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Title: Letters from Theodore Christ to Eli Slifer

Date: 1862-1863

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Hilton Head. Il & ane 20" 1862. How. Eli Ilifes.

Dear Jin.

Dear Jin.

Dear Jon.

See by the late papers.

that there is a call from the President, for 40 Jungeons, to 120 aprilant Jungeons, and that the aprilants will be promoted according to most to. I think I am justly entitled to promotion, I have heard of other aprilants being promoted, who have been les bervice than myself, by the time this reaches you I will have Seen one years dervice in the army, (including the three months.) and more than half of this time I have been doing the duties and having the responsibilities of a surgeon, and have been at more expense than Upistanto generally are, I have treated all manner of disease, and had considerable experience in I ungery, I anitary regulations te, and have been as successful, if not more so, than many of our present durgeons. I much prefer remaining under our own noble Commanderin-chief. Gov. bestin, because I am forond of our state, also of her herois dons. if I cannot be promoted in our own of tate,

I will make application at Washington bity, if I am allowed to do so, I wish you would make an effort in my behalf, to our worthy durgeon denes. al, H. H. Smite, and ascertain of popula what my chances are for being promoted boon, if recommendations from our 45" will be of any dervice, I can furnish a full supply a I will leave this for your Consideration, and will feel grateful to you for eyour advice te. The papers you bent me, come safely, for which I am much obliged. bol. Welsh is now at I tono Inlet, with dix Companies of our Kegt. The other four we have here, & are still picketing along these I slands, on the 12" inst. bol. Welsh writes me, that two of our Companies, H. + D. had a brisk Skirmish with the Rebels near Dames Doland, they fined 40 rounds without - ceasing, & the musket barrels became so hot that it scorched their hands, Co. H, had one man Killed + Co. I. One wounded, the 16" inst form forces at Stone, advanced by land on James Island to take a battery there of some 5 Juns, that was able to shell the Camp of our new, Genl. Stevens advanced towards the battery + ducceeded in getting some men into it- twice, t was driven out each time, by Superior numbers, he was

to have been re-inforced by bent. Wright from another direction, but for some reason unknown to me, he did not reach the place, they were all ordered to withdraw, the lop in Killed. wounded, & huging on our lide, is reported at 672, that of the enemy is embrown, the 100" P.r. lost-about- 100, no other Par troops were engaged. Genl. stevens weekt like a child when he was ordered back, he fought with skill thravery. One of our privates, I can't day what Keep, Iwore he would have his man Certain, & he actually rushed into the Fort, Leized a Rebel by the hair of his head & dragged him over the ramports + into our Camp a prisoner of was. Our troops fought heroically. The above account of the 16" inst. I give you as I heard it from a reliable source, who brought the news here from stono. bol. Welsh is with bent. Wright, and is temporarily in Command of a Brigade. The health of this detachment is very good, the men stand this climate remarkably well. it is very warm toultry. Dash week wer cropsed over to the main land with two of our lo's. A. Her a for the purpose of driving away some tabels from a place Called the White House, once a Ferry Hotel, the Rebels annoyed our picket very much from this point. So we destroyed the buildings + returned en dafety, it was my finst-attempt at house burning. as I had no muster, I was determined to make myself useful in some manner, Kind regards to friends te. Yours Gruly - Theo. I. Christ Hilton Head, S.C. June 20th 1862.

Hon. Eli Slifer. Harrisburg, Pa. Dear Sir-

I see by the late papers, that there is a call from the President, for 40 Surgeons, & 120 Assistant Surgeons, and that the Assistants will be promoted according to Merit &c.

I think I am justly entitled to promotion. I have heard of other Assistants being promoted, who have Seen less Service than myself. by the time this reaches you I will have Seen one years Service in the Army, (including the three months.) and more than half of this time I have been doing the duties and having the responsibilities of a Surgeon, and have been at more expense that Assistants generally are. I have treated all manner of disease, and had considerable experience in Surgery, Sanitary regulations &c, and have been as Successful, if not more So, than many of our present Surgeons.

I much prefer remaining under our own noble Commander-in-Chief, Gov. Curtin, because I am proud of our State, also of her heroic Sons. if I cannot be promoted in our own State,

[page break]

I will make application at Washington City. if I am allowed to do So, I wish you would make an effort in my behalf, to our own worthy Surgeon General, H. H. Smith, and ascertain if possible what my chances are for being promoted Soon. if recommendations from our 45th will be of any Service, I can furnish a full Supply.

I will leave this for your Consideration, and will feel grateful to you for your advice &c. The papers you Sent me, came Safely, for which I am much obliged.

Col. Welsh is now at Stono Inlet, with Six Companies of our Regt. the other four we have here, & are Still picketing along these Islands. on the 12th inst. Col. Welsh writes me, that two of our Companies, H. & I. had a brisk Skirmish with the Rebels near James Island. they fired 40 rounds without ceasing & the Musket barrels became So hot that it Scorched their hands. Co. H. had one man Killed & Co. I. one wounded. the 16th inst. our forces at Stono, advanced by land on James Island to take a battery there of Some 5 guns that was able to Shell the Camp of our Men. Genl. Stevens advanced towards the battery & Succeeded in getting Some men into it twice, & was driven out each time, by superior numbers. he was

[page break]

to have been re-inforced by Genl. Wright from another direction, but for Some reason unknown to me, he did not reach the place. they were all ordered to withdraw. the loss in Killed, wounded, & Missing on our Side, is reported at 672. that of the enemy is unknown. the 100th P. V. lost about 100. no other Pa. troops were engaged. Genl. Stevens wept like a child when he was ordered back. he fought with Skill & bravery. one of our privates, I can't say what Regt. Swore he would have his man certain, & he actually rushed into the Fort, Seized a Rebel by the hair of his head & dragged him over the ramparts, & into our Camp a prisoner of war. Our troops fought heroically. The above account of the 16th inst. I give you as I heard it from a reliable Source, who brought the news here from Stono.

Col. Welsh is with Genl. Wright and is temporarily in Command of a Brigade.

The health of this detachment is very good. the men Stand this climate remarkably well. it is very warm & Sultry. Last week week crossed over to the Main land with two of our Co'S, A. & D. for the purpose of driving away Some Rebels from a place called the White House, once a Ferry Hotel. the Rebels annoyed our picket very much from this point, So we destroyed the buildings & returned in Safety. It was my first attempt at house burning. As I had no musket, I was determined to make myself useful in Some Manner. Kind regards to friends &c.

Yours Truly, Theo. S. Christ.

J. S. Christ July 25/62. Newfort News Virginia Duly 25-4862 How & Slifer Brown Jour Kind Javorlof dune 30", reached me a few days before om tegt, was re-united at Adlon Head. I. b. we went into a new camp there on collectis Ilantation, and supposed we would remain there until September, but we had no more than comfortably fixed our below until are received orders to food up & march to the Wharf, to take passage on the Steamer Grago, for, as we hupposed dames Kiver, but we landed at this folder on Monday last. we left I barolina, this day one week ago, and arrived on hund any might ght for tress. Monroe, disembarted on monday morning + marched here same day, about three miles from the Wharf. When are fanded, I was baluted by many old friends, from the 514 P. V. who are now help, I was followed to bee hen all , and tespecially those from devis burg, diestinante Kelly, Beaver, Shookley & many others, also bd. Martranger, Capte danne, had left for hande in the morning of have realty been working any hand, ever bissed we hard been be- united, I will amange matters for that I will be able to give you a sweetery teaterment to ain al transpiles among the ticks to arounded of but Keept, there is but fent from our own in mediate medaphorhood, what does belong, there are all well, Walls. Blair, Isaac Rawn & Mitchell, lon of the beb. mitchell of Williamsport. Thould any thing ocean of note, you shall be an from one, are bronght all but a few of our sicht with us here, a few we lend to New York. The rest are doing very well. Joseph monsell of Co. E. died yesterday in the General Hospital. here, he was taken very ell jast before leaving Helton Head. he had Tayphoid Fever, he is from lenter County, hear or at Rocht Spring, I believe,

The health of our Regiment-Tio, very good, Diareloca, Dypentery, and a few mild cases of Fever, is the principal trouble. Us regards my foromotion, I think I am justify exteted to it, in Comming with bolond Walsh to day, he asked me if he could do anything for me, the had just been reading a paper, which had a motice in for the examination of Canadidates for abbistant durgeonis) he said if he could be of any dervice to me, I should let him Know, this was unasked for, at the same time, should I be promoted. he would haplomy to be me lead his tegt, he says I have done my duty faithfully + well, + have given entire latisfaction, + am deserving of being faromoted. My examination may have been deficient in some respects, but my abilities for the position will speak for steely, I , fell confedent that my experience will be me through Safely, it is no more trouble to take care of a whole Regl; than it is of a half, this I have done for lover of months. I leave de with you, to avange with the iderage on General. I hould I recieve a Commission as I urgen, + that in a new Kagmett. I would like very much to Know 'ch before being arrighed to one of possible. I think there will be other changes in our Kegt, before long, I might be motation, but it has been intimated to me that Lient, bol. Beaver will. likely be promoted to be a Colonel of one of the new Regto. of so, I would like to be with him, the would ask for me as his durgeon I know, he is certainly deserbing of being from tid, time and again had be been complimented by may, sul Hunter, Bunham & Williams, for the good did cifeline of his detachment, and the prompt execution of all , orders, he would make an excellent Colonel tone that would be much respected by all under him. I hear from different - Sources that we will not be lent for. ward for probably a month or dix weeks. I am well & enjoying good health. I here I flindT.S. Chirst July 25/62 [This text in the top margin is written in a different ink and handwriting from the body of the letter.]

Newport News Virginia July 25th 1862

Hon E. Slifer Dr Sir

Your kind favor of June 30th, reached me a few days before our Regt. was re-united at Hilton Head, S.C. we went into a new camp there on Elliott's Plantation, and supposed we would remain there untill September, but we had no more than comfortably fixed ourselves until we received orders to pack up & march to the Wharf, to take passage on the Steamer Arago, for, as we Supposed the James River, but we landed at this place on Monday last. we left S. Carolina, this day one week ago, and arrived on Sunday night at Fortress Monroe, disembarked on Monday Morning & marched here Same day, about three miles from the Wharf.

When we landed, I was Saluted by many old friends From the 51st P. V. who are now here. I was pleased to See them all, and especially those from Lewisburg, Lieutenants Kelly, Beaver, Shorkley & many others, also Col. Hartranft. Capt. Sinn, had left for home in the morning.

This is the cause of my not answering Sooner. I have really been working very hard and ever Since we have been re-united. I will arrange matters So, that I will be able to give you a weekly Statement of what transpires among the Sick & wounded of our Reg't. there is but few from our own immediate neighborhood, what does belong there are all well, Walls, Blair, Isaac Rawn & Mitchell, Son of the Rev. Mitchell of Williamsport. Should anything occur of note, you Shall hear from me. we brought all but a few of our Sick with us here, a few were Sent to New York. the rest are doing very well. Joseph [Monsell?] of Co. E. died yesterday in the General Hospital here. he was taken very ill just before leaving Hilton Head. he had Typhoid Fever. he is from Centre County, near or at Rock Springs, I believe.

[page break]

The health of our Regiment is very good. Diarrhoea, Dysentery, and a few Mild cases of Fever is the principal trouble. As regards my promotion, I think I am justly entitled to it, in conversing with Colonel Welsh to day, he asked me if he could do anything for me. (he had just been reading a paper, which had a notice in for the examination of candidates for Assistant Surgeons.) he said if he could be of any Service to me, I should let him Know. This was unasked for, at the Same time, Should I be promoted he would be Sorry to See me leave his Regt. he says I have done my duty faithfully & well, & have given entire Satisfaction, & am deserving of being promoted.

My examination may have been deficient in Some respects, but my abilities for the position Speak for it self. I feel confident that my experience will See me through Safely. it is no more trouble to take care of a whole Reg't. than it is of a half. this I have done for over 7 months. I leave it with you, to arrange with the Surgeon General. Should I receive a commission as Surgeon & that in a new Regiment, I would like very much to know before being assigned to one if possible. I think there will be other changes in our Regt. before long. I might be mistaken, but it has been intimated to me that Lieut. Col. Beaver will likely be promoted to be a Colonel of one of the new Regt.'s. if So, I would like to be with him, & he would ask for me as his Surgeon I

know. he is certainly deserving of being promoted. time and again has he been complimented by Maj. Genl's. Hunter, Benham, & Williams, for the good discipline of his detachment; and the prompt execution of all orders. he would make an excellent Colonel & one that would be much respected by all under him.

I hear from different Sources that we will not be Sent forward for probably a month or Six weeks.

I am well & enjoying good health.

I remain your humble Servant Theo. S. Christ

Brooks Station. Ang. 4" 1862. Near Agnia breet. va. Hon. E. Ilifes. Hariburg. Your letter of the 9" Daily, bent to Fort Koyal, reached me on board the Elm City, pust as we were leaving Newfort News. for this place. we left benfaort News, on Monday morning last, and landed ned evening at Ugnia Creek, where we tem amed for the night, next morning & Companies of our Keep, was kent to this Wation, I we are now quarding the Kail Koad for you miles, the other 2 Companies, bol. Welsh Refet with him at Agria bruk danding, which is his head In orters. Genl, Devens's Head Quarters, (in Whose Division we are now) is at d'res, che burg, about 13 miles from here. we are all in Maj. Genl. Bounsides, army Confes. The rest of his Command has passed on up the road to different fromts. We receive our Mails daily, from Washington City, I am now only about 40 miles below blexandria, where I was a month last hummer, lines that time I have traveled a great many

miles, passed through a number of states, theen many changes,

I am pleased to learn that I am marked for fromotion. and that Aurgeon General Smith, has taken an interest in me, you will please accelet my thanks for the interest you have manifested in my behalf. I feel grateful to you & for this, as well as for a number of instances in which you have feroven yourself my friend, if I am ever able, in any manner to serve you. I will do it with the greatest pleasure. I bulglose you have already heard of DD. Notter resigning. I heaving the Regiment, he has no one to blame but himself, he was never at his foot, lince the Regt. has been re-united, his duties fell upon my shoulders, consequently I had double duty to perform, he was never solver, t often beastly drunto, which made it very unpleasant for me, + more laborious, I am now enjoying my position more than I ever did, just because I am not know at by a dunken maro, he was placed under arest by our bol, for drunkenness, he trespossed his onder t left Camp. Curring & damming every Officer in the blight, he was then arrested again I would have been Court-Martialed, which would certainly have given him a dishonorable discharge from bervice, which he deserved, but many of us Knew his family, relatives ofmends, we asked that he would be allowed to resign, which would allow him to go home in a more honorable way, it was granted, & he handed in his besignation of left next-day, I feel donny for him t

freely, forgive him for his an gentlemanly & un-profesbrond Conduct towards me, he is not a friend of mine, to my face he was friendly, behind my back he said many bad trings, which the Officers have told me, all because they would praise me up in his presence, the day before he left, our Hospital Steward went to Phila. to afelow before that board, for from otion to an asir. Imgeonship, lince then I have had to do the work of three, no help whatever, I had Medicines, beds, bedding to to back t take care of, sick to attend to, medicines to four aforte, and I arome you I never worked half so hand before, withall this work of confusion in breaking if camps troving. I went through itall in less time & with more faleasure than if Dr. P. had been with me. I expect our Hospital Steward back this week. I left my dichted- men, + all those unfil- for active dervice, al-Newfood News, Genl. Hospital, 28 in all. I have now It men in Hospital, the General health of our Regt, is better than it has been for months, our foresent. Campo is, & trinks, a healthy one, I wish I could give you donne late news, it is rumoned here that bent. King is having a brisk fight at; or near Falmouth. I cannot hay how true it is. I have really been so busy arranging Jents, medicines +c. that I have not taken time to ask grestions.

If I am to be formated 4 that very soon, I hope it will be in this Regh. I have not asked any one but yourself, to bee about my faromotion, I will let the Officers threen of the Regh: Speak for me, of their own accord, if they thinks I am the position, deserving of it; t able to fill, they I have no doubt will say so in due time. + if I am unworthy, I never want-it; I would like to be promoted for mextorious conduct. His is the only true way to gain the highest posts of honor. I am able to fill a Surgeoile position. If made surgeon of this Reg. I hope I will receive good assistance, which I have no doubt-will be the case, Excuse this hastily written letter, it is late in the night of I have worked hand all day & more for to mornow planned out. Rind regards to your family & all enquiring friends. I remain yours truly. Deved. Comeses Theo. I wish-"Bunsides army Corfes." ria- Washington. l. ash. Surgeon, H528.V.

ar agnia Creek!"

Brooks Station Aug. 7th 1862 Near Aquia Creek, Va.

Hon. E. Slifer, Harrisburg, Pa. Dear Friend,

Your letter of the 9th July Sent to Port Royal, reached me on board the Elm City, just as we were leaving Newport News for this place. we left Newport News on Monday morning last, and landed next evening at Aquia Creek, where we remained for the night. next morning 8 companies of our Regt. was Sent to this Station & we are now guarding the Rail Road for 7 ½ miles. the other 2 Companies, Col. Welsh Kept with him at Aquia Creek Landing, which is his Head Quarters.

Genl. Stevens's Head Quarters, (in Whose Division we are now.) is at Frericksburg, about 13 miles from here. we are all in Maj. Genl. Burnsides, Army Corps. the rest of his command has passed on up the road to different points.

We receive our Mails daily, from Washington City. I am now only about 40 miles below Alexandria, where I was a month last Summer. Since that time I have traveled a great many miles, passed through a number of States, & seen many changes.

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I am pleased to learn that I am marked for promotion, and that Surgeon General Smith, has taken an interest in me. You will please accept my thanks for the interest you have manifested in my behalf. I feel grateful to you, for this, as well as for a number of instances in which you have proven yourself my friend. if I am ever able, in any manner to Serve you, I will do it with the greatest pleasure.

I suppose you have already heard of Dr. Potter resigning & leaving the Regiment. he has no one to blame but himself, he was never at his post. Since the Regt. has re-united, his duties Fell upon my Shoulders, consequently I had double duty to perform. he was never Sober, & often beastly drunk, which made it unpleasant for me, & more laborious. I am now enjoying my position more than I ever did, just because I am not Sworn at by a drunken man. he was placed under arrest by our Col. for drunkenness, he trespassed his order & left Camp cursing & damning every Officer in the Regt. he was then arrested again & would have been Court-Martialed, which would certainly have given him a dishonorable discharge from Service, which he deserved, but many of us Knew his family, relatives & friends. we asked that he be allowed to resign, which would allow him to go home in a more honorable way. it was granted, & he handed in his resignation & left next day. I feel sorry for him &

[page break]

freely forgive him for his un-gentlemanly & un-professional Conduct towards me. he is not a friend of mine. to my face he was friendly. behind my back he said many bad things, which the Officers have told me, all because they would praise me up in his presence. the day before he left, our Hospital Steward went to Phila. to appear before that board, for promotion to an Ass't

Surgeonship. Since then I have had to do the work of three, no help whatever. I had Medicine, beds, bedding, &c &c to pack & take care of, Sick to attend to, Medicines to put up, &c, and I assure you I never worked half So hard before. with all this work & confusion in breaking up Camp & moving, I went through it all in less time & with more pleasure than if Dr. P. had been with me. I expect our Hospital Steward back this week.

I left my Sickest men, & all those unfit for active Service, at Newport News, Genl. Hospital, 28 in all. I have now 4 men in Hospital. The General health of our Regt. is better than it has been for months. our present Camp is, I think, a healthy one. I wish I could give you Some late news. it is rumored here that Genl. King is having a brisk fight at, or near Falmouth. I cannot Say how true it is. I have really been So busy arranging Tents, Medicines &c. that I have not taken time to ask questions.

[page break]

If I am to be promoted & that very soon, I hope it will be in this Regt. I have not asked any one but yourself to see about my promotion. I will let the Officers & men of the Regt. speak for me, of their own accord. if they think I am deserving of it, & able to fill the position, they I have no doubt will Say So in due time. & if I am unworthy, I never want it. I would like to be promoted for Meritorious Conduct. this is the only true way to gain the highest posts of honor. I am able to fill a Surgeon's position. if made Surgeon of this Regt. I hope I will receive good assistance, which I have no doubt will be the case. Excuse this hastily written letter, it is late in the night & I have worked hard all day & more for to morrow planned out.

Kind regards to your family & all enquiring friends.

I remain Yours truly, Theo S. Christ Asst. Surgeon, 45th P. V.

Direct to me & c
"Burnside Army Corps."
Via Washington, D. C.
"At Aquia Creek"
Vir.

Hon. E. Slifer. Bo. Harrisong. Bo.

Dear Finind

Nour's of the 6" inch. is rec", Congratulating me an my foromation de, folease a celph my tranks for your Rind wishes, also for the interest you have always taken in my behalf. your many Kindnesses towards me will never be for gotten.

I wrote you a longthy letter a few days ago, informing you of our whereabouts te, lince then but little has transformed of note in this vicinity, excelpt among our advanced troops. The 21 at N. V. while moving form and, left their dick in the rear, about 70 in all, and they were caletimed by Stewarts Cavalry when in highl of Fredericks burg, The Regt, could have te-taken them by firing into the Cavalny, but they feared Killing their own kick, so they left them go,

I will endeavor to do my duty as dangers of this Regt, in every fearticular, and prove myself worthy of from otion.

Gols, Welsh Heaves, and our town boys wish to be remembered, Excuse haste, Kind regards to enquiring friends, will write

you, whenever anything of note transpines. yours bruly-Theo. I Strick, Surger, 45" P. V.

Acquia Creek, Vir. Aug. 9th 1862

Hon. E. Slifer, Harrisburg, Pa. Dear Friend

Yours of the 6th inst. is recd. congratulating me on my promotion &c. please accept my thanks for your Kind wishes. also for the interest you have always taken in my behalf. your many Kindnesses towards me will never be forgotten.

I wrote you a lengthy letter a few days ago, informing you of our whereabouts &c. Since then but little has transpired of note in this vicinity, except among our advanced troops. the 21st N.Y. while moving forward, left their Sick in the rear, about 70 in all, and they were captured by Stewarts Cavalry when in Sight of Fredericksburg. the Regt. could have re-taken them by firing into the Cavalry, but they feared Killing their own Sick, So they left them go.

I will endeavor to do my duty as Surgeon of the Regt. in every particular, and prove myself worthy of promotion. Col's Welsh & Beaver, and our town boys wish to be remembered. Excuse haste, Kind regards to enquiring friends. will write you, whenever anything of note transpires.

Yours truly-Theo. S. Christ, Surgeon, 45th P. V.

Jamp read Lovetsville. Vir. Oct. 28" 1862.

Horo. Eli Slifer My dear Friend.

I much longer time has elapsed, than I had intended should, without writing to you, but owing to the illness of one of my Ussistants, since the battle of South mountain, and the additional duties devolving upon me, (Since Oct. 19th) of acting Brigade Surgeon, of 3rd Brigade, my time has been so much taken up, that I was compelled to negled my friends unwillingly, therefore, I ask to be excused for my long lilence.

and will endeavor to be more feundical hereafter. At this time I wish more particularly to call your attention to the position now occupied by our hobe bolonel. Thomas Welsh. he is now acting Brigadier General, of 300 Brigade, 1 th Division, 9" army Corfes, You Know very well of his Gallant Conduct at the late battles in maryland, at the head of the 2nd Brigade, Senti, Burnsides & Wileax, have given him publickly, a Splendid name, for his bravery and Coolness, during those en gagements, the whole Brigade have the highest respect for him, and really love him, and will go unflinch ingly wherever he may direct, having buch unlimited confidence in

all his movements. I hear that Tenna. is entitled to a great number of Brig. Generals, +

that a number will boon be appointed, how could not led. It. be one of the first appointed. I Know Genl. Brunsides has recommended him for it: besides his commission dates farther back than any Penna. bolonel, in this 9" anny Corfes, and he has been in bervice longer, therefore has a stronger claims than any other, you civilians at home, may not Know how unpleasant it is for a worthy Officer, to be commanded by his I union in rank, besides after conducting his Brigade all through Maryland, with credit to himself, his men. +State. he is Suddenly relieved by his I union Officer taking his place, the Col. W. returned to his Regiment again, two days afterwards he instated to the command of the same Brigade, is not only unpleasant + discouraging to himself, but all his friends here, & at home, now if to be appoint ted a Brigadier, & commissioned as Such, could it not be that his name should be armong the first, then he could make his calculations accordingly. We all expect it, we look for it, and will be very much disappointed if he is not appointed, had bol. W. best mustered into the W. S. Suvice

We all expect it, we look for it, and will be very much our appointed if he is not appointed, had bot. W. bests mustered into the W. S. Sewice when first offering his buries to the State, there would be, but a few in our whole army that would out rank him. I knowing upon are well acquainted with bot. W. I feel free to write & recommend a walnable + apod man for an honorable & reliable fasition, he often speaks of yourself & Wm. Frick Eags, in the most praire worthy manner, Should you feel interested in his behalf, as I know you are in all good bloyal here, please unge his appointment, & I feel free to -

bay you will not only please him and his friends here, but at his own home and vicinity.

I am well and in excellent health spirits, the health of our Right; is very good, hever better, we have not had one death from disease linee daily last; thave endured more hardships + exposure since that time, than at any time before, lince we are a Regiment, I certainly feel flattered to be able to day as much.

We crossed the Potomae, on a Pontoon bridge, at Berlin, Ind. on I unday last. it rained +stormed all day and night, was very unpleasant assure you, we was the do Division across after the bavalry, we went into campo same day within 1/2 mile of Lovetwille, where me still remain, our whole 9" army Corfes is now a cross. Genl's. nichtellan Warmides are here, we move forward in the monning.

Please remember me to your family, t all enquiring friends.

I remains your Humble Servant
Theo. S. Christ

Surgan. 45" Regr. P. V. 3ª Brig. landin. 9ª a. C. Camp near Lovetsville, Vir. Oct. 28th 1862.

Hon. Eli Slifer My dear Friend,

A much longer time has elapsed, than I had intended Should, without writing to you, but owing to the illness of one of my Assistants, Since the battle of South Mountain, and the additional duties devolving upon me, (Since Oct. 1st) of Acting Brigade Surgeon, of 3rd Brigade, my time has been So much taken up, that I was compelled to neglect my friends unwillingly. therefore, I ask to be excused for my long Silence, and will endeavor to be more punctual hereafter.

At this time I wish more particularly to call your attention to the position now occupied by our Noble Colonel, Thomas Welsh. he is now acting Brigadier General, of 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 9th Amy Corps. You know very well of his Gallant Conduct at the late battles in Maryland, at the head of the 2nd Brigade. Genl's Burnside & Wilcox have given him publickly, a Splendid name, for his bravery and Coolness, during those engagements. the Whole Brigade have the highest respect for him, and really love him, and will go unflinchingly wherever he may direct, having Such unlimited confidence in all his Movements.

I hear that Penna. is entitled to a great number of Brig. Generals, &

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that a number will Soon be appointed. now could not Col. W. be one of the first appointed. I know Genl. Burnsides has recommended him for it. besides his commission dates farther back than any Penna. Colonel. in the 9th Army Corps, and he has been in Service longer, therefore has a Stronger claim than any other. You Civilians at home, may not Know how unpleasant it is for a worthy Officer, to be commanded by his Junior in rank, besides after conducting his Brigade all through Maryland, with credit to himself, his men, & State. he is Suddenly relieved by his Junior Officer taking his place, & he Col. W. returned to his Regiment again, two days afterwards re-instated to the command of the Same Brigade, is not only unpleasant & discouraging to himself, but all his friends here, & at home. now if to be appointed a Brigadier & commissioned as Such, could it not be that his name Should be among the first, then he could make his calculations accordingly.

We all expect it, we look for it, and will be very much disappointed if he is not appointed. had Col. W. been mustered into the U.S. Service when first offering his Services to the State, there would be but a few in our whole Army that would out-rank him. I Knowing you are well acquainted with Col. W. I feel free to write & recommend a valuable & good man for an honorable & reliable position. he often Speaks of yourself & Wm. Frick Esq. in the most praiseworthy manner. Should you feel interested in his behalf, as I Know you are in all good & loyal Men, please urge his appointment & I feel free to

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Say you will not only please him and his friends here, but at his own home and vicinity.

I am well and in excellent health & Spirits. the health of our Regt. is very good. never better, we have not had one death from disease Since July last; & have endured more hardships &

exposure Since that time, than at any one time before, Since we are a Regiment. I certainly Feel Flattered to be able to Say as much.

We crossed the Potomac, on a Pontoon bridge at Berlin, Md. on Sunday last. it rained & Stormed all day and night, was very unpleasant I assure you. we was the 2nd Division across after the Cavalry. we went into Camp Same day within ½ mile of Sovitsville, where we Still remain, our whole 9th Army Corps is now across. Genl's McClellan & Burnside are here. we move forward in the morning.

Please remember me to your family, & all enquiring friends.

I remain Your Humble Servant Theo. S. Christ Surgeon, 45th Regt. P. V. 3rd Brig. 1st Div. 9th A. C.

Theo S. Christ Blennis Cross Roads, East Jenni, How. Eli blifer Dear bion I have often thought of you bince in the berice, and have written you a number of letters, 4 have had them answered, for which I am truly Mankful, I would have written more frequently, but Knowing the great amount of business you are Constantly engaged in, I feared & might be trispaising upon your Valuable Time, I only write now, informing you of my whereabouts 40. The doings of our old 9" a. c. 4 more foatienlarly our old 45" Sa. Regt, you have read before this in the newspapers, therefore I will not repeat it here, suffice it to day, dince our corps is in this department we have duffered more

for the want of food, clothing & Shelter, than we have ever before experienced lince in service, we had comfortable winter quarters erected at Genoir Station, 23 miles below Knoxville, & was just-begining to enjoy them when we were forced to retreat from there, & by mis-management on the part of some one, much of our baggage was destroyed, Sente to. we came to Knowlle where we were holed by Longsteel- for 18 days, here we over all fed on '14 hations most of the Time, that ration was fresh beef or foorst. halt, bread made of unbolted flour, bad at that & Conn, occasionally a little Coffee 4 Sugar, here was spent many sheepliss days & nights, expeding an attack on our front every hour, the fighting you have read about before this, with all of this hunger & hard marching, I never been owe men in better Spirits thealth & more anxious to fight; in fact our whole line had known to die at their fost, at one

time we all expected to be taken foresomers, and to tell the truth had Longstrut advanced on us at any time the first-five days he could have taken the city, but he delayed, I we made good use of our time, by working day & might, and when we was ready we were willing for him to come, he did try it on the 29" the result you I how all this time I was busy in the Hospital ofwaling upon the wounded, we lost in our Ref; but 20 in all, most of them blight wounds. After the beige was haised we started after the retreating enemy + followed them as far as Bean Station, where we halted for several days + then fell back to this cross Roads. 18 miles from Knoxville, the fact two weeks we have been Mirmishing with them daily & have taken a great many Insone where we will go next & am unable to bay, but begin to think we will have a winter campaign, if so we will suffer

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"Since was 45" Rich. P. Y.

Touch your friend

The Brief 12" Bir. 9-0.6. Knowle. Theo. b. Shrish Theo S. Christ Dec 29/63

[This is written above Christ's place and date lines in the handwriting of someone other than Christ.]

Blenn's Cross Roads, East Tenn. Dec. 29th 1863

Hon. Eli Slifer Dear Sir,

I have often thought of you Since in the Service, and have written you a number of letters, & have had them answered, for which I am truly thankful. I would have written more frequently, but Knowing the great amount of business you are constantly engaged in, I feared I might be trespassing upon your valuable time. I only write now, informing you of my whereabouts &c.

The doings of our old 9th A. C. & more particularly our old 45th Pa. Regt, you have read before this in the Newspapers. Therefore I will not repeat it here. Suffice it to Say, Since our Corps is in this department we have Suffered more

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time we all expected to be taken prisoners, and to tell the truth had Longstreet advanced on us at any time the first five days he could have taken the city. but he delayed, & we made good use of our time, by working day & night, and when we was ready we were willing for him to come. he did try it on the 29th the result you Know. All this time I was busy in the Hospital operating upon the wounded. we lost in our Regt. but 20 in all. Most of them Slight wounds. After the Seige was raised we Started after the retreating enemy & followed them as far as Bean Station, where we halted for Several days, & then fell back to this Cross Roads, 18 miles from Knoxville. the past two weeks we have been Skirmishing with them daily & have taken a great many Prisoners. where we will go next I am unable to Say, but begin to think we will have a winter campaign, if so we will Suffer

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Re-enlisting in our Corps is progressing finely. I think we will be able to get our Regiment into it, as a Regiment.

Please Send me a few State documents occasionally during the winter.

Please remember me Kindly to your family & all enquiring friends. if you have time to answer please do So.

Truly your friend Theo. S. Christ

"Direct -Surgeon 45th Regt. P. V.