



OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG.

Hail glorious Flag! we cherish thee,
Unblemished standard of the free!
A nation's pride, a nation's heart,
Thou art guarded by our country's host
Of heroes firm and brave,
Then fling our banner to the air,
Columbia's stars are glittering there;
And yet, how patriotic, grand,
O'er all the cities of our land,
And ocean's stormy wave.

Annapolis Maryland Oct 12th 1861

Dear Sir,

I embrace this opportunity to address to you a few lines to inform you that I am in good health and I hope that you and all your family are enjoying the same blessing. We left Washington on Saturday last and arrived here on Sunday at 11 O'clock A.M. There were five other regiments encamped at Washington some who left the day before and some the same Day we did. They are all here and with a few exceptions are enjoying good health. These six regiments will form a brigade which will be under the charge of General Viele who is a thorough military man and a man who takes great care of his men. This brigade will be in General Sherman's Division. There will be five brigades in this Division comprising Thirty Thousand troops also Five or Six hundred horses and mules. We will be the first brigade in the Division. All or mostly all those men especially those in our brigade are strong muscular men just such men as we want to defend that glorious flag which waves so

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Fort Kent Pubic Library.

Date: Oct. 12, 1861

Description: Letter from Civil War Soldier about military life in the capital, Washington, D.C. Missing last page.

proudly for the lovers of this beloved country.
Last Monday we were told that the Union flag
had not waved over the Capital of this state for
Three months. On hearing this sad news the General
of our brigade called on the governor of the state
and told him that he wanted him to hoist it
in Fifteen minutes time. It was immediately done
and since then the golden stars and stripes
have proudly waved over that splendid structure
and I trust will wave for many generations
to come. Today I and William Dickey got a
pass from our Captain to go down to the City
and see the Capital that splendid public
building where the Continental Congress
assembled so many sessions. We entered the senate
chamber there we beheld that august assembl-
age of heroes and sages Washington and all
his cabinet Those lion hearted heroes Jefferson
Adams Stone. And an innumerable No of others
all who were once active agents in achieving the
liberties of this glorious Country. They are all
pictured out in the finest of painting and
hung among the walls of that beautiful chamber.
Here also we beheld the desk where in Washington
resigned his Commission also a list of his
Officers names which were opened by his own hand.
From thence we proceeded into another room there
we saw a Cannon presented to the state of Mary-
land by the Rev. Joseph Carkurs Feb. 18th 1841.

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This is one of the cannons brought to Maryland
by the first settlers under Lord Baltimore it was
taken out of the St. Mary's river in 1826 by
Capt. Thomas Carbury. The state preserves it
as a relic - link (connecting the present with
the past) This cannon is about 13 feet long it is
supposed to be over a Hundred years old it is so
old that it is all crumbling to pieces. I took
my pocket knife and picked off a small
piece I will enclose it in this letter. Then we
went upon the top of the Dome where we had
a fair view of the City, it is a beautiful City
nearly surrounded by water. There is also a Navy yard
which looks very nice. We only had an hour to
remain there and consequently our time soon
expired and we had to return to our quarters.
Every thing here out in the country looks very
old and queer. Cattle such as we call horned
cattle in Maine I presume are called here horn-
less as I have not seen a cow or ox with
horns since I left Washington. These sheep
here look more like wolves than sheep.
You seldom see a horse here unless it is one
owned by some wealthy merchant kept as a
carriage horse. All or mostly all farmers
here have mules to hall in their corn. These
mules are harnessed in fours and drove by
Negro Slaves unlike the teamsters of Maine

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Negro slaves unlike the teamsters of Maine

the negro gets upon the neigh pale mule's
back and drives them with bit and reign. As these
mules are very contrary they generally have to
get another Negro teamster who stands ahead
of the lead mules and reigns them by the
bridle. Upon the whole these slaves are the
awkwardest things I have ever seen (if I may
call them things) And I think that their
masters know but precious little more.
People do not look so healthy here as they do
in the Eastern States, you seldom see a young
Lady here with a florid countenance unless
it becomes so by aid of the paint brush. Ladies
here are very pale and plain in their look but
many of them are very kind especially toward
sick soldiers for many of the fair sex
come to the hospital every day with grapes
and sweet meats for the sick. All ladies
who do that are supposed to be Union to the
back home. Long life to all Union people.
Daniel Ingersoll was jumping over a pole
last Saturday and sprained his ankle pretty
bad but I hope it will soon get well
All who left Fort Kent are in good health.
The mail is closing and I cannot write any
longer. Please write to me soon I have written
to you once or twice before but have not
as yet received an answer I trust that

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