

**Headquarters 3d Brig., 1st Div., 24th A. C.,
ARMY OF THE JAMES,**

BEFORE RICHMOND, VA., MARCH 25th, 1865.

To the Officers and Soldiers of the Third Brigade:

At last, Soldiers, it becomes my duty to say Farewell! That word may sometimes be spoken and not carry with it the heart's regret, but not by him who has, for years, shared the pleasant companionship of soldiers.

That companionship, with you, I have shared in a campaign which will be celebrated, even in the World's history—celebrated for the brave deeds and manly virtues of a patriot Army, contending for Government, Freedom and Empire—yes, Soldiers, with you!

I will not rehearse your history in that campaign. Suffice it to say, the Record shows, you engaged your country's foes, and had, killed and wounded, some of your number, on fifty-nine different days!—that your losses, in the aggregate, were 1,385, out of 2,693!—and that among the names of the battle-fields, adjudged to belong to your Banners, are:

"WALTHALL JUNCTION," "GREEN VALLEY," "CHESTER STATION," "DRURY'S BLUFF," "RICHMOND PIKE," "BERMUDA HUNDRED," "RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG RAILROAD," "WARE BOTTON CHURCH," "STRAWBERRY PLAINS," "DEEP BOTTOM," "DEEP RUN," "FUSSELL'S MILLS," "SIEGE OF PETERSBURG," "NEWMARKET HEIGHTS," "NEWMARKET ROAD," "DARBYTOWN ROAD," "CHARLES CITY ROAD."

Be proud of your record, veterans; you have a right to be.

Should your country need your services in the field again, not only your past conduct, but your present unsurpassed excellence in drill and discipline, furnish the surest guaranty that your future may be even more brilliant than the past. Reviewed by the Lieutenant General and the Secretary of War a few days since, your soldierly appearance won from those high officials the strongest expressions of their approbation and delight. What would they have thought had they seen you *fight*!

The respect and confidence of such troops, after such service, is honor enough. It is a sufficient reward for the best efforts—the best endeavors of a life time. I am indebted to you, Comrades. Your conduct has afforded me the keenest pleasure of my life, and while life shall last, memory will constantly recur to the conduct of the "Iron Brigade," with as much pride and gratitude as the heart is capable of.

I heartily congratulate you upon the prospect of early Peace. In the opinion of our greatest General, the "hard fighting is over." May the day come quickly when you can return to your homes, to resume your peaceful pursuits and to receive the honors which belong to our country's defenders. Then will you, in your civil life, vindicate the high character of the army, by aiding to restore and preserve the public morals, and by proving to your fellow-citizens that in learning to become good soldiers you have become the best of citizens.

For your generous confidence and support, Soldiers, you have the grateful thanks of your late Brigade Commander, and his best wishes for your future welfare, prosperity and happiness. Farewell!

To the 11th Maine: my old Companions, farewell!

H. M. PLAISTED,
*Colonel 11th Maine Volunteers, and
Brevet Brigadier General.*