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Title: Letters from Thomas Chamberlin to Eli Slifer

Date: May 3 - November 15, 1861

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Lewisburg, May 3^d, 1861.
Eli Slifer, Secretary of State.

Dear Sir—

Your kind encouragement thus far gives us reason to hope that our company will soon be called into camp. We have now about a hundred names on our list, and out of these and others who propose to join ~~us~~ we can readily select seventy-seven good men—among them quite a number who have already served in the United States army, and all capable of bearing the fatigues of war. All are anxious to know at what time we will be called out—many on the same conditions under which our first company left—many willing to serve three years, or so long as the war may last.

The ladies have gone to work with a will, and have prepared enough shirts for the company, together with neck-ties of red, white, and blue, and other articles of ~~the~~ comfort ~~for~~ our men. With the caps which you so generously offer to furnish us we will present quite a respectable appearance when marched into camp. Please send us caps ranging in size from six and a quarter to seven and a quarter. — Hoping to hear

from you at your earliest convenience

I am most respectfully

Yours

Thomas Chamberlin
- in behalf of the "Slifer Guards."

Lewisburg, May 3d, 1861.

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I am most respectfully
Yours
Thomas Chamberlin
-in behalf of the "Slifer Guards."

Lewisburg, Monday Morning, May 13th.

Hon. Eli Lifer

Dear Sir—

Pardon me if I again trespass on your time and good-nature, but it cannot be helped. Every day members of our company come in from the country, from Mifflinburg, &c, and ask anxiously when we are to move. Some of them relying on the encouraging assurances contained in your letters and despatches, have been withholding themselves from their usual occupations, expecting soon to be called into the field. The majority of our original list are eager to go for three years, or for the entire war, and others offer themselves daily. If you will only say that we are accepted, in two days we will have seventy-seven able bodied men ready to march, and ready to undertake any work assigned them in any quarter North or South. I hope there has been no misrepresentation in regard to the feelings of our Company. It is no mere love of adventure, nor desire of getting a "good place" and "playing soldier" at the expense of the state that prompts us to offer ourselves, but the sincere wish to serve our country, enduring all the hardships necessarily attendant on a soldier's life. We are now "lying on our oars", uncertain what disposition is to be made of us— anxiously awaiting some definite information. Shall we not soon be able to say that your kind assurances have been verified?

I remain, with the highest respect

Yours
J. Chamberlin

Hon. Eli Lifer. — Secy of State.

Lewisburg, Monday Morning, May 13th, [1861]

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Yours

T. Chamberlin

Hon. Eli Slifer, -- Secy of State.

Lewisburg, May 16th 1861.

Hon. Eli Slifer

Dear Sir—

Your favors of the 14th and 15th, came duly to hand. — We are heartily obliged to you for your kind efforts to get us into the U.S. service, and if we have been disappointed, we know that it has been no fault of yours. Should there, however, be a call for state troops, you will do us a great favor by giving us a chance, much as we would have preferred doing duty under the general government.

Our company having been formed with a direct view of going to the war, it will be impossible to hold it together and keep up the drill — especially without Arms and a suitable uniform. But in case the Legislature provides for State military forces, and you succeed in getting us a place, we can, at the shortest notice, fill up our ranks again. — Under the circumstances it would perhaps be better to retain the Caps which you so generously offered to furnish, until there is some assurance of our getting into camp.

With the highest respect

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J. Chamberlin.

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Hon. Eli Slifer, Sec of State.

Lewisburg May 27th

Hon E. Sifer

Gregg expects
is to march this week,
Can we come Friday
if full

Thos Chamberlin

Lewisburg May 27th [1861]

Hon Eli Slifer

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Thos Chamberlin

Newburg May 29th
Hon Eli Sizer
Hamisburg

We have the
full Compliment of awant-
orders

Thos Chamberline

Lewisburg May 29th

Hon Eli Slifer
Harrisburg

We have the full Compliment & await orders

Thos Chamberlin

Camp near Bedford, June 24th

Sec, Slifer

Dear Sir

A line in regard to our march hitherto may perhaps be interesting to you, and while the boys are cleaning the dust off their muskets and mending their knapsacks, &c. I will try to give you a short account of our progress. The ride over the Central and broad-top roads was somewhat tedious on account of the heat and the scarcity of water, but at every station we were greeted with cheers, and at several places provisions were collected for the soldiers, but the train always stopped at the wrong time, and our regiment went fasting. At Huntingdon our orders were to remain in the cars, and the citizens would furnish us a "cold check" - an announcement that gave general satisfaction. By some miscalculation however, the provisions gave out before the half of the first train had been supplied, and we got nothing but cold water, except a few who were fortunate enough to get a little bread. Still we had enough in our knapsacks, and on arriving at camp at Hopewell coffee was made and we dined sumptuously - sumptuously as it is in the soldier's lexicon. Very few tents were pitched and the most of the men preferring to sleep in the open air. Next morning we were routed at 2 O'clock, and had everything in readiness to march by 4 O'clock. At this hour the 2^d Regt. moved off, the long files of men with glittering muskets, preceded and followed by the baggage wagons presenting a fine spectacle. As the day passed but few knapsacks were piled on the wagons, after a march of about 9 miles which greatly relieved the men. At 11^{1/2} we reached ^{Bloody Run} Hopewell where we were most generously entertained by the citizens receiving every thing that a reasonable man could ask, and much more than we had a right to expect. Immediately after dinner we moved off again - the Colonel

Wm. H. ...

allowing us no time for digestion. The sun was extremely hot, water was scarce, the roads were dusty and before reaching Bedford scores of men gave out, and took passage in the baggage wagons - among the rest four or five of our men. At B. no halt was made - we hurried through the town in quick time - marched three miles further to this camp - and as soon as we had sufficiently recovered from our fatigue pitched our tents, and were supplied by the citizens with provisions substantial and delicate. A march of 23 miles on a hot day, without canteens, was rather hard on raw recruits, so that the line of our regiment became rather straggling before we came to a halt, and both officers and men were used up. — We were badly equipped before leaving Harrisburg, cartridge-boxes and belts were scarce and the supply of cap-boxes, swipers, &c. was imperfect. We may be able to get these things here from the quartermaster, as also some shoes, &c., but if they are not to be had here, we will look for them from Harrisburg. We were hurried away from Camp so suddenly that I had no time to get a sword, and as I cannot get one here, I would be much obliged to you if you could have ~~me~~ a good one selected out of the arsenal, (where Capt. Ullman and others obtained swords) and sent on with our baggage, which lies in Mr. Myette's care at the Quartermaster's Dept. Camp Curtin. As soon as I have a chance I will get a sword from Philada. Will you have the kindness to see that our baggage is sent on immediately, as by some mistake on the part of those who were to take care of it, my own and that of others was left behind, placing us in a very unpleasant situation. Our camp here is far superior to Camp Curtin - the ground is rolling - bordered by woods - and an abundant supply of excellent water is within a few steps of our tents.

But I must close.

With many thanks for your kind attentions to our

Company heretofore, and the promise that you shall hear
favorably of us if we get into action

I remain

very respectfully Yrs
G. Chamberlin.

P.S. The boys are all well, but a little tired.

Camp near Bedford, June 24th [1861]

Sec. Slifer

Dear Sir-

A line in regard to our march hither may perhaps be interesting to you, and while the boys are cleaning the dust off their muskets and marking their knapsacks, &c, I will try to give you a short account of our progress. The ride over the Central and broad-top roads was somewhat tedious on account of the heat and the scarcity of water, but at every station we were greeted with cheers, and at several places provisions were collected for the soldiers, but the train always stopped at the wrong time, and our regiment went fasting. At Huntingdon our orders were to remain in the cars, and the citizens would furnish us a "cold check"- an announcement that gave general satisfaction. By some miscalculation however, the provisions gave out before the half of the first train had been supplied, and we got nothing but cold water, except a few who were fortunate enough to get a little bread. Still we had enough in our haversacks, and on arriving at Camp at Hopewell coffee was made and we fared sumptuously- sumptuously as it is in the soldier's lexicon. Very few tents were pitched at H, most of the men preferring to sleep in the open air. Next morning we were routed at 2 O'clock and had everything in readiness to march by 4 O'clock. At this hour the 2d Regt. moved off, the long files of men with glittering muskets preceded and followed by the baggage wagons presenting a fine spectacle. As the day promised to be hot, our knapsacks were piled on the wagons, after a march of about a mile, which greatly relieved the men. At 11 1/2 we reached Hopewell Bloodyrun where we were most generously entertained by the citizens, receiving every thing that a reasonable man could ask, and much more than we had a right to expect. Immediately after dinner we moved off again- the Colonel

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But I must close. With many thanks for your kind attentions to our

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I remain
Very respectfully Yrs
T. Chamberlin.

P.S. The boys are all well, but a little tired.

Camp Mason & Dixon, July 2^d, 1861.Hon^{ble} Eli Lifer

Dear Sir -

We drove our stakes at this camp on Friday last, one day after the rest, having been left behind to escort the baggage train from Bedford, for which horses and wagons could not immediately be procured. The ground where we are encamped is not the best in the world, being low, and illy supplied with water for drinking and bathing purposes, but there is a hill back of us, thickly covered with trees, affording a pleasant shade during the heat of the day. Rations have been extremely short since our arrival, and there is at times a general clamor for bread throughout the camp. Provisions arrive slowly, and no sooner are the wagons in sight than there is a rush for the quartermasters shanty with boxes, barrels, buckets &c, to get the long looked for "grab." As yet there has been no actual suffering from a want of provisions, but the irregular hours at which the rations are obtained, and the expectation of having to do without, cause a good deal of murmuring. I hope that we will soon be ordered to Cumberland, or still further towards the "sun-ny South" - it is really tantalizing to be so near the enemy's country, and at the same time be unable to move a foot.

To-day I had discharges made out for two of my men, who are unable to bear arms - the one on account of rheumatism - the other through

general debility resulting from fever. I enclose the surgeon's certificate, on the strength of which the Col. Commanding made out the discharges. Will you have the goodness to see that the proper passes are sent these men the one (Livingston) to Lock Haven, the other to Harrisburg. John V. Wright is, I believe, the man who has charge of such matters. They are a burden on our hands, and the sooner they have the means of leaving, the better. Young Smith, now in the hospital at Bedford, will also have to be discharged. With these exceptions our men are all as hearty as could be expected.

I sent you our muster-rolls, three copies, which must be certified to by the mustering-in officer (Capt. Sheets) before we can draw any pay. Having no blanks for this purpose, it was quite a task to make out these rolls, and they may contain some little inaccuracies as regards the numbering, &c, but not enough I hope to invalidate them. I dated them from the time that the greater part of the Company were sworn in. The rest were sworn in in squads within a few days of the first lot, with the exception of two whom we had taken in yesterday to fill out the Company after discharging those mentioned. The adjutant of our regiment will no doubt make a return of these two to the proper quarter, and have them entered on our surgeon's roll. - Had we been allowed a day or two longer at Harrisburg, we could have arranged all these matters satisfactorily, as it is, we will trust to you to help us get them squared.

One of our men by the name of Kicker, who had been given to drinking and appeared to be a little cracked, disappeared the night we were ordered to leave Harrisburg, and as he has never made known his whereabouts, I have taken no account of him on the rolls - glad to get rid of such a nuisance in so fortunate a manner.

Being unsuccessful in getting a place for Ireland in the company or regiment, and he preferring to go home to accompany us as an attendant, we will send him to Lewisburg in a few days. I wish he could get some place in the military department of the state, as he is a brave lad, and has his heart set on being a soldier. He took the liberty of taking the oath of allegiance with the rest, but without leave or license, having never gone up for inspection.

Our baggage came on yesterday and to-day in the wagons containing supplies, and could not have reached us more opportunely. The very idea of a change of linen made me feel fifty per cent better. We are a thousand times obliged to you for your kindness in sending them on. - This afternoon I sent Schaffle to Cumberland to see if there were not some things for us at that place. Our uniforms should be there, as also some things promised us from home, none of which have arrived. We are all without swords, and have no chance of sending for them. If it would not be asking too much, I wish you could have three purchased for us

in Philadelphia through some friend, ^{and} sent on to Cumberland, where we could readily get them. The price should not exceed \$18 for a good service sword with belt, and this amount we will each remit you ~~at~~ once on receipt of the "steel".

To-day we received our blouses - on Saturday last our linen trousers, so that with the exception of underclothing we are pretty well equipped. All that we now want is "marching orders" for Cumberland and Virginia, and these I trust we will get before the sun of the 4th has set. Under the instructions of a young man who spent some years at West Point we are rapidly improving in the manual of arms, and will be able to do some execution soon with our miserable muskets. I have seen here a number of weapons taken by some of Col Wallace's zouaves from Virginians, judging from which they are three times better armed than we; but we are anxious to meet them for all that.

Our Commissions have never been made out that I am aware of, but perhaps that is owing to the fact that the regiment is not yet fully organized. They ought soon to be forthcoming. — But I must close. Please return one of the muster-rolls duly certified, as early as convenient, together with a few blanks, and oblige

Yours most respectfully
Thos. Chamberlin

No. 2 Cumberland
Pruss

Camp Mason & Dixon, July 2d, 1861.

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Yours most respectfully
Thos. Chamberlin

Cape Chamberlain

Camp near New Creek, July 14th / 61.

Dear Sir -

New orders come thick and fast upon us. No sooner are we comfortably settled in camp at one place, than a Carrier arrives with despatches telling us to pull up stakes and march to some other point. But this is exactly what we want - it is exciting, and keeps both officers and men in good spirits, whereas a continued camp-life soon produces uneasiness and grumbling. You cannot imagine with what satisfaction our troops hailed the orders to march from Mason & Dixon to Cumberland. The cheers that went up from each company throughout the camp as the adjutants circulated the intelligence were perfectly deafening, and during the whole night a spirit of gaiety animated us all. The march to Cumberland, made at daybreak, was by no means fatiguing, although the men carried their knapsacks, and halted but once on the way to get a drink of water. Our camp at Cumberland was the finest piece of ground on which we have yet been stationed, being situated on a hill overlooking the town & the neighboring country in every direction - with an abundance of shade and every accommodation except wood and water. The people of the town were in constant fear of the secessionists after Col. Wallace's departure, and greeted our arrival with manifestations of joy. When we left yesterday morning

for this point their old fears seemed to return, for I heard at least a score of citizens say that we were doing wrong in leaving them in that defenceless situation. But the intelligence from up the river called us away, and about eleven O'clock both regiments together with Campbell's little detachment moved off in the cars for New Creek, where a body of secession Cavalry, variously estimated from two to six hundred, were reported to be encamped. Boards were knocked off the sides of the cars to give us a fair chance to shoot in case we were fired on, and in addition to other precautions a number of the Home Guard with improved rifles were stationed on the locomotive to pick off any scouts that might show their heads along the route. So we neared the burnt bridge about fifteen miles from Cumberland two companies were sent out in advance on the double track to head off a squad of scouts who were said to have their horses picketed in the neighborhood, but through rashness or neglect a lot of the Buck-tails, and some of our regiment, fired their pieces from the cars, thus warning the enemy, and giving them time to escape. When we were about half a mile from the bridge a number of us saw a squad of five or six secession horsemen turning the point of a hill to the left (we were on just ahead of the trains) their horses at full speed, making their way to the nearest ford with sufficient of a start to allow them to avoid the Buck-tail scouting party. Owing to the want of baggage wagons we encamped here on a level bottom land near the railroad

but scouting-parties were at once sent out to New Creek to hunt up the enemy, and afford Col. Kane assistance in case he needed it - he having started out the day before with a force of about 160 men. - This morning we heard that our scouts had killed a couple secessionists in the neighborhood of New Creek and taken a number of horses and wagons, with which they were about carrying off some stolen goods. To-day several companies have started out, and the "Guards" are ordered to hold themselves in readiness to move in five minutes in case we are needed. The "boys" are hot for a fight, and would be bitterly disappointed if they should fail to get marching orders. This moving from camp to camp has interfered a good deal with our drill, but we know how to load and fire, and will make our mark too on a "charge bayonet," if we have a chance.

Our uniforms arrived by express the day before we left Cumberland, and are everything that we could ask. A good sword will complete our outfit.

Paymaster Ryan was in town several days before we left, and partially payed off the first regiment, but brought no money for ours. It is said, however, that we will be paid off in the course of a couple weeks. I hope this is true, for officers and men are alike in want of funds. Neither of those muster-rolls has been returned to me, and I am uncertain whether they are correct or not. I wish you would see the mustering-in officer, and ascertain whether they are all right. I neglected to take down the dates at which several squads of

our recruits were sworn in, but as all took the oath within a short time of each other, I don't know that it would make any material difference to reckon from the time at which the majority of the company were sworn in (the 13th of June?) It would be rather hard to have our pay held back on account of any little errors, resulting from want of proper blanks, & instructions in regard to filling them out. If anything should be wrong, will you have the kindness to notify me, and send blank muster-rolls in time to have them made out and certified before the return of the paymaster to this station.

On receipt of orders to fill out our companies to 101 men I immediately sent Essington to the Lycoming County to recruit, as I like the class of men which he brings much better than jurnace-men. In case he should not get the required number, I think I can get all we want from Blair County - from which section we had an offer before leaving Camp Curtin.

I have spoken to Col. Simmons once or twice in regard to George, but owing to other cares, probably, he seems to have lost sight of the matter I will speak to him again at the earliest opportunity, but don't know that it will have any effect.

Give my regards to mother & the rest of the family, as also to any inquiring friends, when you next visit Lewisburg, and thank the ladies of the town, in the name of the Company, for their present of Havelocks. Thanking you for your kindness to myself and companions, and hoping that we may soon be able to do something in our Country's Cause - hoping, too, soon to hear from you

I remain

Yours truly

G. Chamberlain

Camp near New Creek, July 14th/61.

Dear Sir-

New orders come thick and fast upon us. No sooner are we comfortably settled in Camp at one place, than a Courier arrives with despatches telling us to pull up stakes and march to some other point. But this is exactly what we want- it is exciting, and keeps both officers and men in good spirits, whereas a continued camp-life soon produces uneasiness and grumbling. You cannot imagine with what satisfaction our troops hailed the orders to march from Mason & Dixon to Cumberland. The cheers that went up from such company throughout the camp as the adjutants circulated the intelligence were perfectly deafening, and during the whole night a spirit of gayety animated us all. The march to Cumberland, made at daybreak, was by no means fatiguing, although the men carried their knapsacks, and halted but once on the way to get a drink of water. Our camp at Cumberland was the finest piece of ground on which we have yet been stationed, being situated on a hill overlooking the town & the neighboring country in every direction- with an abundance of shade, and every accommodation except wood and water. The people of the town were in constant fear of the secessionists after Col. Wallace's departure, and greeted our arrival with manifestations of joy. When we left yesterday morning

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for this point their old fears seemed to return, for I heard at least a score of citizens say that we were doing wrong in leaving them in that defenceless situation. But the intelligence from up the river called us away, and about eleven O'clock both regiments together with Campbell's little detachment moved off in the cars for New Creek, where a body of secession Cavalry, variously estimated from two to six hundred, were reported to be encamped. Boards were knocked off the sides of the cars to give us a fair chance to shoot in case we were fired on, and in addition to other precautions a number of the Home Guard with improved rifles were stationed on the locomotive to pick off any scouts that might show their heads along the route. As we neared the burnt bridge about fifteen miles from Cumberland two companies were sent out in advance on the double quick to head off a squad of scouts who were said to have their horses picketed in the neighborhood, but through rashness or neglect a lot of the Bucktails, and some of our regiment, fired their pieces from the cars, thus warning the enemy, and giving them time to escape. When we were about half a mile from the bridge a number of us saw a squad of five or six secession horsemen turning the point of a hill to the left (we were on foot ahead of the trains) their horses at full speed, making their way to the nearest ford, with sufficient of a start to allow them to avoid the Bucktail scouting party. Owing to the want of baggage wagons we encamped here on a level bottom-land near the railroad

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but scouting-parties were at once sent out to New Creek to hunt up the enemy, and afford Col. Kane assistance in case he needed it- he having started out the day before with a force of about 160 men.- This morning we heard that our scouts had killed a couple secessionists in the neighborhood of New Creek and taken a number of horses and wagons with which they were about carrying off some stolen goods. To-day several companies have started out, and the

“Guards” are ordered to hold themselves in readiness to move in five minutes in case we are needed. The “boys” are hot for a fight, and would be bitterly disappointed if they should fail to get marching orders. This moving from camp to camp has interfered a good deal with our drill, but we know how to load and fire, and will make our mark too on a “charge bayonet,” if we have a chance.

Our uniforms arrived by express the day before we left Cumberland, and are everything that we could ask. A good sword will complete our outfit.

Paymaster Ryan was in town several days before we left, and partially payed off the first regiment, but brought no money for ours. It is said, however, that we will be paid off in the course of a couple weeks. I hope this is true, for officers and men are alike in want of funds. Neither of those muster-rolls has been returned to me, and I am uncertain whether they are correct or not. I wish you would see the mustering-in officer, and ascertain whether they are all right. I neglected to take down the dates at which several squads of

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our recruits were sworn in, but as all took the oath within a short time of each other, I don't know that it would make any material difference to reckon from the time at which the majority of the company were sworn in (the 12th of June.) It would be rather hard to have our pay held back on account of any little errors, resulting from want of proper blanks, & instructions in regard to filling them out. If anything should be wrong, will you have the kindness to notify me, and send blank muster-rolls in time to have them made out and certified to before the return of the paymaster to this station.

On receipt of orders to fill out our companies to 101 men I immediately sent Essington to Lycoming Country to recruit, as I like the class of men which he brings much better than furnacemen. In case he should not get the required number, I think I can get all we want from Blair County- from which section we had an offer before leaving Camp Curtin.

I have spoken to Col. Simmons once or twice in regard to George, but owing to other cares, probably, he seems to have lost sight of the matter. I will speak to him again at the earliest opportunity, but don't know that it will have any effect.

Give my regard to mother & the rest of the family, as also to any inquiring friends, when you next visit Lewisburg, and thank the ladies of the town, in the name of the Company, for their present of Havelocks. Thanking you for your kindness to myself and companions, and hoping that we may soon be able to do something in our Country's Cause- hoping, too, soon to hear from you

I remain
Yours truly
T. Chamberlin

Georgetown Heights, Aug 16th /61.

Dear Sir—

Your letter concerning Geo. Schock came to hand night before last, but too late to remedy the mischief. Young Schock came to us at Harrisburg, and without mentioning his having run away from his parents wanted to be enrolled in our Company. The next morning we started for Washington, and as soon as we reached this Camp (finally, about five miles from It.) he was inspected and sworn in. He says he has written home twice since we arrived, and before this his parents must be advised of his doing. I am sorry that I was not aware of his conduct, as he should never have come with us in that case.

The members of our company are generally well, but our camp is so unpleasantly situated that during the recent rains several became wet while sleeping in their tents and are now suffering from colds and rheumatism. We still lack six men, having 95 in all, but are in no hurry to fill out. So, tomorrow we are to be mustered into the U.S. Service—a form that might in the estimation of all be very well dispensed with, as the oath taken in Harrisburg was virtually the same as the one to be taken to-morrow. The whole thing is a great bug-bear to the men.

Yesterday our regiment was out with seven others on a grand review by Genl. McCall, and without boasting our men made by odds the best appearance, notwithstanding our rough expedition to Western Virginia. As far as my observation goes we have the best old war-horse of a Colonel in the whole reserve, and if we get into a fight I think he will acquit himself with credit to our state.

There are now ten or twelve regiments of the Reserve encamped ^{here} within a circuit of a few miles, and every day a large detail from each is employed in throwing up breastworks, and felling trees to prevent the approach of

the enemy. From all appearances we will soon have some work to do.

A day or two before leaving Harrisburg I visited Genl Keale's office to pay for our swords, but the bill had not yet arrived, and now it will be impossible to pay until we get something from the government. We only received 16 days wages, and as the State "docted" us somewhat, funds are rather low.

Genl McCall has instituted very strict discipline in the Camp of the Reserve, and it is almost impossible to get permission to leave the grounds. I would like very much to visit Washington, where I have some friends, but we are kept so busy that I can't get away.

Thus far I am so well pleased with military life that I would like to get into the regular service, if I could manage it in any way, and devote my life to the work. Genl Cameron in distributing his favours unfortunately forgot some of his best friends.

But I must close. Hoping to hear from you soon

I remain

Very respectfully yours

J. Chamberlain

Dept No 11

Georgetown Heights, Aug 16th /61.

Dear Sir—

Your Letter concerning Geo. Schock came to hand night before last, but too late to remedy the mischief. Young Schock came to us at Harrisburg, and without mentioning his having run away from his parents wanted to be enrolled in our Company. The next morning we started for Washington, and as soon as we reached this camp (Tenally, about five miles from W.) he was inspected and sworn in. He says he has written home twice since we arrived, and before this his parents must be advised of his doings. I am sorry that I was not aware of his conduct, as he should never have come with us in that case.

The numbers of our company are generally well, but our camp is so unpleasantly situated that during the recent rains several became wet while sleeping in their tents and are now suffering from Colds and rheumatism. We still lack six men, having 95 in all, but are in no hurry to fill out. To-morrow we are to be mustered into the U. S. Service- a form that might in the estimation of all be very well dispensed with, as the oath taken in Harrisburg was virtually the same as the one to be taken to-morrow. The whole thing is a great bug-bear to the men.

Yesterday our regiment was out with seven others on a grand review by Genl. M'Call, and without bosting our men made by odds the best appearance, notwithstanding our rough expedition to Western Virginia. So far as my observation goes we have the best old war-horse of a Colonel in the whole reserve, and if we get into a fight I think he will acquit himself with credit to our state.

There are now ten or twelve regiments of the Reserve encamped here within a circuit of a few miles, and every day a large detail from each is employed in throwing up breastworks, and felling trees to prevent the approach of

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the enemy. From all appearances we will soon have some work to do.

A day or two before leaving Harrisburg I visited Gen'l Hale's office to pay for our swords, but the bill had not yet arrived, and now it will be impossible to pay until we get something from the government. We only received 16 days wages, and as the state "docked" us somewhat, funds are rather low.

Gen'l M'Call has instituted very strict discipline in the Camp of the Reserve, and it is almost impossible to get permission to leave the grounds. I would like very much to visit Washington, where I have some friends, but we are kept so busy that I can't get away.

Thus far I am so well pleased with military life that I would like to get into the regular service, if I could manage it in any way, and devote my life to the work, Gen'l Cameron in distributing his favors unfortunately forgot some of his best friends.

But I must close. Hoping to hear from you soon

I remain
Very respectfully yours
T. Chamberlin

Camp Tenally Sept. 12th 61

Hon. Eli Sizer

Dear Sir

Yesterday we were paid off by the U. S. Paymaster, and one of our first cares must be to settle for the swords kindly procured for us by you. Have the goodness to send us the bill or a statement of the same and we will immediately transmit the amount by express.

The health of our Company is in general good, but we have lost one man (Milks) since we have been here. He died of inflammation of the bowels induced by over exertion in performing feats of agility. His body was taken to Union County in care of young Barnhart.

We had quite a spirited time a few days ago, on the occasion of Gov. Curtin's visit and presentation of the Colors. Our regiment was detailed as escort to the worthy Governor from the City of Washington, and occupied the right of the brigade at the review.

Yesterday the 5th and several

other regiments of the Reserve were marched down to the Chain bridge, in which direction heavy firing was heard for several hours. We arrived too late however to get a smell of powder. The particulars of the skirmish you have already had in the papers.

Since writing the above we have concluded to send the probable amount of the bill for the swords, as stated by yourself. If it is insufficient please notify us, and we will at once forward the amount wanting.

Very respectfully yours
J. Chamberlin

Camp Tenally Sept 12th/61

Hon. Eli Slifer-

Dear Sir-

Yesterday we were paid off by the U. S. Paymaster, and one of our first cares must be to settle for the swords kindly procured for us by you. Have the goodness to send us the bill or a statement of the same and we will immediately transmit the amount by express.

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Very respectfully yours
T. Chamberlin

Camp Fennally, Sept. 20th, 1861.

Hon Eli Hifu

Dear Sir -

Enclosed please find four dollars - the balance due on our swords.

Since I last wrote we have changed our camp to a more advantageous site, and the different Regiments of our brigade (the 1st - under Gen. Reynolds) are now together, with the exception of a regiment of Cavalry. I hope this movement is only the prelude to another and more extensive one, that will place us on the other side of the Potomac and give us a chance of proving our metal.

At present we have but one sick man in our company, and he is recovering from an attack of Typhoid fever in its milder form. In point of health our entire regiment has thus far been highly favored.

It seems somewhat strange that the officers of our regiment have not received their commissions. Over three months have elapsed since we entered the service, and not a sign thus far of the customary bit of parchment. Will you be so kind as to explain the matter, as it is a subject frequently broached and discussed by our officers.

I am glad for the sake of the old
Keystone, that our Reserve Corps has
received such general commendation. It
makes one proud of his own state. And if
the Commander in Chief will give us a
chance in the "great expected battle" I think
we will not be found wanting.

Very respectfully yours
D. Chamberlin

Camp Tennally, Sept. 20th, 1861.

Hon Eli Slifer

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Enclosed please find four dollars- the balance due on our swords.

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Very respectfully yours
T. Chamberlin

Camp Pierpont, Va, Nov. 15th /61.

Hon Eli Slifer-

Dear Sir-

A thousand thanks for your most welcome present of gum blankets which reached us yesterday morning. They came very opportunely, for an hour or two after their receipt a cold rain set in which brought them into immediate requisition. They supply a want which we have felt all along very severely, and in behalf of the Company I tender you our sincere thanks.

I wrote to the Chronicle last night, enclosing your letter, and mentioning your kindness in a way that I trust will have the desired effect, and meet your approval.

Having little of interest to write about I will forbear "inflicting a letter" upon you for the present. My health continues good, as also that of most of the men. Saturday last we lost a valuable man in Sergt Scofield. His body we sent home

with Sergeant P McCall. Should
anything of interest occur soon, I will write
to you. If we go into winter-quarters I
will endeavor to get a furlough for a few
days, and visit home.

Yours very truly
F. Chamberlin

Camp Pierpont, Va, Nov. 15th/61.

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Yours very truly
T. Chamberlin