



Camp near Bell Plain
March 2^d 1863

My Dear father
As I have
got a few moments to spare
I will improve them by
writing you a few lines
We are having easier times
now than we have had
since the battle we have
not been on picket since
a fortnight ago or more
most of our company is
down to Bell Plain Landing
to work I was down but
had ^{to} come up I was
chafed so badly I can
hardly walk now
I suppose Jim Hayward
is back by this time but

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 184, Box 1/3)
MMN #61966

Date: March 2, 1863
Description: Pvt. John Sheahan on Union chances

I cannot go to see William
before he goes home I
am so lame I am
going to try for a
furlough to come home
cost what it may. you
can do as you see
fit send me the money
in a letter or by William
I dont think it would
get lost to send it in
a letter.

Well what do you
think of the Conscription? does
it look as tho' the war
was going to end by next
fall? I think not. The
south are determined to
have their Independence and
they will have it. and no
soldier in the Army of
the Potomac doubts but
what they will get it

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some argue that they have
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on the war. But how
did we carry on a war
with England the most
powerful of European nations
for seven long years?

We were fighting for our
independence and we were
bound to have it cost what
it may and we got it
and so in my opinion
will they, I should be
exceedingly sorry to see our
country divided and I do
not think there is many
more willing to do more
for their country than
I am, but I am almost
inclined to think that
we shall have to acknow-
ledge their independence
I must write Mary

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