



#9

Head Quarters, Third Maine Regiment,

Adjutant's Office, November 20, 1861.

My dear Friends

You are cordially invited to take a Thanksgiving Dinner with the "Subscriber" who would be most happy to help you to some choice bite of Horse meat + condiments raised on the Sacred Soil of Old Virginia.

All shall dine at 12 punctually.

You needn't laugh at that for tisnt every body that I honor with such an invitation! ha! ha!

(You can pass the compliment to Mr. Bartlett + if he thinks the rituals wouldnt choke him to eat from the same table with me, he would be welcome to help himself the same as he has always done with everything I had) let him

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
(Coll. 135 Box 1/1)  
MMN #5716

Date: November 20, 1861  
Description: Abner Small to the Emersons

read that - twill sett him to  
thinking - perhaps he has got a  
heart - I doubt it. If I die  
he will find something to think of  
for I'll leave him a legacy that  
will remind him that there was  
a time when I was needed.  
You expected me home to thanks  
giving didn't you? I am sorry  
I couldn't go for I had promised  
myself such a heap of "baked  
Beans" - Now Emerson you needn't  
laugh - + as many as 2 pieces  
of mince pie + some of "Ellens" butter,  
but instead I shall have to sat-  
-isfy that appetite of mine with  
- I tell you what next time I write.  
Brig. Gen. Sedgwick couldn't approve  
of my transfer to 13<sup>th</sup> Maine because  
Col. Staples did not wish to  
have me leave the Regiment - I  
don't know his reasons, but as I

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Col. Staples did not wish to  
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understand it, tis very ungen-  
-erous in him. I am sure I  
cant tell what I commenced  
this letter for, for I hadnt the  
least thing to communicate of  
interest for no change has been  
been made in the programme  
for two months - about as little  
alteration as there is in the  
prices current of the Maine  
Farmer.

The boys continue to enjoy  
themselves in various ways.  
Last evening was gloriously beau-  
tiful & the boys were promenad-  
ing the streets in couples & platoons  
singing songs & talking of exploits  
performed at Bull Run, &c. A  
number of "couples" formed on for  
a cottillion & twas ammusing  
to watch them try to keep  
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I have seen some rich sights  
since I enlisted - cant picture  
them on paper but will tell you  
all about them when I return.

Please

write

soon

Truly + aff. Yours  
Ralph

Tell Carrie that I am  
"very respectfully hers"  
+ love to every body else.

Let Mark read this letter - I  
want you to - dont care if he  
is mad - dont love him a bit  
now

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