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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1863 July 16

Patrick Guiney

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Camp at Berlin Md.
July 16. 1862

My dear Jennie

Your letter of July 9th reached me to day. I am surprised that you did not receive a scrawl which I sent to you from the battlefield of Gettysburgh July 5th. I entrusted it to a civilian who happened to be passing and he promised to post it.

It is no wonder, darling that you should complain of my tardiness in writing to you. But really while we were engaged in those recent rapid and all important marches, I could not ~~set down~~ ^{set myself down} to anything of a personal nature even if I had time. But it was, more than all, impossible to mail any letter unless through the agency of the residents. At ~~last~~ the hurry seems to be over

at least for a few days and I hope to be able to write to you and hear from you often. However I regard our stay here as one of a very temporary character. It is said that we are simply awaiting pontoons etc. to cross the Potomac again; but the fact is, if it were an object to cross immediately, we could do so at several points without pontoons at all, as we have done on several former occasions. I think the delay here is - 1st to arrange the details and elements of a new Campaign and 2^d to give rest to this wearied army.

To day I have been very unwell and if we had to march one mile farther I should have been obliged to give up. The heat, exposure so long continued, and want of proper food nearly brought on a fever - at any rate I never felt so before in my life. I am better this evening and feel scarcely any trace of that sensation which oppressed me earlier in the day.

See, you are aware "has escaped" etc. It is no silly job to catch him, I assure you. When once he left Gettysburgh it was impossible ~~it~~ to give him any fatal blow. Gettysburgh, ~~on~~ the evening of July 3^d were the time and place to ruin his Army. We saw his army flying from the field, broken, beaten, terrified! O! how I felt the significance of that movement. But ^{made} allowed it to pass - stood still, and gave us - another years work. In common with thousands I was disgusted to see such an opportunity lost.

Well, the soulless ruffians of New-York and Boston I see are making terribly in the very hour of victory. I hope the artillery will exempt them from the draft forever!

Edward McLaughlin is here and well. Sullivan Hanly and Mahan are still off-trimmed of humbugs! Kiss my little pet for me.

Quincy