking down on our right  
into the Loudon valley which  
you remember I was so fas-

tiful grove; with out coat or hat  
my portfolio on my knee.  
the General is lying down reading  
a paper. At some distance in  
front are the troops just in  
bivouac cooking their suppers  
and getting ready for the night.  
Our horses, orderlies and servants  
are busy about us, and the  
whole place 6 hours ago a  
quiet seclusion now teems with  
life. Such campaigning as  
this in pleasant weather is the  
most charming life one can  
lead. All day, to day, the sides  
of road were lined with berry  
bushes, blackberries &c, and in  
one field there were so many  
that the ground was black  
with them. I never saw such  
a sight before. Then too we  
have been marching along  
the crest of a ridge of hills  
looking down on our right  
into the Loudon Valley which  
you remember I was so fas-

cinated with last year. On our  
left was the broad valley, which  
stretches to Centerville & the Potomac  
& it was worth a pilgrimage to  
look upon such a scene. the  
various colored grass & trees  
the grain all harvested the  
cultivated hillsides and  
long winding lines of luxuriant  
green to mark where the  
brooks & rivers run. the peaceful  
ensemble was in such singular  
contrast with the purpose  
which animated the spectators  
that I could not help hoping  
& believing that this unnatural  
strife will soon be ended.  
Remember me most cordially  
to Clara and tell her I shall  
surprise her with a letter very  
soon. Remember me particularly  
to all our relations & friends  
& give my heart full of love  
to the dear people at home  
Your aff. brother  
Jack

74-59

cinated with last year. On our  
left was the broad valley which  
stretches to Centerville & the Potomac  
It were worth a pilgrimage to  
look upon such a scene. the  
various colored grass & trees  
the grain all harvested the  
cultivated hillsides and  
long winding lines of luxuriant  
green to mark where the  
brooks & rivers run. The peaceful  
ensemble was in such singular  
contrast with the purpose  
which animated the spectators  
that I could not help hoping  
& believing that this unnatural  
strife will soon be ended.

Remember me most cordially  
to Clara and tell her I shall  
surprise her with a letter very  
soon. Remember me particularly  
to all our relations & friends  
& give my heart full of love  
to the dear people at home

Your aff. brother  
Jack