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## Letter to Patrick Guiney, 1862 July18

John Mahan

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Macmahon

Porter's 5<sup>th</sup> Penn. Army Corps.  
Moull's div. - Griffin's Reg.  
Camp 9<sup>th</sup> Mass. Vols.  
July 18/62

Dear Friend Quincy -

Yesterday I finished a  
hastily written scrawl commenced  
on the 14<sup>th</sup>, but, the reception  
of a letter from you this evening  
caused me to immediately take  
my pen, not only in justice to  
you but, to myself - for certainly  
if my honor has been brought  
in question by the rumors you  
speak of. I am glad that,  
notwithstanding the unfounded  
& most unjust stories, your confidence  
in my honesty & good  
faith has not diminished -

I now defy and challenge  
every and all parties having  
circulated these falsehoods in  
regard to both you and myself



to prove either of their assertions -

If they or any one can produce a letter from me, in which I called in question your Courage or Conduct in battle, - I now ask them to produce it, - or, forever hold their Handlings tongues!

Again, if I defy any person to come forward and say that he has ever heard me say any thing injurious to you or, your Conduct in the different engagements.

Now then let the fine mouthed wretches that have attempted to break down a brave man's Character, - produce their proofs!

Furthermore, I proclaim, - and you may show this letter to the parties of them a set of lying, cowardly, libellous

prolutions - without any Character themselves - they would place other men in the same Category with their good for nothing collection of dry bones and breathsome hides. - If there is any one thing which I covet it is my honor & good name and, when there is any attempt made to injure either, I will not select polite phrases.

I hope to be able to go home, - as soon as you return, - on a few weeks leave of absence - you know my health demands this, as well as business matters.

When I do, if any of these cutthroats desire satisfaction or explanation of they shall have it to their hearts' content, I assure them. I do not know - you do not say



blow from the stock of a  
Musket, which made me see  
stars - I whirled around for a  
moment and then fell out,  
as I said above, luckily I was  
carried off the field, soon after  
our Colonel - The next morning  
I left the sick hospital and  
with assistance reached the  
Regiment, then near Harrison's Landing.

But I must stop - an <sup>General</sup> Griffin  
order has just come for me  
to act as Brigade Field Officer,  
so I must do my dash &  
mount the war horse - pitch  
into the M. D.'s & Officers of Day -  
the unlucky Regimental Lty. - !  
Yours

John W. Mahan