

HEADQUARTERS, 3d BATTALION, 50th Eng's,
FREDERICKSBURG, May 11th, 1864.

FRANK FAIRMAN—After two weeks hard work we have at last brought up at this noted city, now converted into a vast Hospital for our sick and wounded heroes. We broke camp at Rappahannock Station two weeks ago yesterday, crossed the river—took up the bridge and remained there until Tuesday noon, when we received orders to proceed to Germania Ford, and have a bridge down by morning. We arrived there about 10 P. M., and remained in the woods one-half mile from the Ford until 8 A. M., when we proceeded to lay the bridge. It was expected there was considerable force to oppose us, therefore before daylight the 13th Pennsylvania, 1st Vermont and 8th Illinois Cavalry crossed to clear the way. Fortunately there were only a few pickets to oppose them.—They fired a few shots and skedaddled. We had our bridge done and troops crossing by 7 o'clock, and from that time until night it was one continued mass of troops. All the forenoon Co. C had a canvas bridge, by the side of our, for the crossing of infantry troops only. The 5th Corps crossed first, and then the 6th. The next day the 9th crossed, and the wagon trains numbering thousands of wagons. That night at 8 o'clock we received orders to proceed to the front in light marching order with three days' rations. We left a guard with the train and at the bridge and started for the front, about ten or twelve miles off. About 3 o'clock we lay down for a couple of hours, and at 6 we arrived within one-half mile of the advance, and there found the rest of the Regiment. We were ordered into the advance rifle-pits, and there remained all day. A few shells reached us, but wounded only one man in Co. E. I think his name is Allen.

It was a terrible day; the fighting as fierce as in any battle of the war. Lee as usual, massed his troops and charged on our left, with demoniac yells. But it was of no use. Volley after volley met them, and they broke and ran. At noon all was quiet along the line. Soon we knew the meaning; Lee was massing on our right. But it was of no use. The charge was repulsed. Lee had met his match. About 10 P. M. we received orders to return with our detachment to Germania Ford. We arrived there about 3 in the morning, reated until 7, took up our bridge and at noon had marched to Ely's Ford, distant about 12 miles.—Some of our men fell out, as the day was intensely hot and we marched very rapidly, within an hour after leaving Germania, Rebels rebel Cavalry came down there and captured the pickets of the 3d N. J. Cavalry doing duty there. They were our rear guard to Ely's Ford.

We put down a bridge that night for a train of ambulances to cross upon, as the wounded were ordered to Rappahannock that way. They had hardly crossed, and streams of men wounded in the arm or hand, coming in, when they were ordered back to this place, as it was not safe to go that way. In the morning we took up the bridge, marched through Chancellorsville to the 5th Corps' trains, and remained with them until Saturday noon, when we were again ordered to the front with three days' rations. We arrived there in the afternoon in time to witness some splendid Artillery firing. The rebels drove our skirmishers from

a line and we had to retake it. They threw a few shells and solid shot in return, some of which struck within a few yards of us. No one hurt. This was all the fighting Saturday, the 14th. We marched here last night, and are to fix the roads, as they are almost impassable from the recent rains. It is pleasant to-day, and I hope will remain so. Reinforcements are going by. No mail has been received or sent since the 2d. We have the best of Lee so far, and will whip him. The fighting has all been in the woods where the undergrowth was so thick our skirmishers could see but a few yards ahead. The first fighting was well named "the Battle of the Wilderness. I was at the headquarters of Gen. Warren when an officer announced the death of Gen. Sedgwick. Hardly a word was said in reply—not even the question how it happened. The laughter ceased among the Staff, and each one looked at the others in sorrowful silence. He was one all relied on, and they mourned over his loss. Brave General Wadsworth bears him company, together with many noble braves who have fallen with their faces to the foe. We have taken over ten thousand prisoners that I know of, and about twenty pieces of artillery. Near Todd's Tavern last week there was encamped near us about five thousand prisoners, including over one hundred and fifty officers from Colonels down. One man from New Orleans gave me one of their Confederate buttons, with the letters C. S. A., on it. As he gave it to me, he referred to the letters as standing for "Can't Stand Abe." He was an intelligent man—acknowledged that we had the power to whip them, but it would be extermination nearly, to them before they would give up. Gen. Grant allows no papers to come to the front at present, but occasionally some one from Washington brings one with him. I do not know whether this letter will reach you or not. The 50th has never flinched yet, and is ready to go where ordered.—The health of the Regiment is good. Hoping to be farther South soon, I will say good bye till then.

LIEUT.

From the 50th (Engineer) Regiment.

HEAD QUARTERS, 3d ARMY CORPS,
June 6th, 1864.

We are not yet in sight of Richmond, and perhaps may not be for a month or two yet, but feel confident some of us will see it ere the summer is past. The campaign has been progressing satisfactorily for a month, but we have met with a "snag," which it is thought will require sieging before we can proceed to Richmond. Our regiment and the regular Engineers were to work yesterday and to-day, making gabions and sap rollers, so you will see there is something in the road.

The 50th are doing good service during the present campaign. The regiment has constructed and removed all the pontoon bridges used by the army since leaving the Rappahannock, and they were always in readiness for the passage of the army and trains as soon as needed. Besides this we have built corduroy bridges, laid miles of corduroy roads and cut numerous roads through the woods. On the 5th of May the battalions of the regiment reported to the 5th Corps head quarters and went to work fixing roads and throwing up entrenchments. They had just got through work and were preparing their supper, when Griffin's

Division of the 6th Corps broke. Our regiment was quickly formed and in the rifle-pits ready to receive the rebs. The regiments that broke rallied in rear of the 60th. The latter were in front all night but the greybacks did not trouble us. The next morning the battalions marched to their respective corps headquarters and have remained with them since. The regiment, like the rest of the army, have seen hard times, working or marching night and day. Hard-tack and coffee have failed to connect at times, but we are not in the habit of finding fault. Our loss has been slight—only two or three wounded. Shot and shell fly around us thick and fast, which makes it rather unsafe.

Our battalions have frequently been out working at night, in front, erecting field-works, &c. On one occasion the rebels made a charge on our lines, and the companies were between the two fires all the time, but did not get hit; they laid low. The rebels made a desperate charge last night, but were repulsed. The deadly missiles made unpleasant sounds, above and around us, but all escaped unharmed. We are nearing the old ground made familiar to us two years ago; but instead of fields of waving grain greeting us, we find earthworks of every description confronting us, resisting, if possible, our onward march. However, we can dig them out; which is much better than taking their positions at the point of the bayonet.—What a pity it is we did not have a Grant at the head of our army two years ago. Had such been the case, thousands of precious lives would have been saved, the country less burdened with taxation, and we could now be rejoicing in a restored Union. But who is to blame? The verdict of the army is, "McClellan." The young Napoleon, who should have been long since with every other Northern traitor banished forever from this country. But we can and will put down this rebellion, Copperheads to the contrary notwithstanding. Perhaps there are some who have an idea that the Sanitary Commission is but little benefit to the army, or that the funds entrusted to their care are used for purposes other than those for which the Commission was originated. To know what 'Sanitary' has done for our wounded heroes, you must be where you can see something of War as it is. Our wounded in the battle of the Wilderness can tell you what 'Sanitary' has done for them. Thousands of them had been without food for several days when they arrived at Fredericksburg. This was partly caused by their being ordered to the Rappahannock Station and then ordered to Fredericksburg. Two companies of our battalion were sent from the front to the latter place with a pontoon train, which was laid for the wounded to cross to Belle Plain. When we arrived at Fredericksburg, nearly every house was filled with wounded, besides the sidewalks, which were crowded. Their wounds had not been dressed—only wrapped up—and they had not tasted food for several days. As soon as the bridge was laid, they crossed. Arriving at Belle Plain, they were fed and cared for by the Sanitary Commission. The Government had no supplies for them, and had it not been for 'Sanitary' they would have been nearly starved. Agents of the Commission soon arrived at Fredericksburg with supplies; also female nurses, who went to work dressing the wounds and giving the men something to eat. Ask the recipients of their kindness, and you will learn that 'Sanitary' is appreciated, and the loyal North need have no fears that their contribu-

tion there are some objections made because 'Sanitary' having by the generous aid of the North, received into its treasury immense sums, a portion of which they cannot find use for at present, propose to collect of the Government the just dues of discharged and deceased soldiers, without expense to the latter. Now what are the claims of the soldier upon the people of the North, who live amid peace, plenty and safety, hundreds of miles from the field of strife?—Could some of these civilian grumblers be placed for an hour in our front line of battle, hotly engaged with the rebels, they would undoubtedly be willing to return home and never say a word about what is done for the benefit of the soldiers; and when thousands are pouring out their life's blood nearly every day, it is no time to write anything detrimental to those who think enough of their country to fight for it. There will probably be thousands who will be minus a limb or be otherwise disabled, who cannot work after receiving their discharge, who have families depending upon them for support, and the Sanitary Commission, by collecting their dues from the Government, would be doing them great service in time of need. I have never received a cent's worth of Sanitary stores, or any other contributions of the North, since being in the army, but am aware that there are thousands who owe their lives to the timely assistance rendered them by the Sanitary Commission.

The health of the army is remarkably good. Providence seems to favor our brave army, and the cause for which we are fighting. The weather is splendid—it could not be better.—The army has entire confidence in their Generals, and feel confident that victory will crown their efforts. But all are willing to await the result, and the North must not expect Richmond to fall without a severe blow. We shall undoubtedly find it worse to take than Vicksburg was. If any of you get out of patience at our slow progress, and think it could be done much sooner, just step down and lend us a hand. You will then have a chance to offer your valuable suggestions to Gen. Grant.

F. B. W.

Crossing of the Chickahominy

CAMP OF THE 3D BATTALION 60TH N. Y.
INFANTRY, NEAR CITY POINT, VA.,
June 21st, 1864.

Isaac Butts, Esq., Editor Union, &c.:

DEAR SIR: We have been highly amused, not to say edified or instructed, at the various correspondence of the northern press generally relative to the present campaign of Lieut. Gen. Grant in Virginia. The N. Y. Tribune of the 21st contains a graphic description of the passage of the Chickahominy at Long Bridge, June 12th, which "piles on the glory immensely," compared with which the passage of the Spinglen or the bridge of Leesport into insignificance. The Tribune's correspondent (C. A. P.) informs us after quoting from a reliable account, that Col. Chapman's brigade, and the 3d Indiana Cavalry, dismounted, and were all. He quotes from the rebel paper as follows, dated the 14th of June: "The enemy advanced to the stream at night in masses of cavalry, artillery and infantry, and by virtue of overwhelming numbers, after a severe and well contested action, compelled us to withdraw." His version of the affair gathered from a Hoosier who was a participant, is that "our men" crossed under the

swimming and a number on a fallen tree. They were not 50 yards in advance of the pontoon bridge. Bayonet charge (without bayonets.) Rifle pits carried. About twenty men out of fifty who charged. Among the wounded are fifty pontooniers. Reinforcements arrive. Enemy completely routed. After three hours of hard fighting the pontoon bridge was laid. Now, with all due deference to Mr. C. A. P. of the Tribune, we would most respectfully beg leave to correct him slightly in regard to our bridge on the Chickahominy at Long Bridge, which is substantially as follows: The third battalion of the 50th N. Y. V. Engineers received orders about 9 o'clock Sunday morning, June 12th, to pack up. In an hour we were on the march down the river from our previous camp on the Cold Harbor road, in the rear of the 5th army corps! At five o'clock we went into park with our train. (We were accompanied by Co. C in the absence of Co. M of our battalion.) Knapsacks unstrung, arms stacked and coffee prepared for men.

A rest of three hours. The men had scattered themselves in various groups and positions, gathering a few moment's rest after a long, weary march. The moon had crept in the meantime, noiselessly, nearly to the zenith, throwing an uncommon brilliancy on the last approaching columns of men. Our boys had commenced to wonder if this move meant business or a long night march. The full, soft voice of our *Orderly* soon dispelled such defensive fancies. Fall in K (pontooniers.) None could mistake that voice; no, not even skalkers. The men were formed into two ranks and told off in squads of 10 and 25 men. Each squad in charge of a Sergeant and Corporal. Each squad having its regular duty assigned it so as to prevent confusion in constructing a bridge. The boats were quickly got in line and the men in marching order beside them, the whistle under the command and supervision of Capt. James H. McDonald, an old and experienced hand at bridge building under difficulties. (McDonald is Capt. of Co. K, pontooniers, now acting as Major in the absence of Major Ford on sick leave.) The word was given, forward, at half past eight. The long train of boats and bridge materials started toward the river, some said, others "aut le diable." Subsequent developments proved it to be Long Bridge.

Dismounted cavalry were passed occasionally -- by us! no artillery of any account--nor any infantry. Co. D. of our battalion acted as skirmishers, (we were not armed.) After an hour and a half march, the head of our train reached the river at a place known as Long Bridge, where there has been at some previous time a permanent bridge. The dismounted cavalry joined us here. The first boat was shoved silently into the water. Every one wondered if we were to construct this bridge as easy and with as little resistance as usual. The men commenced filling the boat, the silence was intense not a loud word from these four or five hundred men. The dark overhanging branches of the cypress looked treacherous. The moon tried in vain to pierce the thick foliage with her silvery beams. The men were in the act of shoving off--crack! bang! whiz! came two balls over our heads instantly followed by fifteen or twenty in rapid succession. "Over, lively, men," was the order; those unarmed dodged behind trees, under boats and wagons. It was evident that some one was aiming at us. He meant mischief. A few minutes and the boat reached the opposite bank, and near the middle of the river. The

Rebs retreated keeping up a right smart fire. The balls glancing about quite lively--pretty high cutting the leaves overhead. One of our men fell close to me severely wounded, whom I assisted in carrying to the rear--and soon after another wounded badly belonging to the 22nd Cavalry, from Rochester. I think his name was Skianer--badly wounded in the head. Both parties continued the firing for perhaps 50 minutes, not longer, when the Rebs fled. Our bridge was then commenced and at two o'clock the cavalry were crossing--followed by artillery and infantry. At night and nearly at the next day the living stream crossed. In constructing this bridge we had one man killed (Co. K.), the cavalry, three men wounded. I assisted in laying the first and last chess on this famous bridge and saw every rifle pit. The casualties are as I have stated. These are the facts in the case as any one can certify in the company. Mr. C. A. P. of the Tribune, to the contrary, notwithstanding. Respectfully,
R. H. S.

The 50th Engineers.

HEADQUARTERS 2D DETACHMENT
50TH N. Y. S. V. ENGINEERS
NEAR PETERSBURG, JUNE 25th, 1864.

MR. EDITOR: I should have informed the readers of the Union regarding the movements of our regiment during the present campaign, but as I am fully aware that there are few who would be interested owing to the branch of the service we occupy, I shall not attempt to enter into any details whatever. I informed your readers in my last letter that our regiment was to be divided into detachments to be attached to the several army corps of the Army of the Potomac. Each of the detachments is composed of three companies under the command of a Major, excepting the detachment which is commanded by Lieut. Col. Ira Spaulding, which has but two companies. The first detachment is attached to the 2d army corps under the command of Major Wesley Brainard. The second with the 6th army corps, commanded by Major E. O. Betra. The third with the 5th army corps, commanded by Major George Ford. The companies which are commanded by Lieut. Colonel Spaulding are detached at headquarters of the Army of the Potomac. Col. W. H. Fettes is at the headquarters of the regiment at Washington. Co. A are also at headquarters employed in the repair shops. The headquarter detachment are provided with thirty canvas pontoon boats and are known as the "Flying Pontoon Detachment." Each of the other detachments are provided with trains consisting of twenty pontoon boats, entrenching tools, &c.

The regiment has been chiefly occupied in erecting field fortifications. During the battle of Cold Harbor our detachment erected several batteries, one being within 100 yards of the rebel works, also several hundred yards of the advance line of rifle pits, taking the advantage of the night to execute our work.

Our regiment have laid all the pontoon bridges during the campaign except the one recently laid across the James River near Point Powhatan. Here we were assisted by a detachment of the 15th N. Y. V., our regiment at the same time having a bridge laid across the Chickahominy at Cole's Ferry, being 1,800 feet in length.

The James River Bridge was the longest military bridge ever laid. It consisted of one hundred and one pontoon boats and was 2,010 feet in length.

Our regiment has been very fortunate. We have had none killed, but a few wounded; none, however, reside in the vicinity of Rochester.

LIEUT. R. H. S.

Letter from a Soldier.

ENG'R DRPT, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
September 8th, 1864.

MR. EDITOR:—The following transcript I copy from the CHRONICLE of the 1st of September:—

"We mean the identical old flag we used to march under when you trained with us as a Wide Awake.

And the following reply we transcribe from the "Penn Yan Democrat" of the 2nd inst. :—

"The worst libel of all. Of all the sins we have ever been guilty, our skirts are clear of ever training with or voting a Republican or any other than a Democratic ticket in our life.

Sir, I denounce this as "the worst" falsehood "of all," a libel a foul slander on all who wear the name of Democrat. I venture to presume Mr. McConnell is the writer of this article; but I dare his junior to hurl such false assertions in the face of humanity; for before he became identified with that loathsome slimey sheet, (the "Democrat,") he was a man and I believe a true friend to his country in the hour of her peril. Here let me ask him a few questions: Did not Mr. Stanton (Junior editor of the Democrat) do all in his power to place Mr. Lincoln in the "Chair of State"? He now says,—or the party he now hangs out with,—says, the principles of that party he ignores. He further says, Mr. Lincoln was elected upon an unconstitutional basis. Did he always know those facts, or has he just discovered the truth?

Who first put on the "nigger-skins," and who first induced me to join the fraternity? I answer, the junior editor of the so-called Democrat! Is he a second Catiline? Will he now usurp principles, first formed for self-aggrandizement! First, we find him in the Office of the "Chronicle" advocating Abolition principles; then behold the youthful demagogue purchasing a Democrat Press to wield with basest influence, the sword of dis-union and discontent among the masses of "Little Yates."

Are not such apostles and apologists of dis-union (which is another name for treason) akin to King Jeff., the Prince of traitors? That they are is beyond cavil or dispute. I would call the attention of both the Penn Yan Democrat and "Chronicle" to a certain soldier's letters bespeaking the Army's opinion of the Chicago Platform which appears in the Angelica Reporter.

Again, in Honolulu, I met Hon. D.

A. Ogden (as U. S. Counsel to Sandwich Islands) in 1854 or '55; and that was the blue of "Uncle Sam's" coat met on the steam-frigate "Mississippi" off that port; I next met the gentleman in "Burn's Bookstore" in Penn Yan. Since then in the Campaign of 1861, I have heard him eulogize heroes and speak for Lincoln and Hamlin,—a strong Union Man.— You will hear from me again before the Campaign is concluded.

Yours truly,

J. H. KELLY.

Corp. Co. A. 50th N. Y. V. E.

The following letter addressed to Mr. Thomas Owen of this village, from his son is well worth reading:

CAMP OF DETACHMENT 50th N. Y. V. E.
NEAR CITY POINT, VA.,
September 15, 1864.

DEAR FATHER AND FRIENDS AT HOME:

Yours of the 5th and 6th, came to hand the 12th. I am indeed happy to hear that our beautiful town is free from the "draft," I am much pleased to see the new troops coming in, this looks as though the people of the North were still alive and anxious to close this terrible war; it is now understood here that the army of the Potomac is as strong as when it crossed the Rapidan, this is encouraging to us. The only thing to hinder a speedy peace, is the difference of opinion at the North; I believe the army is all right in reference to the coming election, and feel confident that Mr. Lincoln will receive the support of the soldiers now in the field, all of whom well know the only true road to peace.

Yesterday I went up to the Headquarters of the 5th A. C. on the Weldon R. R., Capt. Falwell is still engaged in that vicinity fortifying, and I think if General Lee could see these works, he would bid good-bye to any hopes, if he has any, of ever taking this line, not only is the fortifying going on briskly, but extended preparations are being made for the bad weather that will ere long set in. Miles of road are being crossed with corduroy. A Railroad has been constructed branching from City Point and Pittsburg road, to the Weldon Road at the 5th Corps Headquarters, so that now the cars run from City Point clear through to the left of the army, passing right through the army, it will be very convenient by and by when the roads become muddy, so supplies will only have to be hauled a few miles at the farthest.

But I am in hopes we will not lay here this winter, every day now tells on the rebellion, and brings us reinforcements. General Lee will, without doubt, try to do something before long, but the monster, (rebellion), is doomed, a few more

struggles and he will ~~the~~ prostrate before the loyal of the land. So let us cheer up and stand firm a short time longer, and we will gain the rich reward for the many noble men of our land that have given their lives that the Nation might be preserved. When I think of all this, I cannot see how some men at the North think of having peace without first silencing this rebel gang. Talk about compromising, indeed, and at this time of day to. If a compromise was needed, why not have made it at first, and saved the many noble hearts that have oozed out their life's blood on Southern soil? Saved us from national debts, and everything accompanying such a terrible war? But the people of the United States said no, these rebels had risen up against the Government, and must be vanquished; accordingly we set about it, and now when we have them nearly subdued, there are black-hearted traitors in the Northern States encouraging the enemy by talking about "peace-at-any-price" compromise and the defeat of the Administration, all of which go in the balance on the side of the enemy, and I believe that this war would have been ended ere this, had it not been for this class of men, no that's to good a name, what shall I call them, traitors? No they are not as honorable as an outright traitor. Ah, I have it, Copperheads, that's it, and if you want to see any of their poisonous venom, look at the Chicago pill, they fixed up for General McClellan, but it turned his stomach and he couldn't swallow it. Think they had better sugar-coat it a little.

Now I am not particularly against General McClellan, but I am against the party that has nominated him. I am against any one who is not for the administration and the prosecution of the war, until we can have peace and a Union with it, one that will stand; where-in there will be no slavery to again overthrow a peaceful and happy people; and I believe that is not far distant. I will now close. I think you know my mind on the war question now. Expecting to hear from you, I remain, very respectfully, your obedient son,

Lieut. THOMAS J. OWEN,
50th N. Y. V. E.

This letter differs very materially from one from the same company, which appeared in last week's Gazette, anonymously.

From the 50th N. Y. Engineers,
CAMP OF PONTOON TRAINS, NEAR
CITY POINT, VA., April 16th, 1865. }
FELIX FULLER:—Having a sheet of paper from the Richmond Rebel Capital, Richmond, and feeling feverish and excited, I will write a few words—private, of course. Ever since the 1st of April we all (the army) have been so much excited by the stern realities of our and progressive milita-

ry operations, as almost to lose sight of danger to ourselves and of other matters, of themselves minor, but as a whole of great importance. On the morning of the 2d inst., a movement, of itself the most brilliant ever recorded in the history of war, as well as the most decisive in its results, was made by the whole of the armies operating against Richmond, with a front extending not less than forty miles, attacking, simultaneously, its whole length, breaking the enemy's lines and entirely routing him, compelling the evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg, and the abandonment of everything which could not be destroyed in a few hours' time, and a loss to him of thousands of men in prisoners besides killed and wounded. In this great effort we also lost heavily, but we gained the day, and on the morning of the 3d our forces occupied Petersburg and Richmond about the same time, while our Union-Saving Grant and his invincible columns swept on along the S. S. H. R., and other avenues by which Lee and his minions made their escape, and were so closely followed by us that even our baggage trains were within their sight, and yet they could not touch what they so much coveted—our supplies. We followed him to Wilson's Station, drove him to Ford's Station, terribly whipped him at Barksville Station, destroyed and demoralize him at Five Forks, caused him to beg stipulations at Farmville, to destroy his transportation and ammunition at New Store, and to finally surrender at Appomattox Court House, and now the army of Northern Virginia, or Lee's Flower of the South, are turned loose upon the demary, and as might justly be expected, are pillaging the country, committing all kinds of depredations. Without food and without money what will they not do? Naturally, and by profession, mostly cut throats, they are murdering Union soldiers, stealing upon military railroads, destroying track, stealing supplies, attempting to blow up our ware-houses at City Point, and now, to-day, the news of the greatest calamity of all, and yet the least to be wondered at, at this present crisis, is the assassination of President LINCOLN and Secretary SEWARD. God forbid that this should be so, but we fear it is too true. Flags are at half mast, and a painful gloom rests on the countenance of every one, the more painful after our so recent great joy. I am not aware of any one from Seneca Falls being seriously injured in this great campaign. All in our Regiment from that place are well. S. M. G.

Seneca Falls Courier

May 4, 1865

The Oswego Times.

WM. SMYTH, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

Thursday, April 7, 1864.

HEADQUARTERS Co. M, 50th N. Y. E. }
Rappahannock Station, Va. }
April 2, 1864.

FRIEND SMYTH:

DEAR SIR — After organizing our company to the maximum number as engineers on the 30th day of March at 12 o'clock, p. m., we received orders to march at 3 a. m., the 31st, for the front which you know must be a hurried movement, only three short hours to pack up, but as you know the character of the men of which the company is composed it is needless to say that at 3 o'clock they were ready at the tap of the drum, with their knap-sacks packed waiting for the word march, and when the word came, although in a severe storm of rain and snow, we marched to the Potomac River, and took the steamer to Alexandria; arrived there in due time and took the cars for our camp where we arrived about 4 o'clock, p. m., mid a drenching rain storm. We at once commenced pitching our small shelter tents, upon the naked ground, and in one-half hour, all the men, except about 50 who were accommodated by our gallant comrades of Co. I, were sheltered from the storm.

We shall never forget the generosity and soldier-like feeling of old Co. I, towards our men and officers.

You can tell all of our friends at home that Capt. Middleton is one of God's best men, and knows his duty as a soldier and officer.

As I agreed to furnish you with a list of our officers and men I will do so now.

CAPT. R. MIDDLETTON,

LIEUTENANTS,

AUSTIN, DUDLEY AND WALDO.

Sergeants.

J D Green,	J H Freemire,
B J Bond,	J D Turner,
A M Williams,	D W C VanLoven,
D S Boardman,	W H Doughan,
J F Chadderdon,	Archie Dresser,

Corporals.

Benj W Wilson,	F E Kendall,
Chas F Perry,	Clark S Green,

A Lanehart, Franklin Sparks,
J W Wightman, Wm B Kelly.

Musicians.

Javan Daniels, George K. [unclear] box,
Privates.

Austin,	Eggleston,
Aykroyd,	Egelson,
Atwood,	Elyea,
Barton,	Edner,
Barnaby,	Edwards,
Barrett,	Forker, 1st,
Bailey,	Forker, 2d,
Barrow,	Folmsbee,
Becker,	Fairbanks,
Bennett, 1st,	Foster,
Bennett, 2d,	Fairley,
Brod,	French,
Bothwick,	Green,
Brown,	George,
Budd,	Granteer,
Buck,	Gifford,
Babcock,	Gaber,
Barry,	Hazard,
Bouton,	Harding,

Catlin,	Hedge,
Cragle,	Hendon,
Connelly,	Hoyer,
Compton, 1st,	Hall, 1st,
Compton, 2d,	Hall, 2d,
Conlon, 1st,	Harbuck,
Conlon, 2d,	Hevey,
Cronce, 1st,	Hotaling, 1st,
Cronce, 2d,	Hotaling, 2d,
Cole, 1st,	Han,
Cole, 2d,	Hollenbeck,
Cooley,	Houck,
Cure,	June,
Cornell,	Kittle,
Daniels,	Kearsing,
Degaramo, 1st,	Knapp,
Degaramo, 2d,	Klock,
De Groat,	Langdon, 1st,
Dodge, 1st,	Langdon, 2d,
Dodge, 2d,	Lent,
Durkee,	Lick,
Decker,	Lacy,
Demeranville,	Mehner,
McIntyre,	Smeedes,
McDonald,	Seward,
Myrtle,	Sabaugh,
Orr,	Sadding,
Perry,	Sad,
Patterson,	Samer,
Pease,	Samer,
Post, 1st,	Samer,
Post, 2d,	Samer,
Pomeroy, 1st,	Samer,
Pomeroy, 2d,	Thompson,
Randall,	Van Acker,
Reed,	Ward,
Ross,	Wait,
Rose,	Walker,
Ryan, 1st,	Welding,
Ryan, 2d,	Westcott,
Sayre,	Wayman,
Saddlemire,	Williams,
Slaght,	Whitaker,
Secor,	Wood.

In conclusion, Dear Editor, I would say that as you are personally acquaint-

ted with almost all the members of Co. M, you will deem it a pleasure to insert this communication. In point of discipline, appearance and behavior, the Co. stands second to none in the Regt., and is so complimented by Col. Pettis, our brave and gallant commander, who has given to each and every recruit for his Regt., the choice of companies, so far as it was in his power to do, and all are well satisfied, and cheer long and loud for our gallant Colonel.

Cos. M and G are assigned to the 2d Army Corps, under Gen. Warren— We know not when we will be ordered to march, but Co. M will be ready at the word and will endeavor to do their duty. Hoping all our friends will remember us in our absence,

I remain yours, &c.,

LIEUT. E. B. AUSTIN.

LETTER FROM CAPT. McDONALD.

HEADQUARTERS 3d BATTALION,
50th N. Y. ENGINEERS, NEAR PETERS-
BURG, Va., August 25th, 1864.

HON. BENSON OWEN—Dear Sir :—I observed in the Courier that you were connected with the recruiting business. As my regiment is one of the most desirable organizations in the service to enlist into, on account of pay, comfort, and chances for promotion to intelligent mechanics, I have taken the liberty of writing you on the subject. There is at present a vacancy for one hundred and fifty men. My Company numbers one hundred and forty-five men, and I can give a place to five good mechanics.

I lost one man killed at the Chickahominy, June 12th, and have had very few men hurt at all; so you see the chances for returning after the war are better than in an infantry regiment. The officers have far more cause to fear being *mustered out* by the Johnnies' bullets than the men, because the former have charge of large details of infantry during a siege, while the enlisted men are preparing siege material at a safe distance in the rear.

If there is any branch of the service that has the preference over all others, it is the Engineers, especially to an enlisted man, if he is intelligent, active and persevering. I presume more recruits can be had for this regiment than any other, as I have frequent applications to transfer sergeants of infantry to my Company as privates. Anything you can do for my Company in this way I assure you will be appreciated very highly.

As a friend to the policy of prosecuting the war in the most vigorous manner, you can appreciate our feelings, and justify the sentiment when we say, "Give us more men, and that speedily, and the Rebellion is used up." If we had one hundred thousand fresh troops given us to-day, the war would end in three months. There is no possible doubt about this; for by simply holding the Rebel forces where they are, and cutting off their communications, they are annihilated by their own stomachs. Give us more men here; roll up a vote this Fall that will strengthen the arm and warm the heart of the soldier, and we will soon come out of this contest victorious.

Yours very respectfully,

JAS. H. McDONALD,
Captain, 50th N. Y. Engineers.

Commercial Advertiser

Friday Evening, December 2, 1864.

From the 50th N. Y. Engineers.

The following interesting letter was written by a member of the 50th N. Y. Engineers, some of the men belonging to which are from this section:

CAMP OF 50TH N. Y. ENGINEERS,
NEAR THE WELDON RAILROAD VA.,
November 28th, 1864.

MR. EDITOR:—Letters from the soldiers have now become so frequent, and so many people have friends in the army who write good letters, that I fear one from a "poor private" will not possess much interest for your readers. Still many of my personal friends will be pleased to hear from me through the medium of your excellent paper.

The 50th N. Y. Engineers is commanded by Colonel William H. Pettes, a graduate of West Point, and a thoroughly educated man. The regiment now numbers about 150 men. Although we are not strictly speaking a fighting regiment, still during the past campaign we have frequently rendered efficient service to our brethren of the infantry in the rifle pits and breastworks. Our first duty during this campaign was to lay the ponton bridge across the Rapidan, at Eley's Ford. At that point the 5th, 6th and part of the 9th Army Corps crossed; here the brave Sedgwick and the gallant Meadworth crossed with their commands also, never to return; but the memory of these brave officers will never die in the hearts of the gallant men who fought under them. After the army had crossed we took up the bridge and marched to Eley's Ford and related it. After this we followed the army through all its various marches and flank movements, until we finally brought up in front of Petersburg. This has so far proved an almost impassable barrier to our further progress, but we have no doubt but that the military skill and strategy of Lieut. Gen. Grant will yet compel that rebel stronghold to succumb to the bravery of the Union soldiers.

Our camp is now situated about one mile west of the Weldon Railroad and near Poplar Grove Church, about three miles from Petersburg, the nearest way. We can distinctly hear the cars on the south side railroad. For the past three months we have been busily engaged building forts and fortifications and strengthening our position here, preparatory to another movement. All the work of that kind having been completed, we are now drilling and becoming better accustomed to the use of the rifle, by target practice.

Co. M, of which your correspondent is a member, is temporarily in command of Lieut. Geo. T. Dudley, the Captain (Richard Middleton) being on detached duty in Columbus, Ga. Two of our Lieutenants have been dismissed from the service by order of a Court-Martial, one for drunkenness and the other for disloyalty. Although we have been thus unfortunate in having had officers, you must not infer that Co. M is composed of men of like character with our two Lieutenants, who were declared unworthy to hold their position. There are no better men than those composing Co. M, most of whom are mechanics and farmers, and accustomed to hard labor and exposure, and all love the old Union.

The election of President Lincoln, by such an emphatic majority, is a subject of rejoicing to all soldiers who truly love their country, and we are pleased to learn that the election passed off so quietly. It is one great beauty of our system of government that however excited the people may become upon the eve of one of our great national elections, after the question has been submitted to the people, and the matter fairly decided, all peaceably acquiesce in the will of the people and submit to the majority. Our Southern brethren repudiated this doctrine, and hence arose secession. Our Northern opponents, politically, are not so foolish, and I trust are now content to let "Uncle Abe" jog on with the government.

I cannot close without giving you an account of our Thanksgiving dinner. It was a good thought in the people of the North to send the soldiers a Thanksgiving dinner; but if they thought that the soldiers would

receive a good, substantial dinner, they have been sadly mistaken. Co. M received chickens enough to divide among twelve men, and two apples to each man. We were received the day after Thanksgiving. There were not twelve baskets gathered up of the fragments of dinner after all had eaten. But we are sure the fault was not with the citizen's committee, and we heartily thank our kind friends at the North for remembering us at all on Thanksgiving Day. Lieut. Dudley, with a liberality which is commendable, out of his own private funds purchased two barrels of oysters, and distributed them among the company on Thanksgiving Day. Had it not been for this we should have been obliged to have had recourse to our never failing though not always abundant supply of "hard tack and salt junk" for a Thanksgiving dinner.

In conclusion, Messrs. Editors, let us hope that this war, which has caused so much suffering and rendered so many homes desolate, may be brought to a speedy and successful close; when peace shall again return to our country and we shall go on more prosperously and happily than ever before, with our Union restored, our people united, and our Flag respected everywhere.

Truly yours, &c,
J. W. A.

From the 50th Engineer Reg't.

HEADQUARTERS 3D BAT., 50TH ENGN'S,
ANDERSON'S FARM, Va.

Friend Fairman.—In my last letter I gave you an account of our marches up to that date May 15, at Fredericksburg. Major Ford, who had been sick in Washington, joined us here, and assumed command of the battalion. On the 16th we laid a bridge in front of the Lacey House, and finished repairing roads. The next morning Co's. M and D broke camp,—leaving K with the bridge—and marched to the front, arriving at Gen. Warren's Headquarters at about 6½ P. M. Just then a train was attacked about three-fourths of a mile back on the road we had just passed over.—Some heavy artillery lying in reserve, double quicked back, and went at the rebels with a vengeance. This was their first fight, and at first they were driven back, but re-forming their lines, they fought like veterans, and the 2d Corps coming to their support, drove them back. The regiments were the 1st Massachusetts, the 1st Vermont, and 7th and 8th Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. Saturday we followed the corps train on the flank movement.—We arrived at North Anna River—Jericho Mills Ford—at 3 P. M. on Monday the 23d, and assisted Co. C to put down their canvas bridge. By 5 o'clock the 5th corps was all over the river, and preparing coffee, when Ewell's corps made a desperate attack, for the moment driving us. The "iron brigade" for the first time broke and ran, but was immediately rallied and into the fight again. For an hour the firing—artillery as well as musketry—was the severest I have ever heard. Then it slackened—and away went the 1st Division on a charge, driving the rebels like sheep, and taking many prisoners. For half an hour the firing continued, and then loud cheers announced our success. Just as the firing commenced, I was moving with my company and Co. D nearer to the bank of the river, to camp for the night. The first shells were thrown at a white house to our left, where Gen. Warren had made his headquarters, but having too great an elevation they passed over the house, and bursting rather closer to us than was agreeable, we were ordered to the rear on "double quick."—some of our boys were pretty well scared, but fortunately no one was hurt. A battery of the 4th and 5th U. S. Artillery opened on the Johnnies, and very soon silenced them. About 8 P. M. I took a squad of men over the river, by the battle-field, and worked on the road until 3 o'clock the next morning, that the supply trains might get to the front with rations. We remained at this place until Friday, and then followed the army to Hanover Old Town. We camped here for the night, having been in the saddle 19 hours—all of us nearly played out. We found Co. K here with the pontoon train, and the next day laid a bridge at Dabners Ferry. From here we marched to White House, repairing roads and building bridges. The roads were lined with contrabands going to White House. Some of them had their goods loaded on ox-carts, with a

good yoke of oxen to draw them, while others had all they could carry in bundles on their heads.—All on their way to freedom. A happier set of creatures I never saw, than those I saw at White House, their faces shining with joy at being free. I picked up a boy 64 years old on the road, and he is "a right smart boy too, I reckon." While here a part of Gen. Smith's command went to the front. Among them was the 89th N. Y., and I had the pleasure of shaking hands with Dr. Squires and Adj. John E. Shepard. They were both looking well. Five companies of Col. Gregg's regiment, (the 179th.) were there on duty.—Also one regiment of one hundred day men from Ohio. We are now about a mile from head quarters, waiting for something to turn up. We are about eight or ten miles from Richmond, and the siege has commenced. Mortars are being put in position, and soon Gen. Grant will present his compliments to Lee in the shape of 500 pound shells. I would not be surprised if we flanked again across the Chickahominy. We are bound to have Richmond, and no *McClellan* retreats will be made. We all honor and have confidence in Grant, for he is the right man in the right place.

Truly Yours,
Lieut. Geo. T. DUDLEY.

Letter from the 50th Engineer.

HEADQUARTERS 3D BAT., 50TH N. Y. ENGN'S,
AMONG THE PINES, July 13, 1864.

FRIEND FAIRMEN:

To-night finds ten companies of our regiment comfortably situated—if you call it *comfort* to slowly melt away 'till there is hardly enough of you left to make a good sized shadow—in a small pine grove, but a short distance from Gen. Meade's headquarters, engaged in making gabions for the siege of Petersburg, and before many days I hope to be able to say that the siege has been successful, and the city in our hands. Yesterday the 2d corps abandoned the extreme left after destroying the works they had thrown up, and now lie about seventy-five rods ahead of us in rear of the 5th corps. Lieuts. Packard and Leavitt, of the 86th, took tea with us this afternoon.—They are looking well and hearty. I visited the 64th N. Y. and had the pleasure of shaking hands with Major Glenn, Capt. Fasset and Lieut. Lincoln—all as black and plucky as the revised army regulations require.

The glorious Fourth was duly celebrated by the 50th. Major Brainard, of the 1st battalion, invited the officers of the regiment to a Reunion dinner at his quarters. About forty of us met there, and with a few other invited officers, at half past three o'clock, we sat down to a sumptuous dinner that in the field would be hard to beat. Below I give you the "bill of fare."

FOURTH OF JULY, 1864.

Reunion of the officers of the 50th N. Y. Eng'rs.

"BILL OF FARE."

Roast Beef—Boiled Ham—Baked Pork and Beans—Beef Steak and Onions—Fried Pork and Liver—Baw Onions sliced in Vinegar—

Boiled Onions—Pickled Tongue—Mashed Potatoes—Tomatoes—Succotash—Coffee.

DESSERTS.

Warm Biscuits and Butter—Boiled Rice and Cream Sauce.

“WINE LIST.”

Claret and Ice—Lemonade (new) 1864—Lemonade with a stick in it—Whiskey, (a la commissary)—Whiskey and Aqua Pure, 1864—Spiritus Fermentii (1246)—Whiskey (Long Range) 134 B. C. —Ale.

The band of the 2nd N. Y. Heavy Artillery enlivened the affair with some excellent music, and a quartette composed of members of the band, sang several popular pieces among which were “Johnny Schmoker” and “Kingdon Coming”—both being loudly applauded. Speeches were made by Lieut. Col. Spaulding, Major Hogg, 2d H. A., Lieut. Col. Walker A. A. Gen. on Gen. Hancock's staff, Major Brainard and others. Late in the evening the party broke up, all feeling happy, and voting the Major to be a “jolly good fellow” as well as a brave and efficient officer. While I write not a gun is to be heard—but then there is no knowing what the night may bring forth.— Hoping the Rebs may go so far into Pennsylvania that they cannot get out again, I will say good night, and seek my bed—down on the ground.

Yours Truly, Lieut. Co. M.

HQ'S Co. “M” 50TH ENGINEERS, CAMP NEAR POPLAR GROVE CHURCH, December 10, 1864

Messrs. Editors:

Again the 5th corps has moved and struck a telling blow, a blow that will be felt more in Richmond and Petersburg than was Early's defeat in the Valley. The Weldon Railroad, from Stony Creek Station to Bellefield, is one mass of ruins, tier and bridges burned, culverts blown up and the rails bent into all manner of shapes. As usual, a part of our regiment, consisting of companies C, and G, with a flying train of canvas boats, accompanied the expedition, laying a bridge at the Nottoway River, crossed the troops, and taking up their bridge, followed on. Striking the railroad at Stony Creek, the work of destruction commenced, and for over twenty miles the work was well done. Night and day, regardless of the heavy storm of snow and sleet that was falling, they worked on until they reached Bellefield on the Meherrin River. Here, and at Hicksford, on the opposite side of the river, they found fortifications, and having accomplished the object of the raid, and not having rations to go farther, the troops returned.— Some of our men that straggled, were caught by guerrillas and had their throats cut. To pay for this the order was given to burn everything on the march back, and it was carried into effect. One man who had his house burned by the rebels in Chambersburg, took his revenge by firing thirty-five houses.

Saturday the rest of our regiment was ordered to march with four day's rations and one bridge train of canvas boats. About four P.

about four o'clock the next morning we arrived at the Nottoway river about twenty-two miles from here. About noon we put down our bridge—the same one, I believe, that Count D—made such good time over at Fredericksburgh—near the one laid by Co. C—the 5th corps having arrived at the river, and at seven P. M. the troops had all crossed, and we had taken up the bridge ready to return. In order to have the roads clear, we did not commence the march till half past three the next morning (Monday), getting home about one P. M. Sunday night the wind changed to the north and it was so bitter cold the men sat up most of the night by the fires to keep warm. On the march riding horseback was out of the question, and making a virtue of necessity, I dismounted and footed it to camp. We were all nearly used up, but now are all right. The 5th Corps have had orders to put up quarters, and we expect a long rest. Our regiment has been highly complimented by the President by brevetting Lieut. Col. Spaulding as Colonel, Major Ford as Colonel, Capts. Folwell, Hine, Van Brunt and McDonalds as Majors, and First Lieuts. Van Rensselaer and Folwell as Captains. Major Brainard has been commissioned Colonel of the 15th Engineers. We are waiting anxiously to hear officially from Gen. Sherman, and hope he may reach the coast safely, and not far from Savannah.— The campaign of 1864 promises to close very satisfactorily for us. Don't be anxious about Richmond, it will be ours in due time. It is better for us to hold Lee's army here at present than occupy the city. Grant means “to fight it out on this line,” and he will, for when Richmond falls the the hell-born Confederacy falls with it.

Truly yours, GEORGE T. DUDLEY, 1st Lieut. Com'g Co.

From the 50th N. Y. Engineers.

HEADQUARTERS 50TH N. Y. ENGINEERS, RAPPAHANNOCK STATION, Va., April 8, 1864
Companies B, C, D, G, L and M, of the 50th N. Y. Engineers, left Washington on the morning of the 29th, and marched to the Sixth street wharf, embarking on board the steamer John Brooks, and soon after landed at Alexandria. We then marched to the depot, and after waiting some time were permitted to take seats on the outside of some forage trains going to the front. It had been raining all the morning, and riding fifty miles, exposed to the weather, was not very pleasant, but the men were cheerful and happy. We arrived at Rappahannock Station about 5 P. M., and marched to the encampment of Lieut. Col. Spaulding's detachment, consisting of Companies F, H, I and K. They were encamped upon an elevation, about a mile distant from the Station, where a magnificent panoramas of the encampments of the Union army and the distant mountain scenery, presents itself to the view of all. The last named Companies have been at the front all winter; also Co. E, which has charge of a pontoon bridge across Hazel River, six miles distant. This Company nearly all recruited, and went home in a body, and recently returned

tents, and the next day logs were cut and drawn into camp for building foundations whereon to place our shelter tents. They were nearly all completed by night, but it has rained or snowed nearly all the time since, and the weather is very cold for this season of the year.

The Engineer Brigade is no more, and Gen. Benham, I understand, has been relieved of the command. The officers composing his staff have been ordered to their companies. The battalion of the 15th N. Y. Engineers are going with Burnside's expedition, and the 50th are distributed as follows:

Co's. G and M are assigned to the 2d Corps; Co's. B and D to the 5th Corps, and Co's. E and L to the 6th Corps. Co's. C, F, H, I, K, will each have a pontoon train. Co. A will remain in charge of the Engineer Depot at Washington. The companies assigned to the Corps will act as pioneers, and perform the engineer duties required. If necessary, they will also assist in laying and removing the bridges. This arrangement gives great satisfaction, and all will endeavor to render all the assistance they can for the suppression of the rebellion during the coming campaign. The Army of the Potomac will undoubtedly be the largest army ever assembled on this continent, and present appearances indicate that Gen. Grant intends this army shall see Richmond ere many months elapse, even if every foot of the way has to be sieged and taken by regular approaches. Gen. Benham will probably be assigned to some brigade or division, where he will have an opportunity to display his superior military abilities.

There have been a large number of promotions in the regiment during the winter, owing to the companies being filled to 150 men, which allows two first and one second lieutenants, ten corporals and ten sergeants. Silas E. Taylor, who has just been promoted 2d lieutenant of Co. G, has been first sergeant of the company since it was organized, and should have been promoted some time since; still he has received more than the majority of the original members of the regiment who have not re-enlisted. The latter having to stand aside for the elevation of the three hundred dollar men to the position of corporals and sergeants.

The rain continues to pour down, and the condition of the road is fit for anything but a movement.

F. B. W.