

Washington
Sunday morn.
July 14/61

Dear Miss Lane

I recd your kind note enclosing your letter to Miss Wilson two days since. I sent the letter at once to her; and heard in an hour of its having reached her safely. I will not give her address, for there is no surer way of letters reaching her than by enclosing them to one with a nice note from yourself.

You have many true friends here who miss you, Mrs. Palmer & myself see your likeness daily. We have not placed it up in a back room, as Mr. [Hickeman] does the Presidents as soon as their term of office expires - we profess to be friends of a different calibre, even to the picture.

I hope you are sorry for the fact, that neither the addition of the 11 new Regiments, or secession rebellion, have advanced me in the army; on the contrary I have retrograded in relative rank - it is a curious truth - [?] about 160 officers of the army have advanced rank in the new Regiments, of these 17 were ahead of me, and now 43 are - thus I have fallen 26 - and 25 appointments from civil life have been betn. ranks of Genl. & Major - thus I fall off 25 more, again Secession has advanced 18 Captains in the old army to the rank of Major, or a higher rank, these 18 captains were all my juniors in years & date of Commission - so that, to sum up, 69 men are now above me, who were below me. Congress has made no increase to the Engineers, or Topogl. Engineers, and it is very doubtful if they will do more than add 10 young Lieuts. to either [?]. But I should not tire you with these details - I should practice philosophy, and remember that "those also serve, who stand still, and wait."

Were you to come here for ten days, you would see Washington was much changed. The soldiery behave well, are improving daily in discipline, and annoy (with very rare exceptions) nobody. I am flattered at the interest you expressed in my expedition to [?] Point. Woodbury & myself with 10 men, were in advance and started up 6 Secessionists in grey uniforms, from among the bushes, we discovered each other at the same moment, and altho [sic] they ran away with excellent speed, I could not but admire the pluck of 3 of them, who faced about, fired upon us, and then continued their race to their camp. Some 6 to 800 men were at the camp, 150 mounted. We did not take it, but returned to our vessel, & shelled it. Our sailors carried off two horses & a negro, but this was not done by me, it is against my judgment. The negro wanted to go & Capt. Rowan of the Pawnee concluded to carry him to [?] here.

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