

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

---

Col. Patrick Guiney Letters

Special Collections

---

3-9-1862

## Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1862 March 9

Patrick Guiney

Follow this and additional works at: [https://crossworks.holycross.edu/patrick\\_guiney\\_letters](https://crossworks.holycross.edu/patrick_guiney_letters)



Part of the [American Material Culture Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Guiney, Patrick, "Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1862 March 9" (1862). *Col. Patrick Guiney Letters*. 38.  
[https://crossworks.holycross.edu/patrick\\_guiney\\_letters/38](https://crossworks.holycross.edu/patrick_guiney_letters/38)

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Col. Patrick Guiney Letters by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

Miners Hill Va.

March 9<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear Jennie:

I have yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst. The trouble of which I spoke in my last is not yet ended although much modified. The Colonel never forgets, and will not even forgive when he knows he is wrong. He is sometimes strangely generous and at other times selfish and unjust. No act of mine could merit his permanent or spasmodic wrath, yet he attempted to shower it upon me. But he finds that I am not an easy victim. I attribute his conduct to two or three combined causes. He does not seem to be governed by any fixed principles in life, and his nature is crossed



in the grain. I am, although I say it myself, popular not only with our own officers and men but also with those with whom we have from time to time come in contact. He does not possess this good fortune to such an extent. I think the difference causes the difficulty. Then again, although in an exclusively military point of view I think he is fitted for it, I do not expect myself over much to have him promoted to a Brigadier Generalship. This may seem strange, as his promotion would make me Colonel of the Ninth. Heretofore, I have been advanced because I deserved it, and I never will advance in position hereafter at any other price. However, Jennie, I may be siding

this little matter undue prominence and doing Colonel Bass injustice. A great deal of my anxiety may arise from my own sensitiveness and imagination. He, has, so far, done nothing decidedly offensive to me, but he has been severe in his exactions of duty. Last Wednesday we went out close to the rebel lines and were out all night and the next day, we were sure of a fight. He ordered me with two companies to his front about two miles beyond Vienna. I went and the rebels only exchanged shots with my cavalry but did not molest the infantry. I had no orders to attack and did not, but kept the rebels from destroying a Rail Road. If the fight went on I would have got it hot and heavy with my small force and so far away from means of support



When in the night when we with-  
drew into Vienna, he sent me  
out again to command a picket  
guard. I dare say that in the bat-  
-the field, too, I will be sent,  
may ordered to dangerous points.  
It is not this I object to but to  
the spirit which seems to prompt  
him. But I will go, and, under all  
circumstances, exact in opportunities  
for glory. I think my course at  
Vienna astonished him - he saw  
I was not vexed, but rather pleased  
and I guess in a week or two he  
will give me up as a victim and  
treat me better. He is much more  
agreeable to-day. These remarks  
also, my dear, will give you  
the reason why I did not write  
sooner and as I promised. After  
coming home I went in to Washing-



endeavouring to get my pay so as to  
send you some money but I failed  
to succeed. Our paymaster has  
gone down to pay Burnside's men  
and will not get any money un-  
-til near the last of this month  
if we do then. You must do the  
best you can.

I visited the "Irish  
Brigade" to-day and dined with  
General Meagher and lady in  
their tent - about ten miles from  
here. He was very cordial to  
me - and Mrs. Meagher is not  
only beautiful and entertaining  
but good. Colonel Bass and  
General Meagher are not so  
friendly as at a former period  
so that my visit to him has  
a local significance.

My sailing I was just

going to talk to you and  
Foolie but infer all.

Think of me kindly Jimmie.

An order to move at  
daylight has just come  
It is now 12 o'clock of  
night.

farewell sweet wife  
may Heaven protect you  
and bless the child of  
our love with beauty intel-  
-lect and virtue. Pray  
God give us speedy victory  
and our wives and children  
again!

Robert Robt  
Chimney



P.S. As there are  
no postage stamps  
in camp. I am  
obliged to endorse  
this a "Soldiers Letter"  
on which you <sup>may</sup>  
3 cents in Restburg.

The movement  
is General. Prob-  
ably towards  
Monassas  
Mall & Quelch  
the Rebels are  
P.M.