



Winslow Nov 23 1862

Miss Forbes

Dear Friend

I have been delaying writing you for some time until I should have an opportunity of sending something for Maine's needy sons in W. but I have not been able to do so for sufficient reasons and remembering that I have a letter to acknowledge containing a Photograph which I shall prize very highly altho without it I should not have forgotten the original who I hope to retain as Friend and correspondant and meet again in our own State ---- I find my Ideas in regard to the War changed somewhat since my visit to W. before I was only anxious to have the army increased indefinitely expend all the resources of the North for the crushing out of the Rebellion but seeing the cost in life and treasure. Seeing the dark side finding a Brother offered a sacrafice makes me to realize the cost of Liberty the worth of our Institutions the danger of haste (almost sometimes a conservative) and now I have said it I feel ashamed

Header text: Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society
(Local Code: Coll. 1035 - 2)

Date: Nov. 23, 1862

Description: Letter from Ira Getchell to Ellen Forbes, a Civil War nurse, about the war.

But to see how much is expected of our Army
the work to be done and how little has
been accomplished I fear that nothing short
of Divine Interposition can save our country
from ruin but I'm blue excuse me. We have
a grand Army a new Commander an -----
honest President (in whom I put great confiden[ce])
wealth, an Intelligent People, and a just
cause. How is your health? have you as much
to do as ever, are the number of disabled
Soldiers decreasing? I am glad to hear you
speak in so high praise of Mr Hathaway he
is in a position to do a great deal of good
tell him to appeal to the people of his state for
aid let him write to the papers, every body talks
a daily now you have done a great deal in
the field and no doubt are doing, dont let
him usurp any of your authority or
gather any of your Laurels Dear Friend
excuse me for writing as much as I have and
what I have also while about it please excuse
my former note and pencil written in
cars and depots while trains were starting
then finished with pencil, and if excusable
please me all the gossip in W. how does W.
take the removal of McClellan? all right
of course, how does the Army? but enough

Ever remaining

Ira E. Getchell

But to see how much is expected of our army
the work to be done and how little has
been accomplished I fear that nothing short
of Divine Interposition can save our country
from ruin but I'm blue excuse me. We have
a grand army a new Commander an -----
honest President (in whom I put great confiden[ce])
wealth, an Intelligent People, and a just
cause.. How is your health & have you as much
to do as ever, are the number of disabled
soldiers decreasing: I am glad to hear you
speak in so high praise of Mr Hathaway he
is in a position to do a great deal of good
tell him to appeal to the people of his state for
a daily now you have done a great deal in
the field and no doubt are doing. dont let
him usurp any of your Laurels Dear Friend
excuse me for writing as much as I have and
what I have also while about it please excuse
my former note and pencil written in
cars and depots while trains were starting
then finished with pencil, and if excusable
please me all the gossip in W. how does W.
take the removal of McClellan &c all right
of course. how does the army & but enough

Ever Remaining

Ira E. Getchell