

1865

So. Boston Feb. 12

Dear Charlie:

Yours of the 8th received, your letter contained more news than any thing I have had from Norfolk, those who expected me to come from Baltimore under arrest must have underrated my abilities, it dont require an ordinary sharp man to outwit the whole pack of detectives (so called) they are like their reports very much magnified. In regard of not getting a pass from the Provost Martial I showed no pass whatever as I am sufficiently well known by the guard and on board the Baltimore boat to pass without being questioned. I have yet to learn why they wish

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MMN # 76620

Date: February 12, 1865

Description: A letter to "Charlie" discusses the charges against George F. Shepley, a lawyer from Maine who had been relieved of his command of the Division of Eastern Virginia for the Union Army.

to detain me if it was by
order of the Military commission
(through Johnes) then I say it
was a high handed outrage
and one of many perpetrated
by this star Chamber commission
which reflects but little credit
on the military commandant of
Norfolk who allows these things
to go on knowing well as he does
that there are neither military
nor civil precedent to justify
it. Would Gen Shepley exert
half the ability that God and
nature has given him his friends
would rally round him and
a short fight but a merry one
would follow, resulting in a
triumphant vindication of
Gen Shepley and his friends,
and the discomfiture of the
cheek now working against
him. As the case is now there is
actually a committee of inquiry

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under his very nose who do as
they see fit to officers and
citizens whose duty it is for him
to protect, and they are actually
trying him for high crimes
and misdemeanors, when the
book says that a court of Inquiry
"shall only be called by the President
or by the accused when demanded
by the accused, neither of which is
the case in this instance. The
result is easily told, Gen. Shepley
will be disgraced Butler will
have his Scapegoat, as he did
in Gen. Pierce at ~~Big~~ Big Bethel,
and Gen Phelps at New Orleans,
for though apparently this is
an investigation with a view to
substantiate charges against
Butler, it is in reality a Butler
commission in disguise, looking
for a scapegoat to cover Gen. B.
let me give you one fact of
many I know, Gen Gordon

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was mentioned by both Sanborn
and Hildreth as a "more pliant
tool" to S. and H. to succeed
Gen. Palmer in N. Carolina.

S. is a intimate friend of Gen.
B. as been closeted with him
at at the National Hotell
and also was in close and private
conversation with him on the
boat to Norfolk to Munroe.

So in his examination threw
all the responsibility on Gen.
S. and not a question was asked
tending to implicate Gen. B.

but the whole object of the
commission was to implicate
Gen. Shepley. knowing these
facts, and it being my style
to give as well as to take I
urged Gen. S. to defend himself
which he would not do, allowing
them to go on and weeve a
net around him which when
he wakes up to his true position

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will find it difficult to ⁵
break away from them. ^{for} One
days rule of Nagler the Jail
wouldnt be big enough to
hold these pimps who would
cling like base slaves to the
first energetic effort displayed
in checkmating them in this
damnable conspiracy - I am
not idle here but nothing can
be done of any consequence
untill Gen. S. shows to his
friends that he is Comandant
of Norfolk, that he knows
his own rights, ~~over those~~ and
that off the people over whom
he is placed to protect and
knowing ~~to dare maintain them~~
~~Is life so dear and peace so Sweet~~
~~to be purchased by the price of~~
~~chains an Slavery forbid it~~
~~Almighty God~~ Give my
compliments to the gentleman
"not put up for army use" till

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him and all enquiring
friends that I intend to
be in Norfolk in the course
of a fortnight or three weeks
and I know yet of nothing that
would prevent me of coming
and going at pleasure tell
him that those who "live in
glass houses shouldnt throw
stones" th and that he can
ever ^{have} Peace or War just as he
sees fit to choose. I have done
him more favors than any
other Man in Norfolk. Show
this to Stuple if you like. give
my love to all the folks tell
Amanda I have written a letter
of the same date to her. Try
and get Stuple to convince
the Gen of the true condition of
things so that that the right
may triumph and the latter
get its deserts
Yrs truly
Est. J.

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