

Quarter part 5th P, 1861
Yours of Feb 24th has just come to
hand, I am very glad to hear from you,

My health is quite good

How are you, Southern women!!
I don't fancy their style!!

I hope I may be permitted to
see you all, in time

Please write often

Darius

Darius
March 8/61

March 8th 1861
Camp, 19th Maine Vol, near Grand Station Va,

Dear Brother Darius,

I will write you a few lines
to let you know that I have not forgotten you; although
it has been some time since I received your last, and it had
ought to be answered long ago.

I have nothing of importance to write, but thinking you
may be anxious to hear from me, I will try & scribble
a few lines, even, if it isn't so bright.

It rains quite hard in Virginia to day; we have had very
dry weather here, the most of the winter, and but
very little snow.

Oh! by the way, I found out, by way of letter
from Heildach, that there was a man in the
16th Me Vol, by the name of John Smith!
and that he was a brother to your wife. So I then
thought that I would take the liberty to write to him!

I done so, and have got an answer! I think by
the way he writes, that he is a first rate fellow!
I expect a visit from him, as soon as he can make
it convenient; I shall be happy to see him, and
make his acquaintance.

It is now 15 minutes past 11 O'clock, A.M.
I have written three letters today; one, to Jacob S. Kelley,
one, to Henshaw, and one, to a friend.

I am ^{no} scholar, and a very poor pen man
so you must excuse all blunders and mistakes.

Another, I have often thought, if I had a good
an education as you have got, it might have helped me
greatly, in ^{of course} a different position, than I now have.

But I find that a good education, and a plenty of
influential friends, in Augusta, (Maine,) is a big thing,
for some fellows in our Reg't. And there are some

even if they cannot write a pass, for a private, to go
to visit friends in any other Reg't; or have no learning at
all, if they only have a plenty of friends in
Maine, to intercede for them; they can procure
a commission without any trouble.

But I never have looked for anything of that kind, neither
do I expect anything of that kind, while in this Reg't, for if

when there is a vacancy, it is filled by some ^{un}fortunate
who has never offered his services to the Government, until
he was drafted, and obliged to come in to the field!

If he is an old acquaintance of the Officer, and has ever
seen the inside of a school room, he is recommended

at once, for a commission. So you see and old soldiers
let him be ever so faithful in performing his duty,

stands no sight at all. This is not the case in
our Reg't, but it certainly is in some.

No more of this.

I expect we have got some hard fighting to do this
summer. Gen. Hildpatrick, made quite a raid, in

Rebellion, last week; got within 20 miles of Auburn
in the Paper State. But finding the Johnson's too

well fortified for him, he withdrew, and joined Gen
Butler in the Peninsula. He is a fighting

character, and I think he will make another
raid, before he returns.

But it is no use for me to write bad news
for you see a plenty of that sort, in the paper.

I want you to write me a good long letter,
and I will try and be more punctual in answering
for the future. Give my love & best

respect, to your family, and the same to yours.

Let me know if you are getting over your
lameness, and what you think of the traitor, H.C.B.

May this find you all in the enjoyment
of good health, and fine spirits, is the

Wish of your
Darius