



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 135 Box 1/1)
MMN #5715

Date: September 21, 1862
Description: Abner Small to Luther Emerson

Head Quarters, Sixteenth Reg't Me. Vols.
Camp Near Sharpsburg, Md.
September 21st 1862

My dear Emerson

I am fully sensible of my obligation to you + feel somewhat troubled for fear you will wish for a return ere I am able to make it. Government is a little dilatory with us. I hope she will remember that delays are dangerous – we are moneyless but not spiritless are ready to act our part when we are called upon. Our regiment did not participate in the recent battles we arrived the day following. I visited the field the 3d day after Wednesday fight & saw the effects of the artillery duel; for miles, houses walls fences and trees are level with the ground – human beings and animals are piled in heaps as they fell. From the knoll on which I viewed the horrible scene could be counted over 150 bodies yet unburied. Most if not quite all of them were rebels so mutilated that they would scarcely be recognized as human beings. 23 rebels lay in a row just as they fell. Oh Emerson! Such scenes are too horrible to retell. War and heroes sound well

in history - but the reality is known to but the few that survive the strife.

For two weeks we've been on the steady march resting only late in the night & today for the first time we are bivouacked for 24 hours. I have had but little time to write letters - have rec'd but one ^{from home} since I left.

You can't know just how thankful I felt for the money loaned me when I needed it so much - I was sick at that time as much from anxiety as anything & was greatly benefited by your kind message. God knows that if I could have assisted you in any way you asked I would most gladly have done it. I thought of you all the time from Augusta to Washington.

If you need the amt loaned me before Govt. pays us borrow it & I will pay the interest you will have to be it more or less.

I hope you & Mrs. Emerson will write to me whenever you have leisure. Whatever may become of me individually God save the country - we need leaders - we have been ruined by the imbecility, incompetency & treachery of our Generals - Oh that we had more Sigels & Burnside, & a less number of Mc's - less of this damned infernal rivalry for the next Presidency - less self & more patriotism. I feel willing to sacrifice my

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of the states, but my heart rebels at this murder
by detail - this protracted struggle - this public exhibi-
-tion for the salvation or "protection" of that cussed
nigger - just come out here & see the feeling that
now prevails in our army - our men are intelligent
beings & can reason; + the result is a disaffection
that will lead to a complete demoralization of the
army unless prompt & speedy action on the part
of the Govt. effects an eternal settlement by the only means
which will ever be recognized by the Almighty - to wit -
Emancipation!

Col. Wildes has resigned.

I am very weary or I write more.

Much love to your wife & allie & to all members of the
J. F. Home - & if you want to kiss Mrs. L. & Lucilla
for me why do it.

Sincerely & truly

Your friend Always

Abner

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