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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1862 October 18

Patrick Guiney

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General Grant's P. M. Mon. Mts.
Oct. 18. 1862

My dear Jennie:

I received yours of the 12th inst. today on my return from Virginia. We were gone two days and had quite a brisk time with our old acquaintances the rebels. We drove them into Virginia about twelve miles in the direction of Martinsburg and fought them or rather they fought us every mile of the road. They only had a small force and our troops had some splendid fun with them. I do not know the losses on either side. I saw lots of a number of rebels dead by the road side and I must say that they were the best and most intelligent ~~rebels~~ looking rebels I ever saw dead or alive. I met with only the loss of one man Thomas Mullen Co. H. very dangerously wounded by a shell which burst in our midst and most singularly hurt no more.

My dear, you will not think of coming out here. It is no place for you. We are off every few days somewhere and everything seems unsettled. The nights are cold - nothing but scanty snows to cover us. When we settle, if we do at all, for the winter I will want you to come out - not otherwise. In the mean time, send my things to Washington D.C. per Express.

I have not received any envelope enclosing stamps. I have received journals and lithographs, music etc. There is a band out here belonging to the regular army who are practicing the air and will play it soon in

public. The officers and men like the affair very well. I do not fancy the words, but the music is fine. But the words are not so bad when one reflects that the portion of the Irish people who enlist are generally of the "Mickey O'Flaherty" sort of people. The Aristocratic Nobles are still at home. Mickey's sentiments are fine - correct - pathetic - patriotic!

Now, I fancy you, mention any more about that robust - and fame-seeking widow to me. I have demanded a large regimental fund of her which she has belonging to the Ninth. Her husband had it in his possession. It was some two thousand five hundred dollars. She does not seem inclined to part with it, but she must or take publicly the consequences.

I have been feeding an old horse which was used by the Colonel's car and which, I think, also belonged to the regiment. She wants me to pay for him. I wrote to her to take him off - and that I would not feed him any longer. She is, therefore, I suppose, rampant! Well, it will do her good to shake her up once in a while. I hear Sutton is Major. I am glad of it.

Lt. Finerty and Capt. O'Leary have been tried by Court Martial and are now awaiting sentence. I told you I'd handle those fellows at the proper time. I have, and will. O'Leary was tried for drunkenness - Finerty for disobedience. Flynn is slightly ill - all other ^{officers} well. Scanlin will go home soon sure. Please find the Post in which Seale published that document and send to me. I do not get the Post now. I received letter to-day from friend Treason. Apologize for me to Mulvey. I have not time to write much. What is the news? I shall dream of you and Fannie tonight. Adieu love. Finerty