

This morning a large force of cavalry and a battery passed through, en route for the vicinity where their presence are required. Both the men and the horses looked very much as though they needed rest, having done considerable marching of late. A soldier was found dead on the Ferry road, his name and regiment were unknown, and was buried by the Pennsylvania engineers. We had some heavy showers yesterday; there was only about six inches of water in our tents, which made them very comfortable for sleeping purposes. At midnight it commenced again, and continued till daylight. The Potomac must be rather high just now, which will make it all the better for our side. Ten men left to-day for Harper's Ferry; they went in an ambulance, with their arms and 3 day's rations. They are sent there to destroy the railroad bridge, for which purpose each man took an axe. Major Coles, the efficient Provost Marshall of Frederick, and able commander of a battallion of Maryland cavalry, ceded the men at the head of his command. In prison-ers were brought in this evening. I learned that our cavalry that just came in, that every gap in the South Mountain and elsewhere, is well guarded by our forces. The rebels will undoubtedly have a hard time getting back.

P. S., 6th.—The ten men who left yesterday for Harper's Ferry, in charge of Sergt. Moore, returned this morning. They report having succeeded, with the aid of an abundance of coal oil, in destroying all the timber and wood work of the railroad bridge. They were fired at several times, but they returned with nobody hurt. Our cavalry, which was in the advance, saw about one hundred rebel cavalry, who skedaddled to the Virginia side. The river is high and fording at that point will soon be impossible.

F. H. W.

#### From the 50th (Engineer) Regiment.

FREDERICK, Md., July 8, 1863.

Frederick has been alive since Sunday with troops arriving and passing through to intercept the retreating rebels, who are said to be making their way to the Potomac, greatly disgusted with their reception at Gettysburg. Nine hundred prisoners passed through on Monday, also thirty-four wagons filled with wounded rebels. A spy was hung about 10 miles from town last Monday, by Gen. Buford's orders—three more were captured yesterday; they are not yet disposed of. Two rebel surgeons were brought in yesterday, also twenty-six prisoners. Many of the prisoners say they think it is all up with the Southern confederacy. With Lee's army broken up, and Vicksburg taken, in their opinion, the Union will soon be restored, and peace and good will prevail.

The 7th N. Y. N. G. are here from Baltimore. Some of the poor fellows complained of being sent down here, they expecting to go to Pennsylvania. They ought to exchange places with one of our volunteer regiments for a short time, they would see the difference. Maj. Gen. Meade and staff arrived yesterday, and are staying at the United States Hotel. Gen. French was serenaded last night by the band of the 7th N. Y., which, after discoursing several pieces and partaking of refreshments, proceeded to General Meade's headquarters. The same compliment was paid to General Pleasanton by the band of the Sixth Regular Cavalry. The Twelfth

Army corps are passing through the town. They are to a man, all anxious to push on and prevent the rebels crossing. It is reported that the rebels are crossing at several places on the river, but it is hardly credited. The 107th New York have just marched by—they report their losses in the late battles very slight. It commenced raining about sunset yesterday, and has continued without cessation all night, and is still pouring down. Lee will have a dismal time bidding farewell to "My Maryland" this summer. The latest news received here is very encouraging. By the disposition made of our forces, but few of the rebels will get back without going by the way of Baltimore. We expect to leave to-day, but where we are going we cannot say. From some cause or other we have received no mail of late. All letters should be directed to the Company and regiment via Washington.

F. B. W.

**From the 50th (Engineer) Regiment.**

HEADQUARTERS 3d ARMY CORPS,  
NEAR HAGERSTOWN MD.  
July 14, 1863.

Our detachment left Frederick on the 8th inst. likewise Maj. Gen. French, who is assigned to the command of the 3d Corps, which consists of the old corps and the brigades commanded by Generals Morris and Elliot. Our detachment is under the immediate command of Gen. French. We have marched very slowly so far, which causes some discussion on the subject by the troops, who are all anxious to give the decisive blow to the rebellion. This corps is held in reserve, and in supporting distance to the gallant 5th Corps, which is a mile in advance. Yesterday the troops were formed, arms were stacked, and all ready to move at a moment's notice, as an attack was expected. During the afternoon it was rumored that the rebels were driven out of Hagerstown and that the latter place was now held by our troops. All the wagons were sent to the rear and every preparation made for the expected battle. On the hills and in the valleys could be seen the gallant hosts of the Union army, their arms stacked, resting somewhat from the fatigues of the past month. Batteries of artillery had their horses hitched to their pieces; the ambulances were in the rear, ready for the reception of the wounded. The scene was indeed suggestive, and I could not think otherwise—that miles away, surrounded by peace and plenty, the absent ones were not forgotten, and that while prayers were ascending to the great disposer of events for their safety, their husbands, sons and brothers were at the same time, while resting beside their trusty weapons, thinking of the time when the cause in which they are engaged will be accomplished, peace and good will abound throughout our reunited land, when all who survive this struggle can return home with the conscientious conviction of having done their duty.

There was some heavy showers towards night and this morning gives promise of more rain. I was informed this morning, by a man who lives between here and Williamsport, that the rebels are very despondent and think their cause is hopeless. They expect to be captured, as they have no means of escape, being almost entirely surrounded. They are, however, disposed to try and fight their way out, and for that purpose are probably massing their troops at Williamsport, or in that vicinity. You will undoubtedly

know the result before this reaches you.

I learn from Col. James, of the 106th N. Y., that companies H, I and C are at Harper's Ferry with a pontoon train, under the command of Maj. Brainard. The Army of the Potomac seem to have had great confidence in Gen. Hooker, and, so far, I have not found a single man who did not like him. However, they make no fuss; they are as heretofore, and do not care who leads them if they are only led to victory and are not sacrificed uselessly as they were during

#### From the 50th (Engineer) Regiment.

Correspondence of the Democrat and American.

PLEASANT VALLEY, MD.,  
July 17th, 1863.

The Maryland campaign is ended and the rebels are again on the sacred soil, to be again chased by the Army of the Potomac. Whatever may be the opinion of the people at large at the escape of Lee and his army, one thing is certain, the army is as much disappointed as though it had met with a serious disaster; and who can blame them, after enduring so much to effect the capture of the entire rebel force on the Maryland side, which was in their grasp, and only awaited the command to make the attack. It appears that the corps commanders were equally divided on the time of making the attack. But why should some, or any of our generals be in a hurry when they are making such a nice thing of it, and have their waiters and attendants, the best the country affords, and plenty of "good whisky"—and consequently have a good time generally. Our army was five or six days between Frederick and Williamsport—twenty-four miles distant—three of which were spent in sight of the rebel lines. During the past month the Army of the Potomac has done all that an army could do for the success of our cause and the annihilation of the rebel army, and would have gained their hearts' desire had it not been for bad generalship, and thereby a glorious victory was lost; which, with Vicksburg and Fort Hudson being ours, the rebellion would be ended in a short time. The rebel works were hastily thrown up, and principally consisted of rails, rocks and trees, with a slight covering of earth, and a few embrasures for guns, none of which had been placed in position. It was a mere nothing and could easily have been carried. Had Gen. Meade attacked, on Sunday or Monday, the whole rebel army would have been captured without doubt. They commenced crossing on Monday, and by Tuesday morning all had crossed, with the exception of two thousand, principally deserters.

On the return march, twelve men died on the 15th, belonging to the 8d corps, from the effects of sun stroke and exhaustion. The roadsides were literally covered with exhausted men, who could go no farther. Some of our Generals have an idea that the troops want to see the country. They generally march three miles, the necessary distance. A fine horse to ride, plenty of good things to eat, saddle bags filled with black bottles, probably containing refreshments—in contrast with the crackers and coffee which is usually the diet of the rank and file, who march with their loads and do the fighting.

Companies A, C, F, I, H and K are at Harper's Ferry and Berlin. A bridge was laid at the former place on the 13th, and one at the latter place on the 16th. Lieut. Col. Spaulding and Major Brainard are in command. The remainder of the regiment is at Washington.

18th.—We left our camp in Pleasant Valley

yesterday afternoon, and reported to Colonel Spaulding, in compliance with orders, and went to work with the other companies laying another bridge, which had just arrived from Washington. There is one bridge at the Ferry, and two at this place, Berlin.

The 140th regiment crossed over with the 5th corps during the afternoon. I regret not having the pleasure of seeing this gallant regiment of old Monroe, but was informed that the boys were in good spirits considering the circumstances. It has rained most of the day, and the roads are in a wretched condition. The other corps will probably cross to-day. They have been resting and drawing clothing and other necessary articles for another campaign.

Our friends at home must see that Copperheads are taken care of, and that the conscription act is enforced and the laws obeyed. The army must be filled at once, or nothing can be done for some time.

F. B. W.

**From the 50th Regiment.**

CAMP NEAR NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
July 29th, 1862.

DEAR JOURNAL: Since writing to you last four Co's have left leaving but two at headquarters. On Thursday last, the remainder of the 14th regiment whose terms of service have not expired, left here with eight boats for some point up the river, probably Harper's Ferry. Yesterday morning a bridge a little over 1,500 feet long was completed across the Potomac at Berlin, and before this has probably borne across a portion of the "Army of the Potomac." How strange that that army should have allowed Lee to cross without losing even a portion of its rear guard. However, good news continues to crowd the papers and every patriot may well be proud of the achievements of July. The fall of Vicksburg and Fort Hudson, the terrible defeat of Lee at Gettysburg, the capture of Morris Island, and the successes of Sherman and Rosecrans, have given us advantages, which if properly employed must result in speedy and perfect success. The riot in N. Y. City has occasioned great indignation among the soldiers here, and the news that they had been handled without gloves, fired upon and dispersed, was received with almost as much joy as that which greeted the fall of Vicksburg or Fort Hudson. The great event of the week here has however been the gale of Sunday the 12th inst. The forenoon had been oppressively hot, and all nature sweltering beneath the burning rays of the sun. But during the afternoon a heavy, black cloud slowly arose in the western horizon and gradually overspread the sky. Rain soon began to fall in torrents and the wind which had been idly fanning us from the east veered round to the south, increasing to a gale which filled every one with apprehension for his frail habitation. The flapping of canvass resembled the close discharge of fire arms. Officers and men freely exposed themselves to the pouring rain, more securely fastening their gys and stays to avert the catastrophe, but all in vain. At

four o'clock a single blast from the South carried everything before it. Bunks, blankets, beds, sheets, and pillows, knapsacks, haversacks, canteens, shoes, socks, coats, hats, and sick men were piled together in a pile but the animal portion - inextricable confusion. The rain came down, not in drops or streams, but in sheets and pallidation the luckless ones thus sadly deprived of shelter. A single bonnet careering through the air told the story of one fair sufferer, the wife of an officer who had joined him a few days previously. Every tent in connection with the hospital was blown down, and those of nearly all of the officers. There were fifteen sick in the hospital, none however unable to walk. Fortunately a house stood but a few rods distant which offered ample head and shelter. The inhabitants, soldiers, kindly furnished supper, and it is to their kindness that our patients owe much for their preservation from the evils which would naturally result from the drenching. Mr. Newton, Mrs. Riley, & the two Mrs. Howard will ever be kindly remembered in connection with the gale of July 12th.

Yours as ever,

**From the 50th (Engineer) Regiment.**

Correspondence of the Democrat & American.

CAMP NEAR NAVY YARD,  
Washington, D. C., Aug. 3, 1863.

We have returned once more to our old camping ground near the Navy Yard, made familiar by our long stay during the winter of inaction, and again last fall after the fruitless summer campaign. The regiment is once more together with the exception of a portion of Co. G, who are expected here daily from West Virginia. Company A arrived this morning from Harper's Ferry. They were relieved by a Pennsylvania company of engineers. There is one bridge there; the remainder have been brought here. The health of the regiment is remarkably good, very few being sick. Our daily duties are rather severe, owing to the oppressive heat, and when such duties could be dispensed with without injury to the service; however, soldiers are mere instruments under the control of shoulder straps, and as such, have to be ready to give performances when required. We shall probably remain here some time, as the Army of the Potomac is not likely to assume offensive operations until its ranks are somewhat replenished. We anticipate having the pleasure of welcoming some conscripts to our regiment. I understand that efforts will be made to fill up the regiment to the number authorized by the act passed a year ago. - Those wishing to join the 50th will probably have an opportunity by applying to the representatives of the regiment at Elmira. Lieuts. Newcombe and Johnson, with six sergeants, are at the latter place, to take charge of those for us. Company G is represented by Sergeant S. E. Taylor.

The 50th is one of the best regiments in the service, and has a record of which all may be proud. Its field officers cannot be surpassed in their attentions to the wants and comforts of the men; the pay

is also higher than any other branch of the service.

The draft commences in the city of Washington to-day. We are in readiness to enforce it if required, although no resistance is anticipated. We would like to take a trip to New York city, and be there when the draft commences again. They would get one good cleaning out, which they need very much.

F. K. W.

**CASUALTIES TO OUR SOLDIERS.**—In the list of casualties in crossing the Rappahannock on Friday, as reported in our war news, we find the following among Capt. Brainard's company of the 50th engineers, who laid the pontoon bridge on which the troops crossed,

Wallace Fuller, arm; George L. Henry chest; James Boyce, leg; A. B. Hyde, both legs—all of company C.

The last named, Hyde, was a son-in-law of Mr. E. H. Nelson, boot and shoe maker, of this village.

We also find in the incidents of the Port Hudson battle of May 27th, the following, which we believe to relate to Sergeant Van Slyke, of Oneida, a subscriber and occasional correspondent of the SENTINEL:

Sergt. V. Shick, of the 28th New York, had both legs shot away at the knee. He continued to fire at the enemy until he received a fatal wound in the breast. His last words were, "Tell my mother I died with my face to the enemy. Boys, have I not done my duty as a man and a soldier?"

**LIEUT. NEWCOMB.**—The name of Lieut. Newcomb, of the 69th regiment of Engineers, appears in the list of casualties incurred at the crossing of the Rappahannock, last week. Lieut. Newcomb is the well-known Civil Engineer, formerly of the staff employed upon the canal in this department. He has resided for some years at Phelps, Ontario county, and after engaging in the Army removed his family to this city, where his wife died, a few months since.

**TO ENROUTE.**—Capt. John Weed, of the Old 13th, left for Lockport this morning, where he proposes to recruit a company for the 14th Heavy Artillery.

**COL. STUART.** of the 50th Regiment, resigned his office on account of poor health, and came home a few days since.—His throat was in such condition as to render it almost impossible for him to speak loud, but on receipt of the news that the Rebels were marching Northward, the Col. immediately arranged his matters, and yesterday morning left for Washington, to offer his services to the Government. We trust the Colonel will be placed in position, where he can render good service to the Government.

**THE FIFTH ENGINEERS.**—The following changes have taken place in the command of this regiment, in which there is a full company from Rome, under Capt. W. Brainard. We hope the Captain will be promoted to the vacant Majority:

The resignation of Col. Stuart of the 50th New York Engineers has been accepted; cause, continued ill-health. Lieut. Col. Pettes of the same regiment, will succeed to the command. Major Spaulding of the same

DEATH OF A SOLDIER.—Private Riley E. Fletcher, Co. A, 50th Regiment, N. Y. S. V., died on the 21st of typhoid fever, at the U. S. Army General Hospital, Camden street, Baltimore.

ENGINEER REGIMENT. — The regiment now lying near the Navy Yard at Washington in idleness. It appears by letters we have seen from the members of this regiment that its services do not appear to be required as an engineer corps—though it has performed most gallant service heretofore. The privates fear that they are to be turned over to the Infantry service, as there are rumors of that sort at Washington. It is not at all likely that government, with all the high handed outrages it commits upon individual rights, will transfer a regiment from the branch of the service in which the men enlisted to another without their consent. Such a course it dare not take. The men of the 50th need have no fear on that score. When the regiment is not required as an engineer corps, it will probably be dismissed and the men may enlist in other regiments or go where they please. Many would doubtless enter other regiments.

The 50th N. Y. (Engineer Reg't).—Company L, of the 50th Regiment was recruited here and in Canandaigua. Its officers are Capt. H. B. Dexter, 1st Lieut. R. H. Schooley, 2d Lieut. R. H. Warfield.

Mr. Warfield, of this city, has received a letter from his son, Lieut. Warfield, dated the 10th stating that the Company were all in good spirits, having only two wounded in the six days' fight, and all were bound to "go to Richmond."

THE 50TH ENGINEERS. — A letter has been shown us from a member of this regiment who went from this city. He says the regiment is on active duty in its department of the service, and has been ever since the campaign opened. The writer was at Coal Harbor on the 10th inst. The men get plenty to eat and whisky rations. They are willing to work hard and regard it as safer than fighting. The writer thinks the rebels are well fed, judging by those he has seen killed, wounded or prisoners. He says they do not like a square, stand-up fight, but prefer to skulk in the woods, where they have an advantage by better acquaintance.

J. S. SPAULDING, of Co. D., 50th N. Y. Engineers, recently died in the New York Hospital.

We are pleased to learn that our young friend, Lieut. J. Lorin Robbins, of the 50th Regt. N. Y. Engineers, has been promoted to Captain of Co. A. Sergt. Joseph Borden, 1st Lieut., and Sergt. O. M. Byram 2d Lieut. This splendid company of one hundred and fifty men was recruited principally by Lieut. Robbins, in this County and North Hector, Schuylcr Co., and said to be the best company in the Regiment. The 50th has completed its organization; it has two companies of one hundred and fifty men each, and is one of the most efficient Engineer regiments in the service. Democrat.

From Harper's Ferry—Company G, 50th New York Regiment.

HARPER'S FERRY, VA., Dec. 13, 1862.

The past few days have witnessed a scene of activity in this vicinity, owing to the leaving of the 12th army corps under General Slocum — They are going, it is said, to reinforce Burnside, and their place is to be again in the Department of General Wool. There is a small number of troops left here sufficient for picket duty, and more are expected from Baltimore and elsewhere to garrison and hold the place. The recent reconnaissance under General Geary to Winchester and Bunker Hill, has proved that Jackson has left the Valley, and is now probably between Burnside and Richmond.

The inhabitants of Winchester and vicinity treated our troops with all the kindness and hospitality possible, feeding our soldiers with best they had. They implored Gen. Geary to leave them again in the power of the rebels. He told them his orders and left the place, scarce them crying as the troops took their departure. How famed in history will be the Shenandoah Valley; forward and backward both armies moved, until it has become a familiar word in every household throughout the land. That Valley, desolated by war and knowing naught of barrenness and misfortune, will be remembered in song and story, long after Waterloo and Yorktown will have been forgotten.

The telegraph has informed you before this the crossing of the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg. The bridges were undoubtedly laid by regiment—the other regiment of the Brigade 15th New York, having nothing to do with pontoon bridges, and by the news to-day we learn that our boys had pretty lively times, the rebels opening upon them with musketry and driving them from the bridges several times, killing and wounding a number of them; but the bridges were finally laid, and our army crosses over and occupies the city. Eight companies of our Regiment were there, company E being at Washington and company G at this place. I do not know the names of those killed or wounded or to which companies they belong.

The weather of late has been pretty cold, the rivers freezing sufficient for good skating. We still wear our blouses and pants which we have worn all summer, and I am sorry to say they are about used up. The paymaster is just as bad as the quartermaster, we having only been paid up to the 30th of June. The boys do not mind it so much, but there are plenty of men who have families depending upon them for the pittance which is due them, to keep them from want. It is some thing which should engage the attention of Congress at once, for many in the army left good positions to serve their country, deeming it their first duty. But when a man receives letter after letter informing him that his family are lacking the necessaries of life, it unfits him for the performance of the duties required of him; but the North has food enough and to spare, and it is the duty of all those who stay at home enjoying the comforts of life, to see that the families of those who have gone, have food to eat and raiment to wear. Let not the pangs of hunger and want enter any soldier's household while he is absent imperilling his life for the perpetuity of our National Republic.

There is a large number of sick here in the hospitals. Senator Wilson has introduced a bill to facilitate the medical examination of invalid soldiers in the hospitals and convalescent camps of the army. This is something that has been

long needed, for there are thousands in the hospitals who have been there several months and who will never be able to do a day's duty in the army, yet they are kept there languishing on beds of sickness when, if they were discharged and returned to their homes, they might recover in a short time. In the meantime, however, let not the sick soldier be forgotten by his friends. Send him papers and write to him often. It will assure him he is missed from the circle from which he is absent for a time; it will help to pass some of the weary hours as he lays on a bed of pain, attended by strangers. Some of the gentlemen at home, who have leisure, would do well to pay a visit to the army hospitals. F. R. W.

LATER — PARTIAL LIST OF CASUALTIES IN THE 50TH.

KILLED.—Captain Perkins, Co. F; Lewis Wilcox, Co. C; Wm. Blakeely, Co. C; Philip Comfort, Co. F; — Beswick, Co. F.

WOUNDED.—Capt. Wesley Brainerd, Co. C; Capt. McDonald, Co. K; Corp. Wicks, do; Franklin Shepard, Co. C; John S. Tuttle, Co. F; Warren K. Weston, Co. C; Peter Dunlap, do; James Smith, Co. F; Wm. Besaby, do; Isaac J. Bradshaw, do; J. K. Adams, do; Corp. Pette, do; Luther Reed, Co. H; Wm. Jordan, do; G. Fowler, Co. C.

BESWICK is the only one I know of from Rochester, but as the given name is not on the list, it may be another one. There may possibly be two of the same name in the same company. F. R. W.

COMPLIMENT TO THE 50TH ENGINEERS.—The following order issued by Gen. Benham complimentary to the 50th Engineers, has not, we believe, been published here:

HEADQUARTERS ENGINEER BRIGADE  
October 28th, 1863.

General Orders, No. 21.

The commanding General has the pleasure of acknowledging the report of Lieut. Col. Spaulding, Commanding the detachment of the 50th N. Y. Vol. Engineers, which were ordered to remain at the front near the Upper Rappahannock while the remainder of the Engineer Brigade were ordered to its depot to prepare bridges for an advance at the lower part of the river on the 10th inst.

This report of the unwearied efforts of the detachment under Lieut. Col. Spaulding in their rapid construction and removal of the several bridges on the Rappahannock and upon the smaller streams on this side, with their persevering and successful efforts for preservation of their trains through the six days march of the Army to its new position, merits and receives, from the General, the highest commendation, not only for Lieut. Colonel Spaulding whose promptness, efficiency, and gallantry have been conspicuous on so many previous occasions, but also for the officers and men of his fine regiment who were with him and whom he reports to have behaved most admirably through this whole movement. These officers and men may rest assured that though their comrades now at this station were not called upon as was hoped for, to aid in the other expected point of attack, they still share largely in the pride and pleasure of feeling that these services have been performed by their own special comrades in arms.

By Order of Gen. BENHAM,  
[Signed] CHANNING CLAPP,  
Ass't. Adj't. Gen'l.

Lieut. Col. SPAULDING, Command'g detachment 50th N. Y. Vol. Engineers.

THE 50TH ENGINEERS.

Co. A. 50TH REGT. N. Y. S. E.,  
Camp Near Navy Yard, Washington D. C.  
January 24, 1864.

FRIEND CLEVELAND:—As so many of the old men have re-enlisted out of our Company, I tho't I would write and let you know how many of the old boys that came out in the 50th N. Y. V. Engineers, have re-enlisted for three years more, and all the names that I send you have gone into the same Company that they have served two years in. I hope that you will find room in your well filled columns for these few names, as it may encourage the men of Yates County.

Yours truly, A. F.

Sergt. John Brown Corp'l John Harrison  
do Joseph Burdin do J. V. Laneroux  
do C. Bysand do D. J. Felger

PRIVATES.

John W. Buck	Eliel Osborn
John A. Butler	Thomas Powers
Theodore T. Evans	Winfield Ruplee
Abram Freidenburg	James Mills
James N. Geran	Edward Pierce
K. M. Bennett	Joseph Worden
Jacob Story	Edward Forsyth
Slacht	Charles Godfrey

Democrat & American

TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 1.

From the 50th N. Y. Engineers.

Correspondence of the Democrat and American.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 26.

To-day being Thanksgiving, the usual drills are dispensed with. The weather is magnificent, clear and bright over head, and dry under foot, just the day to visit soldiers' friends in the vicinity, if we could only get out, but there are obstacles in the way. The camp guard are pacing too and fro, keeping all in except those with passes, which are limited, one being allowed to every thirty men. So the boys have to stay in camp and think of Thanksgiving a year hence, when our term of service will be expired, and the favored few who are then alive can have the pleasure of spending Thanksgiving with the loved ones at home.

The glorious news from Tennessee gladdens the hearts of the soldiers here, and is one consolation, that as they will not let the Army of the Potomac do anything, we can rejoice that something is being done by our comrades on a more distant field, and bid them God speed in the glorious work of crushing this hell born rebellion.

Since the commencement of this war considerable has been written and published concerning Army Chaplains. I believe it is the opinion of many that these gentlemen do a vast amount of good in the army. While others, and I fear the majority, are under the impression that they could be dispensed with, and so far as religion is concerned, the men would lose nothing thereby. A city pastor is expected to know, personally, the majority of his congregation, and some naturally suppose that a Chaplain would soon know the men of the regiment, whose spiritual adviser he is, but such is not always the case. There are some Chaplains who seldom speak to any but the officers of the regiment, and their preaching is all one-sided. It is well known in the army that chaplains succeed in doing but little good, but it is not their fault. The men become so addicted to the wild and somewhat romantic life of a soldier, that they will



often for a moment to the wise counsels of the chaplain, and it is useless for him to try to direct them on the road that leads to eternal joy and happiness. It is true there is a large number who, while being in the army, have contracted habits unfavorable to their social position when they again don the dress of a citizen. It is true there are many who have learned to swear, to gamble and other vices incident to a life in camp and field, since they left the precincts of their loved homes. But before we condemn these, let us have a little charity, and take into consideration the temptations that constantly hover around the soldier's life. The latter when he enters the service, cannot choose his own companions, he must take them as he finds them, let them be what they may, and in a company of a hundred men gathered from different localities, there is always to be found a few who have no respect for what they utter, and are always eager to entice others to join them in their evil doings. There are many soldiers who, when they were pursuing their peaceful avocations, walked the Christian path, and their associates were among the good, who, now delight in playing cards, and seem not to care what language they are using, being free from the restraints of home, out of sight of parents and friends, surrounded by the vices and monotony of camp life. They resort to gambling, at first they play for pastime, but soon play for money, and as one vice follows another, they soon acquire the habit of using an oath, as if necessary to substantiate every word they say. But while it is very true that there are many in the army who are confirmed gamblers yet they are very few compared with the opposite class, who delight in doing their whole duty, both to their country and their God. The soldier must have something with which to occupy his unemployed time, and a game of cards is often indulged in, for with many it is the only means of passing away a weary hour. But the greatest crime in the army is profanity. It is a crime of which officers and men are alike guilty; a crime which Articles of War and General Orders are useless for its suppression. In far too many instances officers take the lead instead of trying to banish this evil from the camp. There is only one way of removing this evil from the army, and that is by letters from the loved ones at home; and if the individual friends of every soldier will take the work in hand their labors will surely be crowned with success. A kind, earnest, pleading letter from a mother or sister will do a soldier more lasting good than a chaplain can by preaching a score of sermons. It is the only way a soldier can be approached successfully, and will accomplish greater results than many imagine. Letters from home are always received with the greatest pleasure, and their contents are sure to receive their thoughtful consideration.

F. B. W.

From the 50th Engineers.

Correspondence of the Democrat and American. HEADQUARTERS 50TH ENGINEERS, January 17th, 1864.

Thinking that some of the friends of the 50th would like to know how we are thriving, I will inform them that we are with the rest of the army, doing the best we can to take care of ourselves during this cold and dreary winter, and are as comfortable as circumstances and the army regulations will admit. Five companies are at the front, and have several bridges on the Rappahannock to attend to. The health of the regiment was never better.

It will, perhaps, give our friends much pleasure to hear that at least three-fourths of the veterans of the regiment have re-enlisted for an additional three years or the war, and there is a fair prospect of most of the remainder following their noble example. Among those re-enlisting are those of the old Rochester squad, including Sergeant S. E. Taylor. We have received a number of recruits during the winter, and two new companies are organizing at Elmira. No regiment in the field offers greater inducements to those now coming out than the 50th. Most of the veterans are home on furlough, another squad will go this week. Barracks are being built for the brigade, which are useless as far as this winter is concerned.—The men have bought lumber and stoves, and all are very comfortable—more so than they would be in barracks; however we must submit without a murmur, still having the idea that we are healthier and more comfortable living in our present quarters, than we could be where so many men are together.

The entire army is expecting to see the end of the rebellion during the present year, and their expectations will be realized as far as the rank and file are concerned; but to accomplish it we need commanders who are equal to the men in their determination, to do or die for the country's cause. To-day the army has entire confidence in the ability of the Government to bring the rebellion to a successful close, and there is scarcely a soldier who does not believe that the Emancipation Proclamation is just the thing. They want slavery to be a thing of the past, and are willing the black man should be allowed to fight for his freedom. They are in favor of "Uncle Abe" being re-nominated, and of course re-elected next November. He is their choice, and nearly every man if allowed to vote, will vote for him. They consider him the right man in the right place. He has been tried, and proved himself equal to every expectation, and they are anxious to retain him in the Presidential chair another term. They know if he is re-elected, we shall have a country that we can boast of, and that our comrades will not have died in vain, and that all, throughout the length and breadth of our land, of whatever color, will be as free as the air we breathe. Our National songs can then be sung, and the freedom of which they boast will be a reality.

F. B. W.

The following is from an officer in the 50th Engineer Regiment:

ENGINEER DEPOT, WASHINGTON,  
March 18th, '64.

DEAR FATHER:—As it is Sunday we have no drilling except morning "inspection" and afternoon "dress parade," so we feel quite relieved, and employ ourselves as best we may. Some of the officers sleep, others smoke, and others gather in the tents of the leading spirits and chat, laugh, joke and discuss the events of the war—whether we shall advance or stay where we are; or who will win the next fight, Meade or Lee. Grant, too, being in the city, receives his share of "good and evil rapine;" then Abe catches it; and some one will damp Seward and finally say, "But he does as well as he can."

A strange conglomeration is camp life—pleasure and hardship—joy, and sometimes trouble; yet the 50th generally are on the right side.—New recruits are daily coming in from central New York, and, as a whole, they are men, men that look, act, and mean work. The maximum of 1,800 strong is nearly reached; in fact, were all the enlisted men here I think we would be more than full. The old men, those who have seen service from the Peninsula on through Pope's campaign, then Frederickburg, (both battles) at Chancellorsville, in fact who have accompanied the Army of the Potomac in all its advances and retreats, they, with an esprit du corps unequalled, have to a man, almost, re-enlisted for the war. Their discipline, under Col. Wm. H. Pettes, is so perfect that, even New York's famed 7th would hardly wish to drill against them in either the manual of arms or bayonet exercise. We have a man who publicly, at a friendly trial of the bayonet, three times disarmed the lamented Col. Ellsworth. Do you wish a pontoon bridge built over the Potomac at a point 1,300 feet across? The 50th will do it in nineteen minutes. Try them if you don't believe it. I have seen the old 54th in light marching drill, and thought they did it up brown; but 'twas nothing. It was a good choice that I made in enlisting; and not saying anything against other brave regiments that are in the field, I will say no man can speak too highly of the 50th New York Engineers.

But this will do for the regiment at large. Of myself I can say that I never was in better health or spirits. Camp life just suits me. Yesterday I obtained a pass for afternoon and evening, and went roaming over to the Government Arsenal,—and such a place; you can't imagine the amount of warlike stores that daily are brought to and sent from it. Purchased a light sabre for use at the price Government pays for them by the million, namely \$10.50; and before I reached the camp with it two different men offered me \$25 for it. Only officers can buy them, and they have to certify that they are for their own use. Any store in this town will charge you \$25 for them. Really, I like to trade with Government.

But it is coming time for "dress parade," so I must write fast if I would finish. How was election? I should like to hear. Love to all, baby too, and believe me, affectionately your son,  
HENRY.

HEADQUARTERS 50th ENGINEERS  
KAPPANANHOOK STATION, VA.  
April 18, 1864.

FRIEND FAIRMEN:—Now that the cares of the day are laid aside, and quiet has settled over camp, I will try and give you the news of the Regiment that will interest those who have friends here. We (Co. M.) had expected to lay in Washington for at least three months, and made our arrangements accordingly, fitting up our rooms nicely, that we might be as comfortable as possible, knowing that when we did take the field, comfort would be out of the question. But, alas, for human expectations! When the order came for all the detachments but A to be ready at five o'clock the next day to start for this point, and in spite of the cold rain that had been pouring down for forty-eight hours we formed in line at that time, and with the large rain drops rolling down our cheeks, as well as our backs, bade farewell to our comfortable quarters with the aid of a steamer to Alexandria and the cars from there, "changing our base" to this point. It was a masterly movement and a perfect success, as we only lost two men, who got demoralized in Alexandria, but reported here the next day.—We now number about 1,750 men, lacking about 50 to fill every company to 100 men. Since arriving here the Regiment has been divided. Companies B, F. & G. go to the 2d Corps; K. H. & L. to the 6th Corps; K. M. & D. to the 5th Corps; Companies C. & I. have charge of the flying train of canvas boats, and Company A remains in the workshops at Washington. Col. Pettes returns to Washington; Lt. Col. Spalding remains with the flying train; Major Brainerd goes with the detachment to the 2d Corps, and Major Beers to the 6th Corps, and Major Ford to the 5th Corps. On company of each detachment is to act as pioneers and assist in laying bridges if necessary. Our camp is on a small hill near the railroad, and about one mile from the river. To the right of us lie the reserve Artillery of the 5th Corps, while in the distance the snowy crest of the Blue Ridge rises to such a height they almost seem to touch the "reins of blue above." The health of the Regiment is very good. We have only two or three excused from duty in our Company. We have had the misfortune to lose one man, Jacob D. Smith, a Hector, who died of inflammation of the lungs, on the 12th of the month. It rained nearly every day for a week after our arrival here, and the men had to sleep on the ground. He took a severe cold which settled on his lungs. He was one of our best men, a good soldier and a consistent Christian. His remains are on their way home.

I see that the Union forces met with a reverse at the city election. I trust our forces are not demoralized, but are ready to meet the foe again, and I trust when the great battle takes place in November, our forces will be successful not only in Elms, but throughout the North, and retain "Old Abe" where he now is for four years more. This is the desire of the soldiers, for they say he held the reins of power when this infernal rebellion commenced, and he should have the power of wiping it out. Shame on the Members of the House, who have not the manhood to expel a man that utters the sentiments that Long did last week. God help us if such men are to make laws for us. They had better close the doors of the House and go home, than pollute it longer with their presence.