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## Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1863 February 26

Patrick Guiney

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Wheat Greaves 2d Brigade

Feb. 26. 1863

My dear Jennie

Your note of the sixteenth inst. I received last evening. I am rather sorry that those people who call upon <sup>you</sup> to describe the omissions to Leary and others, should not find it convenient to converse upon different subjects. If there is any one thing I am sick of it is the eternal prattle about myself and my enemies. Let them be left to me. In the end they will get their deserts. As a matter of fact these fellows are not my enemies at all for they well know my motives have been good and that I never injure anyone on personal grounds alone. But the unarmed traitors of the North End encourage them in seeming hostility to me, because I am for the Government in all its measures - and they know that I am. Then another cause of Irish opposition to me is sending that Green Flag to the State House. Well, let them sail on! When I see fit to make myself heard, thank God, I am able to make myself understood by the public. In the mean time, Jennie, I must admit that these little things are annoying - but I have endured



them so long (as you say) they fall lightly upon  
me now. There is one incident which I confess  
did hurt my feelings very much - that was to  
see in the Boston Pilot that I was denounced  
for many crimes of the commission of which  
I never dreamed. If, after reading the article,  
Donohoe had come in my way, upon my soul  
fellow, I would have killed him - or beaten him  
so badly that his best friends would not have  
known him for six months. John C. Tucker told  
the truth of Donohoe when he said he had a  
soul so small that the Almighty could not find  
it on the Day of Judgement. I suppose he was  
well paid for his work. However, fellow, a copy  
of the Pilot never shall enter my house again  
if I can help it. As to the presentation to Geary  
etc. they are the standing jokes in the regiment  
among officers and men. There is a report here that  
Geary has been presented with 9 gold shears by  
his admirers in token of his skill - as a tailor.  
But of course this is a joke. Poor Hanly! were  
it not for certain things, I would cause him  
to be dismissed as a worthless humbug. But when  
I think of this, I ask myself, with whom shall  
I fill his place? Alas! I have none better who  
could be appointed. He is well understood here  
the men have a perfect contempt for him.  
Pearlin, Geary etc.

Now, my dear, let us talk about other matters. You  
ask me why I was unhappy when at home. Well,  
dear, I scarcely can tell. I had been thinking for a  
long time of seeing you - you only. In all the watchful  
moments during which I was obliged to associate  
with those who were not congenial to me, I thought  
of the time when I should see you and have many  
trials with patience in that thought. I thought of the  
perfect happiness which I would enjoy with you  
when at home. But when I got home - first the  
news of that movement disconcerted me for I  
correctly realized that Hanly and Sutton would  
both fail in the hour of necessity and that Griffin  
would release Geary and put him in command.  
Then again instead of meeting you only, at home  
I met three others whom I had not pictured  
to myself as a part of home. I also met Father  
Sully and my mother both of whom I would soon  
then that miserable little Mohan bringing a woman  
of bad character into my home, and his likeness  
on the mantle-piece in our parlour. You, Jennie, were  
all I could ask my heart ever craved, but do  
pardon ~~my~~ meanness (silly as it may seem) when  
I tell you that my picture of home, in other as-  
pects, was a picture merely. I hope I shall grow  
wiser and less sensitive, but while the process is going  
on, do, my dear cherished darling, pardon a nature for  
which I can scarcely be held responsible.



This letter has already exceeded the usual length  
and I will only stop to enclose you forty  
dollars which was deposited with me by one  
of the men. You can use it as I will settle  
with him some pay-day when he wishes  
his money. I expect to get a box tonight from  
Adams Express. I am still in command  
of the Brigade, but I also have to give my  
attention to regimental affairs as Sutton  
is sick again. I am kept pretty busy  
I assure you. I had a sharp talk with my  
friend Sniffer the other day - I was assured  
that he had something against me and that  
I knew what it was. Well, I do. He did  
not make much in the conversation. I  
answered him curtly and disconcerted him  
with my apparent coolness and assumed  
dignity. But I must close dear wife  
with kisses for you and Lavinia.

Triney