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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1862 January 20

Patrick Guiney

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Morris Hill Pa.

Jan. 20th 1862

My dear Jennie:

I am in possession of three letters from you which I received since I wrote my last to you. I cannot give any reason for allowing your favors to thus accumulate without acknowledgment, except this that, for the time being, my thoughts are indivisible. I cannot command a detachment of men on a scouting expedition towards Vienna, or a large Picket Guard posted close to the enemy's lines, do duty as "Brigade officer of the Day," or, in fact, do any military duty without having my whole thought centered upon and

occupied with the particular thing which I am about. It is only, my dear, when I am off duty, (which seldom happens now as St. Val. Beard is not well,) that I can write to you. Still, darling, I know that I have not written to you as often as I might. But then I know it's all right. You may get vexed at me, but I defy you, Jennie, to keep vexed with me. I know you can't. So you see, Jennie, I presume upon your good heart and kindness to forgive me, no matter how negligent I may be. I must be always myself - I never can act the character of somebody else. I am not to blame for the manner in which the Lord made me. Negligence is but a development of myself. You ought

to like this quality, darling, because it is me all out. It is no use sulking anymore upon what I have not done. I feel your forgiveness. I know you would kiss me if you could.

My dear, I did think of "that day" in January; and I was all alone too in my little tent. I had a quiet and day-dream of days gone by - and you and little Coolie. I was sad, darling. Sadness is sweet to me. But O! Jennie, how heart-wishes are denied - what sport is made with love, and hope, and purpose, by Fate Fate - that irresistible power which commands "Onward, onward! look neither behind, nor to ^{the} Right nor Left, but onward!" And so we go through life to the end - to the grave - to another and to a nobler life.

my dear: I could not ^{help} laughing
at the idea of our having money
in bank. I begin to feel more im-
portant than moral. I am doing
that we are not in a position
to increase the amount much.
my horse and equipments cost
me a great deal. I got cheated
in the horse too. Congress is
going to reduce our pay. Why

I know not. We cannot have any
string scarcely. The wretched
numbers in Congress must
have hobbies and therefore pitch
in to the army. Just the very thing
they ought to let alone, as present,
or cherish and encourage it.

The attention of these nervous, weak-
-eyed political brokers, is more
upon the dollar than upon the
country. They wish to replenish the
treasury by bleeding the officers
of the army. I wish I had a
Congressional Battalion of them
under me for the usual three
days on picket in the snow
and sleet and cold and danger,

O! my, how delighted they would
be!

And then I would send them
back to reduce our pay. They
never thought of doing it
while there was nothing for
soldiers to do, and the army
was filled with traitors. Now,
that friends to the country
are in the army and hardships
are to be endured and dan-
gers to be encountered, the
politicians must reduce the
pay of officers so as to save
money to the Government.

Why do they not reduce their
own pay? Oh! no.

In my last, I spoke
to you about an "Advance".
Our Regiment has not moved
yet. Perhaps will not for
some time. Contradictory
orders ~~of~~ are still the order
of the day.

I enclose you twenty dollars
- all I can afford - as a
contribution to your fund.
Who knows to what pro-
-positions this little contribu-
-tion will swell? I will
endeavor to save all I
can.

My health is good
- rugged as ever I was.

This is Sunday and
I am glad to be able to spend
part of it with you. How
is Loolie?

Mrs. Nugent is in
Camp.

Give my love to James
is married! Well, well!

Good Bye dear
and kiss Loolie for me
P.R.S.

P.S. Remember me to your
Brother John, your father,
sisters Mary and Fizzie.
There is some talk here
of our being sent into
an "Irish Division" under
Gen. Shields. Some talk
also about Capt. Barr being
made Brigadier. If these
changes take place, I
will aim for a high
mark - and hit it too.

P.R.S.