

College of the Holy Cross

CrossWorks

---

Col. Patrick Guiney Letters

Special Collections

---

5-7-1863

## Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1863 May 7

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, 1863 May 7" (1863). *Col. Patrick Guiney Letters*. 101.  
[https://crossworks.holycross.edu/patrick\\_guiney\\_letters/101](https://crossworks.holycross.edu/patrick_guiney_letters/101)

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.



At Camp Near Galumath Va.

May 7. 1862

My dear friend

After an absence of ten days on the other side of the Rappahannock, we are once more in our old camp. How many hours or days we will remain here I am not able to say nor surmise. I found my log-house a wreck. I am now in an old tent pitched where I was when you arrived here the first time day.

I suppose the newspapers have given all particulars of the recent battles. At any rate my dear I can not in a word to speak of them. We are whipped again - not in battle ~~exactly~~, but for want of numbers. Sedgwick lost all we had gained. He had not men enough to hold the heights of Fredericksburg - so when he was driven nothing remained for us but to abandon Chancellorsville as the possession of Fredericksburg was the purpose of our flank movement on that



point. It is true that if we had defeated the enemy at Chancellorsville in any one of the battles fought there, Sedgewicks disaster would have been of less consequence. We certainly would have gained a great victory were it not for the cowardice of the 11th Corps - a German Corps which was formerly commanded by Sigel but now by Gen Howard of Maine. The entire Corps ran. The rest of the Army fought well. Hooker made the best movement (and did it in the best manner) that has been made during this war. The deserved success, and was beaten by two things - want of numbers, and the disgraceful flight of the flying Dutchmen. I saw Hooker himself working like an enlisted man at the guns. I almost wept for him when I heard the retreat was ordered. I shall admire him forever.

As to our own loss in the engagement it was not serious. I lost fourteen or fifteen only - none of them died on the field - and perhaps all will ultimately recover. The "Winth" on account of its being reliable was kept in support of the Artillery most of the time - hence

it is that we did not suffer more. I had all sorts of commands during the battles. Sometimes I had the whole Brigade under me - sometimes three regiments - sometimes two regiments - sometimes my own regiment. Griffin placed me in command of the Brigade once when he could not find Mr. Quade nor Schweitzer. Mr. Quades horse ran off with ~~me~~ him and all his staff followed - it was fun to see them dashing to the rear. Schweitzer went astray and several other mysterious things occurred of that nature ~~the~~ all of which made more work for me. I have not slept two successive hours for the past ten days.

My health is good now, but of course I am very tired and weary - in fact, heart sick over our defeat. O! God, when shall our defeats cease?

Glynn & Plunkett are well - Plunkett goes for peace - he says "it's no use."

We are expecting to move every hour. I will write again as soon as possible. My love to Louie.

Quincy