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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1863 June 6

Patrick Guiney

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Camp 3rd Mass. Jan 6. 1863

My dear Jennie:

I am in possession of several letters from you as well as papers received since I wrote last. You will overlook the delay in my writing when I tell you that I have been awaiting the arrival of Major Dutton with your presents and those sent to one while I was in Maryland so that as I hoped, I might be able to gratify you by an acknowledgment of their receipt. But alas! Major Dutton has arrived, but not a box! He gave them up to Harder's Express of New York. Even the former boxes have not yet come. What misfortune we have in these matters. Still, I hope to obtain them soon.

My dear, I can scarcely give an opinion as to the future of this war. I hope for success. I fear defeat. Of this, however, feel assured: our army will fight bravely and deserve success. If the nation

dies, the monument erected to commemorate its fall, should be inscribed - "The Republic which had the world at its service, expired for the want of a general to lead its armies." Now the thought of our defeat pains me; yet I cannot shake off the impression of events. If we could only be successful how proudly I could live afterwards in the knowledge of my humble participation. If we fail I never can be half the man. The charm of life will be gone. Even now the "Star Spangled Banner" sounds like a wail to me. God is above us, though, and no Christian should despair.

I mean to have done so long ago but forget me to this writing.

If the Army should have a rest I will see you during the winter or Spring. I may have an opportunity soon. I am anxious to get that picture of Lodie. Send it by mail. I will send you money as rapidly as possible. The government has cut down our pay very much. By the way; I wish you to go privately to Mr. Dudley, City Treasurer, and enquire the amount of money which was paid by the city to you while I was commissioned. Send me the item. I will pay it back at once. Do this promptly (on margin) Quincy