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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1862 January 30

Patrick Guiney

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Morris Hill, Va.

Jan 30th 1862

My Dear Jennie:

Yesterday we escorted the remains of Lt. Col. Peard to the depot at Falls Church and put them on board the cars for Alexandria from whence they were sent by Steam boat to Washington. The funeral was a splendid one and was attended by the Regiment as well as all the Colonels, Lt. Colonels, Majors, and various other officers in our division as well as by the General Morell and Staff. The officers of the "Irish Brigade" (Preacher) met the Coffin at Alexandria.

The Colonel and all the Captains accompanied the remains to Washington. As the Colonel was not going, I could not go farther than Falls Church, and took Command of the Regt. Home to Camp. Poor Record! He was a good hearted man and a lover of his native land. He died a lonesome death and a very dreary one. O! God spare me from such a death; if I am not to die at home, give me a death amid the smoke, war, and glory of the battle field. He died on last Monday at noon in our Brigade Hospital. His disease was Hemorrhage of the brain. I pity his wife and his numerous young family. But they shall not be forgot.

- Ten now allowed to want while the officers of the Mint are able to remember.

Probably, I will be appointed Lt. Colonel. I do not know who is to be Major. There are many aspirants and as Colonel has cannot please them all, there will be a loud but harmless rumour among the disappointed ones. I love to rise in Rank, Jennie, but it makes me sad to rise on the grave of an old friend. Yet, as fortune invites me, and has been heretofore so lavishly kind in my rapid advancement, I do feel like taking her favors as they come!

When I went in to

money matters. do not put
away one cent of what I send
you so long as you can use
it.

The Colonel now kindly
allows me to use the horse
formerly used by Lt. Col.
Pearce. The Col. owns the horse
so that now I have a good
one and ^a fast runner. I hope
he will break his neck if he
ever runs well on a Bull
Run Retreat.

Do you remember the
little watch which you gave
me? It was sent out to me
by some one from Boston. Does
not fortune smile upon me?
As I am going on Picket to-
morrow, it will be several
days before I will be able

to write to you. You must
write to me, though, for your
letter will be sent out to me
on pikeet. I enjoy myself
first rate our hear the rebels.
Their proximity makes things
lively. I will return to camp
Sunday evening "if nothing
happens" as the boys say.

But what of the "Ad-
-vance?" I do not know. We
are stuck in the mud yet. I
think Gen. Sherman sends out these
orders simply to shake us up.
We are already back.

Remember me to
all friends - you know them
- and kiss my little pet
for me.

Ever yours

W. H. Sherman

Washington to send a telegram
to Mrs. Beard, I met Dr. Marsh
of Roxbury. I was glad to see
him. To-day Mr. Houston and
a friend of his, dined with
me. Mr. Houston is so warmly
patriotic that I enjoyed his
visit very much. I regret that
our camp was so muddy. We
could not see it to advantage.
I wonder how he got through
the "Sacred Soil" to Washington
?

I have received three let-
ters from you within two days
one by politeness of Mr. H. H. H.
was very pleasant, as I had
not received one for a week
before. My dear, your kind
and wise-like advice will

not be lost upon me. How de-
-lighted I am to be assured by
you that my little pet still
remembers me. Bless her!

I am glad that the
subsidy from the city has
been discontinued. I felt
like a pauper while I was
getting it. Thank Heaven
I do not need it now. My
salary is and will be large
enough for you and me while
I live and remain in the
army. If I should fall in
battle, if I am correctly in-
-formed, you would be enti-
-tled to half my present pay
during widowhood - beg your
pardon Jennie, I meant to
say - life. So darling, we
have nothing to fear as to