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Letter to Patrick Guiney, 1862 July 17

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July 17th 1862

I have reflected to end on my letter, and now when I resume the task of finishing it - it is with other feelings - feelings too sad, to give utterance to.

The painful news of the death of Col. Cass has felt like a dead weight upon my spirit. When the first part of my letter was written, the welcome, cheerful intelligence that he was better, came to my ears - therefore, sick as I was - buoyancy & elasticity was afforded at the prospect of the recovery of our Commander.

You know that I have good reason to mourn his loss - he was a true friend to me, ever anxious as to my health and welfare - He

has gone and, there is a blank hard to filled! Oh! willingly, cheerfully would I have gilded up my own life to save his! His wife must be in a sad state of mind - I wish I could She has in her letters all along urged him to come home, she seemed to have a presentiment that something would happen to him -

I cannot write more - at this time. I drew up some resolutions yesterday afternoon which were adopted by the battalions, formed in Chillon Square. They are being copied now by Ralph Bayley and will appear in the paper.

A copy will be sent to Mrs. Cass. I had many other things to say but, must forego

them now - I feel very sick to-day.
We have a new Asst. Surgeon, a
fine & skilful young man - New is
sick & the new Surgeon has to see
to our Regiment & the 4th Michigan.

Our men are delighted to think
that at last they have some
Medical Man, whose energies
are devoted to the care and comfort
of the sick & wounded. Gen. Hiff
says Drew must be dismissed
the service. I am taking Tincture

of Iron, three times a day to
give me strength & give them to
the Lord - Do not forget to

bring me out a good box of Soda
Water powder & a box of Fayne's
Pills, for the liver. Call on
Smith & Bates, 46 Washington St. &

give them my regards & let them
know how I am - Have you
seen the N. Y. Herald of the 15th July?

Gen. Hecum's official account of the
Battle of Gaines' Mills, gives our Regiment
the greatest praise & speaks of you being
in command & calling on the Regiment
to "follow our Colors" &c. - Obtain the paper
& read it - Good bye - Remember me
to all friends - Your friend -

John W. Mahan
Write as soon as you receive this! A. P. C. D.