

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Letters from Jacob Frick to Eli Slifer

Date: 1862-1863

Location: MC 2003.4, B4, F18

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

J. G. Frick.

Ship Point, Va. (April 22, 1862)

Dear Col:

I have only time to write you a few lines that you may know where we are. Our present location is 8 miles from Yorktown. We have been on board (Franklin's Division) of the transports for six days, and I believe we are next to disembark here. As soon as the proper time arrives, for active operations to commence along the line our Division will run up York River and land in the rear of the enemy under cover of the fire of our gunboats. Had some all things will be in readiness I do not know. I presume as soon as all of the heavy siege guns are placed in their proper positions

and the weather which has
been unusually bad, settles, the
ball will be opened. The conflict
no doubt will be desperate, but
~~affordable~~ ^{favorable} result, I think, is not at all
questionable. All seem to have,
as they should, unbounded confidence
in Mr. McClellan, who is con-
stantly on the alert, supervis-
ing all operations. —

On the great hurry to get
our boat off from Alexandria,
all of my baggage, consisting of
bed, blankets, my best clothes, sash
pistol (I have one with me) books, paper
bride, water and horse blanket, hav-
ersacks &c., perhaps worth \$200 were
left on the wharf. This has put
me in a great strait, and
I have suffered very much from
the inconvenience. I may get them
yet. Yours Truly
Jacob B. Frick
E. Silber Esq 3

Ship Point, Va. April 22, 1862

Dear Col:-

I have only time to write you a few lines that you may know where we are.

Our present location is 8 miles from Yorktown. We have been on board (Franklin's Division) of the transports for six days, and I believe we are not to disembark here. So soon as the proper time arrives for active operations to commence along the line our Division will run up York River and land in the rear of the enemy under cover of the fire of our gunboats. How soon all things will be in readiness I do not know. I presume so soon as all of the heavy siege guns are placed in their proper positions

[page break]

and the weather which has been unusually bad, settles, the ball will be opened. The conflict no doubt will be desperate, but ~~the~~ a favorable result, I think, is not at all questionable. All seem to have, as they should, unbounded confidence in Gen. McClellan, who is constantly on the alert, Supervising all operations._

In the great hurry to get our boat off from Alexandria, all of my baggage, consisting of bed, blankets, my best clothes, sash pistol (I have one with me) book, papers, bridle, halter and horse blankets, haversack &c., perhaps worth \$200 were left on the wharf. This has put me in a great strait, and I have suffered very much from the inconvenience. I may get them yet.

Yours Truly,
Jacob G. Frick

E. Slifer Esq.

Head Quarters 129th Pa. Vol's,
Camp Baver, Md., October 29th 1862.

Dear Colonel:

We are still anchored here on the banks of the Potomac, waiting until the "Army is rested and recruited" before we are to follow the enemy.

The time I am told has now arrived, and that we will march tomorrow. But just as we learn that we are likely to march against the enemy we hear that he has fallen back behind the Rappa-hannock. So it goes. We will now have to march far from our supplies and base of operations, and I deprecate from the bottom of my heart another Campaign down in Virginia. I am tired of field service, and would gladly retire now to my home, or to some position where I might make a living for the present, be useful, and at the same time be comfortable. The cold damp

weather has brought on occasional at-
tacks of rheumatism in my back
and shoulder. I shall be glad if it gets
no worse. -

Our much-be-great Brig. General has
been having several Brigade Drills, and
I assure you any man will ~~be~~ catch
all military work in vain if he de-
sires to find in them his Command and
Sense of his movements. I never heard
such absurd Commands, but understand-
ing what he wants to do or something
near it, I get along, while others blun-
der like a man in the dark. I would
think myself a poor excuse if I could not
do one hundred times better and give
you greater satisfaction. He explains nothing,
perhaps for the good and sufficient reason
that does not know how. In my part
I want none of his instruction, but if he
consults me will afford him some.

I believe I mentioned once before that
we were Commanded, (I mean this Divi-
-ion of Pennsylvanians) so far as Brigadiers

are concerned by ~~an~~ Ohio and ~~a~~ Mass-
achusetts men. An Brigade is a close
corporation of an Ohio Stamp. I mean
the General and his entire Staff. Now
since he has been in Command of Penn-
sylvanian men, he has had several vacancies in his
Staff, and does he fill them as he should
from Pennsylvanian Regiments? Far from it. The
General (Ohio) must remain intact, and
he therefore sends to Ohio Regiment, (mostly
~~from~~ ^{to} the 7th) to fill his vacancies. This is a
gross compliment to Pennsylvanian Officers under
his Command, besides being notoriously un-
just. Gen. Stoen, when we joined him had
an officer in his Staff from three of the
four Regiments then composing his Brigade.
Soon afterwards he gave a chance to
an Regiment in favor of the 26th N.Y.
but unfortunately as was the case with
most of Colonel Coker's selections, the young
man was not competent. He was a son
of the President of the Farmers Bank. He again
detailed his brother-in-law (Hentzinger) ~~and~~
as any sane man would expect, was also

sent to repair his Regiment. It was not
Gen. Slocum's fault that a Perrin was not
in his Staff. There no chance is presented
and we are constantly insulted and an-
noyed by these foreigners, so upon the
whole we are unpleasantly situated. I at
least who has a very sensitive mind feel
humiliated, and don't care about staying
another hour in the service.

The weather is getting quite cool and
as the men have no overcoats along and
but few under clothes, they suffer much.
Our sick list numbers about 175. ^{This} Sick-
ness has been caused by a want of the
proper clothing.

Remember me to all my friends in
Seewisley.

Yours Truly,
H. Brick

Col. S. S. Sifer
Harrisburg, Pa

Gen. Newberry, U.S. Topographical Engineers Army
Division was just present at my reg Parade. He paid
as a high compliment and wished his whole Division was like
my Regiment. It is a compliment from such a source is worth mentioning.

Head Quarters 129th Pa. Vol's,
Camp Tavern, Md., October 29th, 1862.

Dear Colonel:-

We are still anchored here on the banks of the Potomac, waiting until the "army is rested and recruited" before we are to follow the enemy.

The time I am told has now arrived, and that we will march tomorrow. But just as we learn that we are likely to march against the enemy we hear that he has fallen back behind the Rappahannock. So it goes. We will now have to march far from our supplies and base of operations, and I deprecate from the bottom of my heart another campaign down in Virginia. I am tired of field service, and would gladly retire now to my home, or to some position where I might make a living for the present, be useful, and at the same time be comfortable. The cold damp

[page break]

weather has brought in occasional attacks of rheumatism in my back and shoulder. I shall be glad if it gets no worse._

Our would-be-great Brig. General has been having several Brigade Drills, and I assure you any man will search all military works in vain if he desires to find in them his Commands and some of his movements. I never heard such absurd commands, but understanding what he wants to do or something near it, I get along, while others blunder like a man in the dark. I would think myself a poor excuse if I could not do one hundred times better and give far greater satisfaction. He explains nothing, perhaps for the good and sufficient reason that does not know how. For my part I want none of his instruction, but if he consults me will offend him [sure?].

I believe I mentioned once before that we were commanded, (I mean this Division of Pennsylvanians) so far as Brigadiers

[page break]

are concerned by ~~an~~ Ohio and ~~a~~ Massachusetts men. Our Brigade is a close corporation of an Ohio Stamp. I mean the General and his entire staff. Now since he has been in command of Penn'a men, he has had several vacancies on his staff, and does he fill them as he should from Penn'a Regiments? Far from it. The concern (Ohio) must remain intact, and he therefore sends to Ohio Regiments (mostly ~~for~~ to the 7th) to fill his vacancies. This is a poor compliment to Penn'a Officers under his command, besides being notoriously unjust. Gen. Slocum, when we joined him had an officer in his staff from three of the four Regiments then composing his Brigade. Soon afterwards he gave a chance to our Regiment in room of the 26th N. Y. but unfortunately as was the case with most of Colonel Cake's selections, the young man was not competent. He was a son of the President of the Farmers Bank. He again detailed his brother-in-law (Huntzinger) ~~as~~ and as any sane man would expect, was also

[page break]

sent to rejoin his Regiment. It was not Gen. Steven's fault that a Penn'a was not on his Staff. Here no chance is presented, and we are constantly insulted and annoyed by these foreigners. So upon the whole we are unpleasantly situated. I, at least who has a very sensitive [mind?] feel humiliated, and don't care about staying another hour in the Service.

The weather is getting quite cool and as the men have no overcoats along and but few under clothes, they suffer much. Our sick list numbers about 175. This sickness I believe has been caused by a want of the proper clothing.

Remember me to all my friends in Lewisburg.

Yours Truly,
J. G. Frick

Col. E. Slifer
Harrisburg, Pa

Gen. Humphrey's U. S. Topographical Engeers [one word illegible] Division was just present at my dress parade. He paid us a high compliment and wished his whole Division was like my Regiment. A compliment from such a [source?] is worth mentioning.

Camp near Fredericksburg, Va., Feb. 1st 1863.

Dear Col:

Mr. Childsey, father-in-law of Col. Armstrong has arrived here, and with him your letter of the 29th.

He says Gen. Russell in Washington but could not see that much had been effected in our matter. Gen. Russell had met Gen. Phelps, who had either been summoned to Washington to answer for his crimes as one of the McCallum-Peters ring, or had gone there to ask for what nobody would ask for him, viz: - promotion and a higher command. When asked by Gen. Russell about Col. Armstrong's sickness, he actually told him that he was not sick. The unmitigated liar. And this too, after personal application had been made to him by our Surgeons as well as the Brigade Surgeon to see Armstrong who they represented to him as very sick. The Surgeon certifies to these facts today. Besides this, when the Army was ordered forward on the 21st ult., because of the ill-health of both of

us, an ambulance was ordered by the Surgeons for us to ride in. This fact he also knew, for seeing the ambulance, which was a new one with good horses attached to it, and after being told that it was assigned to us, he took it to haul forage for his horses, and sent us an old dilapidated one that he had about his Head Quarters at the time. These are actual facts. Col. Armstrong's health is somewhat improving but he is not yet a well man by any means. He had a very severe sickness for ten days or two weeks, which was alarming.

In character with the above writings he is another he told Gen. Russell, viz:—"That he had a great deal of trouble with Col. Brick", that "he had frequently disobeyed orders before". This utterly false, and so far from being true, he could never say a word of the efficiency of the Regiment and my ability as an officer, to myself and to others. He often said to me that he wished all of the Regiments in his Division were like the 129th. And even since his outrage upon ^{us} and when in his sober senses (the early part of the day) he told one of my Captains who is specially detailed on his staff, that "it was a damned pity" - these are the best officers in

my division" — "my Crack Regiment" &c. These things are susceptible of proof.

And now neither Humphreys or Gen. Tyler can ever say that I ever directly disobeyed an order given to me. I confess I have exercised my own judgment in regard to the execution of some orders I have received in the past from Gen. Tyler, but in doing so I complied with the orders indirectly and in accordance with correct military teachings, and the prescribed tactics of the Army. This may have given offense, and I presume it did, but I was not to blame. Those only are to blame who prescribe standard works for the government of the Army and insist upon them being the text books. I have long since learned that it is bad for an officer to know too much in the Army, and especially is it unfortunate for him if he knows more than the General officers over him. I am not too modest to say this has been my misfortune, and Gen. Tyler at least has been honest enough to acknowledge my ability, and for the last three months he never makes a movement, ~~decide~~ without consulting me. On the day of the battle he said to me, "I wish to God Colonel I had your Regiment in the right today, my proper place

being on the extreme left. But Sir, when the
hard fighting commenced he did take my Regiment
and place it in front, and the fearful record of that
day shows the work we did and the position we were in.
But General Russell certainly is soldier enough to see
the improbability of the story, since he knows that no
order can ^{be} issued directly to me from Division Head
Quarters, but that on the contrary it must go through the
Head Quarters of the Brigade, and therefore a Brigade order
and if disobeyed must necessitate the disobedience of the
orders from the latter Head Quarters.

Gen. Tyler has written three times to me. One of his
officers, arriving here the other night, with whom he sent
the word "that things were working right" - that he had not
the remotest doubt of the whole thing, resulting in Col.
Scribner getting a star on his shoulder instead of the eagles,
if his efforts were properly rewarded by the Colonel's Pennsylv-
-vania friends. I believe the General feels friendly to me,
and the "wish may have been Father to the trumpet" - The
outrage upon me has been so great, and my military aspi-
-rations so much damped, that if an appointment of
the King was tendered me I would scarcely accept. I don't
think of it, because it would be a triumph
not only over Howards, but over Joe and How Baker
who are making the most of my troubles, and circulating
the most infamous lies about it. -

If dismissed from the service I shall ask my
friends, to aid me to be re-instated, and then if
they cannot succeed in getting my Regiment trans-

ferred for Gen. Humphreys Division in accordance with the unanimous wishes of Officers and men in the Regiment, I shall ask them to get the Secretary to accept my resignation and give me an honorable discharge from the Army. I cannot, and will not sacrifice my self respect and degrade my manhood by serving longer under a man that is a common liar and drunkard, and who is destitute of the first spark of honor. I could not have any heart to serve the Country longer under such circumstances, and could not be useful. I hope then this much will be done for me, if Gen. Byers's high expectations in regard to promotion are not realized.

I fear unless some one comes here either with or without (the former would be better) orders from Secretary for a copy of the proceedings which should have been sent to Washington long ago, and bring the attention of the authorities to our cases we will be kept here a long time. Humphreys would not be too good to keep the orders back after they were sent to his Board of Officers, for the purpose of annoying us as much

as possible. He has done this frequently before, and
because of this disposition Col. E. Jay Allen 155th Pa
Arts (from Pittsburgh) very aptly calls him the pidger hole
General.

Col. Armstrong's Father-in-law is going to try
to get him a furlough in Washington based on a Surgeons
Certificate the beginning of this week. If he succeeds I
will be left alone to enjoy the Sweet Comforts of this place.

Our Regiment has not been paid yet. It
is the only Regiment in the Division that has not
been paid. The men need their money much and
I hope will get it soon.

Joe Baker is making big efforts to have him made
a Brigadier General. And so hopeful is the latter that
he has already bought a General Officers Surrut.
He made similar preparations last winter - he
may be disappointed as then.

Hoping to get out of this place soon and
a chance to see you in Washington when I get
there, I remain

Very truly yours,

Jacoby Fricks

C. E. Skiffes }

Camp near Fredericksburg, Va., Feb. 1st, 1863.

Dear Col:-

Mr. [Chidsey], father-in-law of Col. Armstrong has arrived here, and with him your letter of the 29th.

He saw Gen. Russell in Washington but could not see that much had been effected in our matter. Gen. Russell had met Gen. Humphreys, who had either been summoned to Washington to answer for his crimes as one of the McClellan-Porter ring, or had gone there to ask for what nobody would ask for him, viz:- promotion and a higher command. When asked by Gen. Russell about Col. Armstrong's sickness, he actually told him that he was not sick. The unmitigated liar. And this too, after personal application had been made to him by our surgeons as well as the Brigade Surgeon to see Armstrong who they represented to him as very sick. These gentlemen certify to these facts today. Besides this, when the Army was ordered forward on the 21st ult., because of the ill-health of both of

[page break]

us, an ambulance was ordered by the Surgeons for us to ride in. This fact he also knew, for seeing the ambulance, which was a new one with good horses attached to it, and after being told that it was assigned to us, he took it to haul forage for his horses, and sent us an old dilapidated one that he had about his Head Quarters at the time. These are actual facts. Col. Armstrong's health is somewhat improved but he is not yet a well man by any means. He had a very severe sickness for ten days or two weeks, which was alarming.

In character with the above notorious lie is another he told Gen. Russell, viz:- "That he had a great deal of trouble with Col. Frick," that "he had frequently disobeyed orders before." This utterly false, and so far from being true, he could never say enough of the efficiency of the Regiment and my ability as an officer, to myself and to others. He often said to me that he wished all of the Regiments in his Division were like the 129th. And even since his outrage upon us, and when in his sober senses (the early part of the day) he told one of my Captains who is specially detailed on his staff, that "it was was a damned pity" _ "these are the best officers in

[page break]

my Division" _ "my crack Regiment" &c. These things are susceptible of proof.

And now neither Humphrey's or Gen. Tyler can even say that I ever directly disobeyed an order given to me. I confess I have exercised my own judgment in regard to the execution of some orders I have received in the past from Gen. Tyler, but in doing so complied with the orders indirectly and in accordance with correct military teachings, and the prescribed tactics of the Army. This may have given offence, and I presume it did, but I was not to blame. Those only are to blame who prescribe standard works for the government of the Army and insist upon them being the text books. I have long since learned that it is bad for an officer to know too much in the Army, and especially is it unfortunate for him if he knows more than the General Officers over him. I am not too modest to say this has been my misfortune, and Gen. Tyler at least has been honest enough to acknowledge my ability, and for the last three months he never

made a movement scarcely, without consulting me. On the day of the battle he said to me, “I wish to God Colonel I had your Regiment on the right today,” my proper place

[page break]

being on the extreme left. But sir, when the hard fighting commenced he did take my Regiment and place it in front, and the fearful record of that day shows the work we did and the position we were in. _ But General Russell certainly is soldier enough to see the improbability of the story, since he knows that no order can be issued directly to me from Division Head Quarters, but that on the contrary it must go through the Head Quarters of the Brigade, and therefore a Brigade order and if disobeyed must necessarily be disobedience of the orders from the latter Head Quarters.

Gen. Tyler has written three times to me. One of his officers arrived here the other night, with whom he sent the word “that things were working right” _ that “he had not the remotest doubt of the whole thing resulting in Col. Frick’s getting a star on his shoulder instead of the Eagles, if his efforts were properly [seconded?] by the Colonel’s Pennsylvan friends.” I believe the General feels friendly to me, and the “wish may have been Father to the thought.” – The outrage upon me has been so great, and my military aspirations so much dampened, that if an appointment of the kind was tendered me I would scarcely accept. I could only think of it, because it would be a triumphed not only over Humphry’s, but over Joe and Hen Cake who are making the most of my troubles, and circulating the most infamous lies about it._

If dismissed from the Service I shall ask my friends to aid me to be re-instated, and then if they cannot succeed in getting my Regiment trans-

[page break]

ferred from Gen. Humphrey’s Division in accordance with the unanimous wishes of officers and men in the Regiment. I shall ask them to get the Secretary to accept my resignation and give me an honorable discharge from the Army. I cannot, and will not sacrifice my self-respect and degrade my manhood by serving longer under, a man that is a common liar and drunkard, and who is destitute of the first spark of humor. I could not have any heart to serve the country longer under such circumstances, and could not be useful. _ I hope then this much will be done for me, if Gen. Tyler’s high expectations in regard to promotion are not realized.

I fear unless some one comes here either with or without (the former would be better) orders from Secretary for a copy of the proceedings which should have been sent to Washington long ago, and brings the attention of the authorities to our cases we will be kept here a long time. Humphreys would not be too good to keep the orders back after they were sent to his Head Quarters, for the purpose of annoying us as much

[page break]

as possible. He has done this frequently before, and because of this disposition Col. E. Jay Allen 155th Pa. Vol’s (from Pittsburgh) very aptly calls him the pidgeon hole General.

Col. Armstrong’s Father-in-law is going to try to get him a furlough in Washington based on a Surgeons certificate the beginning of this week. If he succeeds I will be left alone to enjoy the sweet comforts of this place.

Our Regiment has not been paid yet. It is the only Regiment in the Division that has not been paid. The men need their money much and I hope will get paid soon.

Joe Cake is making big efforts to have Hen made a Brigadier General. And so hopeful is the latter that he has already bought a General Officers Swordbelt. He made similar preparations last winter _ he may be disappointed as then.

Hoping to get out of this place soon and a chance to see you in Washington when I get there, I remain

Very Truly Yours,
Jacob G. Frick

Col. E. Slifer

Metropolitan Hotel, Washington Feb 28 '63

Dear Col,

I arrived yesterday. I have been cashiered. The sentence was approved by Genl Burnside the day he left the Army, notwithstanding the Court unanimously recommended a remission of the sentence. Armstrong's case had not been determined yet, but presumably it would be last night.

I called to see Genl Russell yesterday afternoon and I confess I did not expect to receive such cold treatment. Mr. Blidley (Armstrong's Father-in-law) spoke of it. He manifested no disposition to hear me or read the ~~point~~ document prepared by myself Armstrong, Anthony & the Adjutant. He said we should call in the evening. We did so and he was out. We then called this morning and though in his room were not admitted. We then called on Mr. Curtin, and I confess again my surprise at his indifference and his want of desire to talk or hear anything about the

matter. I asked him to let me read the state-
-ment of facts in connection with the whole
matter but he gave no reply. ~~As~~

I really do not think anything can be
done unless you will come here. Judge
Maxwell may be here today. If you visit
the latter and Mr. Pollock would come here
and get the Penna Delegation to go with you
to the President, as Mr. Byler says they will
be willing to do, the matter could be set
right promptly. Mr. Byler says he will ac-
-company you and I think to the President
the nature of the outrage and the in-
-justice done me, and he does not have
a doubt of the result. He is working in
the matter very hard but it needs some
one to muster our Penna friends. Mr. Gidney
thinks our only hope is as just indicated.
The matter should be attended to now
while our Congressional friends here are
in the spirit. I wish you could come
If not I must give it up, and bear the
disgrace, I have far from merited.

In haste

J. G. Frick

Metropolitan Hotel, Washington Feb. 3d '63

Dear Col:-

I arrived yesterday. I have been cashiered. The sentence was approved by Gen'l Burnside the day he left the Army, notwithstanding the court unanimously recommended a remission of the sentence. Armstrong's case had not been determined yet, but presume it would by last night.

I called to see Gen. Russell yesterday afternoon and I confess I did not expect to receive such cold treatment. Mr. [Chidsey?] (Armstrong's Father-in-law) spoke of it. He manifested no disposition to hear me or read the ~~joint~~ document prepared by myself Armstrong, Attorney & the Adjutant. He said we should call in the evening. We did so and he was out. We then called this morning and though in his room were not admitted. We then called on Gov. Curtin, and I confess again my surprise at his indifference and his want of desire to talk or hear anything about the

[page break]

matter. I asked him to let me read the statement of the facts in conversation with the whole matter but he gave no reply. [~~one illegible word~~].

I really do not think anything can be done unless you will come here. Judge Maxwell may be here today. If you with the latter and Gov. Pollock would come here and get the Penna Delegation to go with you to the President, as Gen. Tyler says they will be willing to do, the matter would be set right promptly. Gen. Tyler says he will accompany you and detail to the President the matter of the outrage and the injustice done me, and he does not have a doubt of the result. He is working in the matter very hard but it needs some one to muster our Penn'a friends. Mr. [Chidsey?] thinks our only hope is as just indicated.

The matter should be attended to now while our Congressional friends here are in the spirit. I wish you could come. If not I must give it up, and bear the disgrace I have far from merited.

In haste,
J. G. Frick

Metropolitan Hotel Washington
February 5th 1863.

Dear Genl,

The Governor together with Mr. Tyler and Judge Maxwell had an interview with Secy Stanton this forenoon, and he is disposed to set aside the findings of the Court-martial, which he thinks unjust, but must await the arrival of the original proceedings. The straps today have not arrived yet, although the Articles of war say they must be sent without delay. It is now nearly three weeks since the trial - Surely an abundance of time to have been here.

Gen. Tyler will be here

until Monday or Tuesday
evening. He would like to
see you before he goes to
the Army, as he thinks it im-
portant that the matter
should be kept warm until
he leaves. He wants to go
with you again to see the
Secy when he thinks the
order will be issued at once
for re-instatement, in accordance
with the Secretary's promise.
Judge Maxwell has just
come in. He desires me to
say that if you have not sent
his letter to Mr. Stanton you
had better do so at once. —
Judge directs me to say that
he must be in New York
on Monday morning but will
be back here at Willard's on

Tuesday morning when he would
like to see you, —

I shall leave here for
home on Friday evening. I
do not feel able to bear
unnecessary expense. I need for
Aide to bank again by the
middle of next week.

If I am re-instituted and can
be transferred from the Army
to the Division I will remain
in the service, — if not I will
leave forever. —

Col. Lya tells me that his
health is so bad that he may
be compelled to quit here.
If so and I am compelled
to leave the Army I
woud like to have a place
— do not fail to be here on Wed-
nesday or Tuesday.

Paul M.

H. Fair

Metropolitan Hotel, Washington, February 5th 1863.

Dear Col:-

The Governor together with Gen. Tyler and Judge Maxwell had an interview with Sec'y Stanton this forenoon, and he is disposed to set aside the findings of the Court-martial, which he thinks unjust, but must await the arrival of the original proceedings. They [strange?] today, have not arrived yet, although the articles of war say they must be sent without delay. It is now nearly three weeks since the trial _ surely an abundance of time to have been here.

Gen. Tyler will be here

[page break]

until Monday or Tuesday evening. He would like to see you before he goes to the Army, as he thinks it important that the matter should be kept warm until he leaves. He wants to go with you again to see the Sec'y when he thinks the order will be issued at once for re-instatement, in accordance with the secretary's [promise?] . _

Judge Maxwell has just came in. He desires me to say that if you have [not sent?] his letter to Mr. Stanton you had better do so at once. _ Judge directs me to say that he must be in New York on Monday morning, but will be back here at [William's?] on

[page break]

Tuesday morning when he would like to see you. _

I shall leave here for home on Friday evening. I do not feel able to bear unnecessary expense. If necessary I will be back again by the middle of next week. If I am re-instated and can be transferred from Gen. Humphrey's Division I will remain in the Service _ if not I will leave forever. _

Col. Quay tells me that his health is so bad that he may be compelled to quit here. If so and I am compelled to leave the Army I would like to have his place. _ Do not fail to be here on Monday or Tuesday.

Truly Yours,
J. G. Frick

Pittsville, February 11th 1863.

Dear Col:

I arrived home on Saturday night. Thus far I have received no definite news from Washington. The whole business will remain in status quo, I presume, unless some one urges the Secretary of War to act in the matter promptly. He certainly must have received the original proceedings of the Court, by this time.

The last I heard from Camp was that Col. Armstrong was quite sick, and still under arrest. - General Tyler was exceedingly anxious to see you in Washington the beginning of this week. I hope you have had a chance to see him. - I shall remain here until I hear something definite about my matters at Washington.

Yours Truly
Jacob G. Frick.

Col. G. S. Slifer,
Harrisburg, Pa. }

Pottsville, February 11th, 1863.

Dear Col:-

I arrived home on Saturday night. Thus far I have received no definite news from Washington. The whole business will remain in status quo, I presume, unless some one urges the Secretary of War to act in the matter promptly. He certainly must have received the original proceedings of the court, by this time.

The last I heard from camp was that Col. Armstrong was quite sick, and still under arrest._ General Tyler was exceedingly anxious to see you in Washington the beginning of this week. I hope you have had a chance to see him._ I shall remain here until I hear something definite about my matters at Washington.

Yours Truly,
Jacob G. Frick

Col. E. Slifer
Harrisburg, Pa.

Pittsfield, March 24, 1863

Dear Col:

Inclosed I send you a letter received today from Capt. Russell of the Pa. Vol's by the hand of his son. He feels badly at the injustice done his son who is a very active intelligent and brave young man. I have noticed his conduct in battle and was much pleased with it. —

How and in what way are the Provost Marshalls under the new Militia Bill to be appointed? I am entirely out of business and must look for something to do, and while I would dislike to fall back from a Colonel to Provost Marshall

with the rank of Captain,
my straitened circumstances,
(if nothing else were business
presents,) would force me
to accept such appointment
if offered. —

If Col. Ingham should leave
his place in Washington as
he told me he might be
compelled to do because of
ill health, I would like to
have that. But I should
a thousand times prefer a
good chance to go into a
business that might be made
a permanent and lucrative
one. Do you know of such
an opportunity? William has
been talking to me about the
Plains Mill business in Chester
which I presume could be
made a working up into

a good business, but the
trouble with me is I
have no Capital. My future
prospects trouble me very
much.

Yours Truly
H. E. Frick

Col. E. Sifer,
Harrisburg, Pa.

Pottsville, March 24, 1863.

Dear Col:-

Inclosed I send you a letter received today from Capt. Russell 96th Pa. Vol's by the hand of his son. He feels badly at the injustice done his son who is a very active, intelligent and brave young man. I have noticed his conduct in battle and was much pleased with it._

How and in what way are the Provost Marshall's under the new Militia Bill to be appointed? I am entirely out of business and must look for something to do, and while I would dislike to fall back from a Colonel to Provost Marshall

[page break]

with the rank of Captain, my straitened circumstances, (if nothing else, or no business presents,) would force me to accept such appointment if offered._

If Col. Quay should leave his place in Washington as he told me he might be compelled to do because of ill health, I would like to have that. But I should a thousand times prefer a good chance to go into a business that might be made a permanent and lucrative one. Do you know of such an opportunity? William has been talking to me about the Plaining Mill business in Chester which I presume could be made or worked up into

[page break]

a good business, but the trouble with me is I have no capital. My future prospects trouble me very much.

Yours Truly,
J. G. Frick

Col. E. Slifer
Harrisburg, Pa.

Puttsville, Aug. 27th, 1863.

Dear Col:-

The Reading Rail Road Company is about assuming control (by purchase or lease) of the Mine Hill Rail Road and are going to make some changes in the officers now in the employ of the latter Company. Being entirely out of business ^{and} being compelled to look after something to do, I have thought that a chance might be presented for a place when the Reading Company took charge of this Road. Among other offices there is that of weigh-master and collector (connected together) that I presume a change will be made in and which pays in the way of a percentage on the tonnage about three thousand dollars a year. I would like to have this office, and from my experience in the Collectors Office in the Canal, think I would be well fitted for it. I can get plenty of the very best recommendations here, if you can get the President to make the change, which

I learn he contemplates doing anything. In-
-deed Mr. Burd Patterson has already spoken
to Mr. Smith of Philad^a (the President) about
the matter, and he has made a memorial
-sum of it. I wish you would go to the
City to see the President of the Reading
Road. I think you can very easily man-
-age the matter. Burd Patterson tells
me that if the Company determine
to make a change, he will guarantee
that he can arrange things for me. Whether
they are disposed to change this Officer or
not I cannot say. I only hear that they
purpose making a clean sweep. If this
is the fact you can help the matter
on. I know that there has been a great
deal of antagonism between the Officers
of the two Companies in the past.

Just after I had got home from the 9
months service I opened negotiations with
the N. Y. Wire Railing Co., through Lemoyne
-ers, by their Attorney, for the exclusive right
to use their Patent in this, Canada and
North Counties, and had partially arranged

matter when the State was invaded. Indeed the day before I left for Harris-
=burg to take charge of a Militia Regiment
in response to the persistent importunities of
Mr. Curtis and Maj. Gen. Lynch, I had set
apart to discontinue the business in
Philadelphia. I wrote Mr. Myers the facts and
presumed they would await my return. They
did hold the lease for me until within
ten days of the time I called upon them, (which
was immediately after I got home), when they
presumed my stay would be indefinite and
not knowing where I was, they leased to
another party. I was thus thrown out of
a most excellent business which would
have been permanent. Mr. Myers expressed
great regret when he saw me, and said
he thought, as it would be for the interest
of the Company as he had told them before, he
only got arrange matters, perhaps with
the Sefer. His last letter to me was
not very encouraging, and I fear that
I am entirely too late to shape the matter
in any way. This Company had succeeded in

Stopping, leave the Aug Dietzinger Ho, and were just
making a clear field in the region. I know of
no other business that I myself have preferred
to an uninterrupted chance at the screen business.

I wish you could make it convenient to
go to the City without delay to see Mr. Smith.
I think that you can put the thing in the
right shape for me. The transfer of the Road
and changes ~~and~~ I learn indirectly from
the Mine Hill Treasurer, are to be made
very soon.

Yours Truly
J. S. Frick.

Mr. S. Slifer
Harrisburg Pa.

J. S. Frick.
Aug 27/63.

Pottsville, Aug. 27th, 1863.

Dear Col:-

The Reading Rail Road Company is about assuming control (by purchase or lease) of the Mine Hill Road and are going to make some changes in the officers now in the employ of the latter company. Being entirely out of business and being compelled to look after something to do, I have thought that a chance might be presented for a place when the Reading Company took charge of this Road. Among other offices there is that of weigh-master and collector (connected together) that I presume a change will be made in and which pays in the way of a percentage in the tonnage about three thousand dollars a year. I would like to have this office, and from my experience in the Collectors Office in the Canal, think I would be well fitted for it. I can get plenty of the very best recommendations here, if you can get the President to make the change, which

[page break]

I learn he contemplates doing anyhow. Indeed Mr. Burd Patterson has already spoken to Mr. Smith of Philada (the President) about the matter, and he has made a memorandum of it. I wish you would go to the city to see the President of the Reading Road. I think you can very easily manage the matter. Burd Patterson tells me that if the company determines to make a change, he will guarantee that he can arrange things for me. Whether they are disposed to change this officer or not I cannot say. I only hear that they purpose making a clean sweep. If this is the fact you can help the matter on. I know that there has been a great deal of antagonism between the officers of the two companies in the past.

Just after I had got home from the 9 months service I opened negotiations with the N. Y. Wire Railing Co, through Leonard Myers, Esq. their attorney, for the exclusive right to use their patent in this, Carbon and North Counties, and had partially arranged

[page break]

matters when the State was invaded. Indeed the day before I left for Harrisburg to take charge of a Militia Regiment in response to the persistent importunities of Gov. Curtin and Maj. Gen. [Cunch?], I had set apart to consummate the business in Philada. I wrote Mr. Myers the facts and presumed they would await my return. They did hold the lease for me until within ten days of the time I called upon them, (which was immediately after I got home) when they presumed my stay would be indefinite and not knowing where I was, they leased to another party. I was thus thrown out of a most excellent business which would have been permanent. Mr. Myers expressed great regret when he saw me, and said he thought, as it would be for the interest of the company as he has told them before, he could yet arrange matters, perhaps with the [one word illegible]. His last letter to me was not very encouraging, and I fear that I am entirely too late to shape the matter in any way. This Company had succeeded in

[page break]

stopping Cake Ho. and Seitzinger Ho. and were just making a clean field in the region. I know of no other business that I would have preferred to an uninterrupted chance at the screen-business.

I wish you could make it convenient to go to the city without delay to see Mr. Smith. I think that you can put the thing in the right shape for me. The Transfer of the Road and changes I ~~are~~ ~~to~~ learn indirectly from the Mine Hill Treasurer, are to be made very soon.

Yours Truly,
J. G. Frick

Col. E. Slifer
Harrisburg, Pa.