13th Pennsylvania, 1st Vermont and 8th Illinois force to oppose us, therefore before daylight the
HEADQUARTERS, 3D BATTALION, 50th Eng's.
river—took up the bridge and remained there un­
cept into a vast Hospital for our sick and
morning. We arrived there about 10 P. M., and
nock Station two weeks ago yesterday, crossed the
Ford until 3 A. M., when we proceeded to lay the
remained in the woods one-half mile from the
ceed to Germania Ford, and have a bridge down by
Tuesday noon, when we received orders to pro­
our bridge done and troops crossing by 7 o'clock,
first, and then the 6th. The next day the 9th
 canvas bridge, by the side of our, for the crossing
our bridge done and troops crossing by 7 o'clock,

It was a terrible day; the fighting as fierce as
any battle of the war. Lee as usual, massed his
marched; Lee was massing on our right. But it was of
nothing was said. Grant allows no papers to come to the front at pres­
tions. They had just got through work and

Two thousand prisoners that I know of, and
about twenty pieces of artillery. Near Todd's Tav­
en last week there was encamped near us about
the wounded, prisoners, including over one hun­
dred and fifty officers from Colonel's down. One
man from New Orleans gave me one of their Con­
 federate buttons, with the letters C.S.A., on it. At

Some of our men fell out, as the day was intensely
progressing satisfactorily for a month, but we have

From the 50th (Engineer) Regi­
ment.

HEADQUARTERS, 2D ARMY CORPS,
June 6th, 1864.

LIEUT.
Division of the 17th Corps broke. Our regiment was quickly formed and in the rifle-plee ready to receive the shot. The regiments that broke rallied in rear of the 6th. The latter were all in front all night but the graybacks did not trouble us. The next morning the battalion 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 had failed to control at first, 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 battalion 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 lines 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 not in the field and 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 holding their positions at the point of the bayonet.—What a pity it is we did not have a Grant at the battle of the Wilderness can tell you what such a man could do. 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 General, and feel confident that victory will crown their efforts. But all are willing to await the result, and think it can 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—

Crossing the Chickahominy

"How they used to say edified or instructed, at the various correspondences of the northern press generally relative to the present campaign of Gen. Grant in Virginia. The N. Y. Tribune of the 1st contains a graphic description of the passage of the Chickahominy at Long Bridge, June 18th, which "piles on the glory immensely," compared with which the passage of the bridge of Lodi sink into insignificance. The Tribune's correspondent (F. B. W.) says as follows: "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, and "our men" crossed under a fire of shot and shell."

DEAR SIR: We have been highly amused, not to say edified or instructed, at the various correspondences of the northern press generally relative to the present campaign of Gen. Grant in Virginia. The N. Y. Tribune of the 1st contains a graphic description of the passage of the Chickahominy at Long Bridge, June 18th, which "piles on the glory immensely," compared with which the passage of the bridge of Lodi sink into insignificance. The Tribune's correspondent (F. B. W.) says as follows: "Our position was at the bridge of Lodi, and the rebels were 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 the armies 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 I 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 General, and feel confident that victory will crown their efforts. But all are willing to await the result, and think it can 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—

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fully beg leave to correct him slightly.

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 16th, 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 trains. (We were accompanied by Co. C, in the absence of Co. M of our battalion.) Knapsacks slung, arms stacked and coffee prepared for march.

A rest of three hours. The men had scattered themselves in various groups and positions, gathering a few moments’ rest after a long, weary march. The moon had crept in the meantime, noiselessly, nearly to the zenith, throwing an uncommon luminosity on the last approaching column of men. Our boys had commenced to wonder if it was more a business or a long night march. The full sonorous voice of our Orderly room dispelled such delusive fancies. Fail in K (pontooners.) No sound mistake that voice, no, not even skulkers. 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 order of marching order beside them, the whole 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, pontooners, now acting as Major in the absence of Major Ford on sick leave.) The word was given, forward, ahead! past eight. The long train of boats and bridge materials started toward the river, some old, others “out to die.” Subsequent developments proved it to be Long Bridge.

Disembarked cavalry 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 disembarked cavalry joined us here and 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 and the silence was intense not a loud word from those four or five hundred men. The dark overhanging branches of the cypress looked terrorsome. The moon tried in vain to pierce the thick foliage with its silver beam. The men were in the act of shoving off—crack! bang! went it! 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 boots and wagons, it was evident that some one was driving the mounted militia. A few shots were fired at the opposite bank and near the middle of the river.

Bills retreated keeping up a right smart fire. The balls glancing about quite lively—very pretty! High cutting the leaves overhead. One of our men fell close to me severely wounded, whom I assisted in carrying to the rear. From another wound badly belonging to the 2nd cavalry, from Rochester. I think his name was Skine—died wounded in the head. Both parties continued the firing for perhaps 30 minutes, not longer, when the Rober Red. Our bridge was commenced and at two o’clock the cavalry was retreating followed by artillery and infantry with great speed and near as the next day the living men 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 cross on the famous bridge and saw every rifle pit. The casualties 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, stating.

Respectfully,

The 50th Engineers.

HEADQUARTERS 2D DETACHMENT 20TH 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. L. O. Spalding, which has but two companies. This detachment is attached to the 3rd army corps under the command of Major Wesley Brainard. The second with the 6th army corps, commanded by Major E. O. Beern. The third with the 9th army corps, commanded by Major George Ford. The companies which are comprised by the latter Colonel Spalding are detached at headquarters of the Army of the Potomac. Col. W. H. Fokes is at the headquarters of the regiment at Washington. Co. A are also at headquarters employed in the repair shops. The headquarters 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, extraneous tools, etc.

The regiment has been wholly 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 lines 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 Pownall. Here we were assisted by a detachment of the 10th N. Y. V., our regiment at the same time having a bridge laid across the Chickahominy at Col’s Ferry, being 1,000 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 5,010 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. E. B. S.
Letter from a Soldier.

Eno's Depot, Washington, D.C., September 5th, 1864.

Mr. Editor:—The following transcript I copy from the Chronicle of the 1st of September:

"We mean the identical old flag we used in war 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 slimy 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 end. He further says, Mr. Lincoln was elected upon an unconstitutional end. Did he always know those facts, or has he just discovered the truth? Who first put on the "nigger-skins," and who first incited me to join the Army? I answer, the junior editor of the so-called Democrat! Is he a friend to 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 base influence, the sword of dis-union and discontent amongst 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 soldiers' letters bespeaking the Army's opinion of the Chicago Platform which appears in the Angeline Reporter.

Again, in Honolulu, I met Hon. D. A. Ogden (as U. S. Consul to Sandwich Islands) in 1854 or '55. and there wore the blue of "Uncle Sam." I 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. 30th N. Y. V.

This 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 13th. 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 the railroad is being extended, and the roads have been constructed so as to make the army more convenient for the road 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 lay 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 rewards 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 come 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, but it not been for this class of men, so that’s to good a name, what shall I call them, traitors? No they are not as honorable as an outright traitor. Ab, 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 saw it 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 that appeared in last week’s Gazette, anonymously.

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From the 50th N. Y. Engineers.

CAMP OF PONTOON TRAINS, near
City Point, Va., April 18th 1865.

F. J. Ollier:—Having a sheet of paper from the Richmond Rebel Capital, Richmond, and seeing several 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 war and progressive milita-
HEADQUARTERS Co. M, 50th N. Y. E.

Rappahannock Station, Va.,
April 2, 1864.

DEAR SM:—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 knapsacks 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. MIDDXTON,

LIEUTENANTS,

AUSTIN, DUDLEY AND WALDO.

Sergeants.

J D Green, J H Freemire,
B J Boud, J D Turner,
A M Williams, D W C Vanlerven,
D S Boardman, W H Douglas,
J F Chadderdon, Archie Dresser,

Corporals.

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

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

Musicians.

Javan Daniels, George R Casey,

Privates.

Austin, Aykroyd, Atwood, Barton, Barnaby, Barnett, Bailey, Barrow, Becker, Bennett, 1st, Bennett, 2d, Brodt, Bothwick, Brown, Budd, Buck, Babcock, Barry, Boush, Catlin, Cringle, Compton, Compton, 1st, Compton, 2d, Cotton, 1st, Cotton, 2d, Cronce, 1st, Cronce, 2d, Cole, 1st, Cole, 2d, Couley, Cown, Cornell, Daniels, Degarmo, 1st, Degarmo, 2d, Je Great, Dodge, 1st, Dodge, 2d, Durkee, Ducker, Dummer, McIntyre, McDonald, Myrtle, Orr, Perry, Patterson, Pease, Post, 1st, Post, 2d, Pomeroy, 1st, Pomeroy, 2d, Randall, Van Acker, Reed, Ross, Ross, Ryan, 1st, Ryan, 2d, Sayre, Shademire, Slaght, Secor, 1st, 2d, Ward, Ward, Walker, Walker, Welding, Westcott, Wayman, Williams, Whitaker, 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 disci­
pline, 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 re­
member us in our absence,
I remain yours, &c.,
LIEUT. E. B. AUSTIN.

LETTER FROM CAPT. McDONALD.

HEADQUARTERS 5d BATTALION,
60th N. Y. ENGINEERS, NEAR FREDERICKSBURG, VA., AUGUST 25th, 1864.

HON. BENSON OWEN—Dear Sir—I ob­
served in the Courier that you were connect­
ed with the recruiting business. As my
regiment is one of the most desirable organi­
zations 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 sub­
ject. There is at present a vacancy for one
hundred and fifty men. My Company num­
bers 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 prosecut­
ing 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.
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:

**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. Peters, a graduate of West Point, and a thoroughly educated man. The regiment now numbers about 1500 men. Although we are not actively speaking a fighting regiment, still during the past campaign we have had many rendered our service to our country. On the night of the 5th, 6th and 7th of August, the army was ordered to advance; here the brave Sedgwick and the gallant Wadsworth crossed with their commands also, never to return; but the memory of these brave officers will forever live in the hearts of the men who fought under them. After the army had crossed we took up the bridge and marched to Grant’s Ford and rested it. After this we followed the army through all its various marches and battles, until we finally brought up in front of Petersburg. This has so far proved an almost insuperable barrier to our further progress, but we have not despaired; 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. For the past three months we have been busy engaged in building forts and fortifications and strengthening our position here, preparatory to another movement.

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In conclusion, Sirs: Let us hope that this war, which has caused so much suffering and ruin to so many homes, 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 Flag respected everywhere.

Truly yours, &c.,

J. W. A.
From the 50th Engineer Reg't.

HEADQUARTERS 3D BAT., 50TH ENG'RS.
AUSTIN'S FARM, VA.

FREUND 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 18th 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 quarters at about 6 1/2 P.M. Just then a train arrived from the fort. The regiment was 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—Jenicho Mills Ford—at 3 P.M. on Monday the 30th, and assisted Co. C to put down their canvas bridge. By 6 o'clock the 8th 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 we immediately rallied and fought like veterans, and the corps trains were soon on the way to Richmond, and the siege has commenced.

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 REGIMENT.

HEADQUARTERS 3D BAT., 50TH ENG'RS.
AMONG THE FINES, JULY 23, 1864.

FREUND FAIRMAN:

Tonight finds ten companies of our regiment comfortably situated—if you call it comfortable—a small pine grove, but a short distance from Gen. Meade's headquarters, engaged in making garrisons 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 lies about seventy-five rods in front of us, in rear of the 9th corps. Lieuts. Packard and Leavitt, of the 64th N.Y. and had the pleasure of shaking hands with Major Glenny, Capt. Fasset and Lieut. Lincoln—all as black and plucky as the revised army regulations require.

The glorious Fourth was duly celebrated by the 60th. Major Brannard, of the 1st battalion, invited the officers of the regiment to a restaurant dinner at his quarters. About forty of us met there, and a few other 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.

BILLS OF FARE.

Roast Beef—Boiled Ham—Baked Pork and Beans—Beef Steak and Onions—Pork and Liver—Haw Onions pickled in Vinegar—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 happy 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. Squire and Adjt. 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 baffle us. We all honor and have confidence in Grant, for he is the right man in the right place.
Camp near Poplar Grove Church.

December 16, 1864.

Yours truly, Lieut. Co. M.

HDQ'RS. CO. "M" 50TH ENGINEERS.

FROM THE 50TH N. Y. ENGINEERS.

Again the 5th corps has moved and struck a telling blow, a blow that will be felt more in Richmond and Petersburg than in Early's defeat in the Valley. The Weldon Railroad, from Stony Creek Station to Bellefield, is one of the important lines of communication to the South, and its capture will have a telling effect on the fate of the rebellion. It is the duty of the Union army to move against Petersburg and Richmond, and if we do not do it, we shall be defeated, and the Confederacy will be soon. 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 he can't hold the city, he will try to hold the line. We are waiting anxiously to hear officially from Gen. Sherman, and hope he may reach us soon.

Yours truly,

GEORGE T. DUDLEY,
1st Lieut. Com'g Co.
tents, and the next day logs were cut and drawn into camp for building foundations wherein 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 56th are distributed as follows:

Co.'s G and M are assigned to the 2d Corps; Co.'s B and D to the 6th 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 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.