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## **Chaplain S. Freeman Chase Letters**

S. Freeman Chase

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Box 279 f 25

Head ges 3th Toy pr Mark Gettysburg Pa Dear Sister Lique al shazeld have consister ajou tom en this had of know where a Letter would find your mothing but once hour any Hourse Dince nue cert Potorum Beek. June 11.; Band there sule lattas frozin fallie - Come of those, written dorow and he for of received it. David you trad gone to Beliast - Whether you had met with Auceen leand were still there all know not, till of envis return -He tills good you are prove to be throagte could at Belse. therefore I will sake to have

This there ready to much you of the was have been fought Doan Benj. but very little and its most glorious rictories He arrived here in the night won- Wicksburg and Gettysburg and left the next noonunite le declare, a second time I hardly got a chance to ask on the now doubly glorious found, him dugthing about you or that this land shall be free from any & home matters. How The rule of typants - Freat has been the rejoicing of the Land - dup have you prospered as Belfasts should be its gratitude and loud I hape you have succeeded well its praise to the God of Battles. - presitive that experience will add to your success - fournasing The scenes & have here witnessed is quite a trade to learn will ever be perte in menory and How dangon like the business! cause me to desire to witness no Do you find it pleasant or more of war's horrors. The Addicela's being winted Therwise of any glad you continually by people from all have concluded to yo to Betay and rest through the hot weather harrs of the country and pre-The time since I wrote you last sents many a nonder to the has been full of activity with eyes unused to war. us much of interest has burnspiredmy health his been good not only with us but all through though the labors and exponse the land Same of the most of the long marche, the battle disperate and bloody conflicts and publiquent dup, till quite

recently were quite exhaustive and Sur labors and nor non Do sever and our far and accommodations feeling quite energetic the Gent detailed me to remain here as Phopen of our forps Hospital - Dr Hildrich Surgeon of my hept and my "chun" ever since I have been to in the amp was detailed Surgeon in Charge" of the Gorps Hop- Do we are the together find as fue is a very nice mand an hippy to be lable state to enjoy his fellomahip-"he are thoping oon to join the army so as to be "in" of the taking of Wichmond ?) or whatever may be done - of an hoping daily to be made glad by receiving bone The many little which I Shall & ger & lor from you? Vellier patting quite anxious about Vellier pattin & mote Vellie oute 6th inst-Doon as I was detailed have & A connot imagine why no reply has reached me Benj- Dap Hettie was sich of him those she will be relieved soon of down know when Nellin is She must have by laguete unless prevented by sick ness-please write of on Direct; Cheplain S. F. Charl. Headons 3nd Coche Hork Ever Thuman Settysburg pa

Head-qrs 3rd Corps Hosp Gettysburg Pa July 21, 1863

Dear Sister Lizzie:

I should have written you long ere this had I known where a letter would find you. The mail has brought me nothing but once from any source since we left Potomac Creek - June 11; and then only letters from Nellie. One of those, written some weeks before I received it, said you had gone to Belfast. Whether you had met with success and were still there I knew not, till Benj's return.

He tells me you are soon to be through and at Betseys therefore I will seek to have this there ready to meet you. I saw Benj. but very little. He arrived here in the night and left the next noon. I hardly got a chance to ask him anything about you or any of home matters. How have you prospered at Belfast? I hope you have succeeded well - presume that <u>experience</u> will add to your success. Canvassing is quite a trade to learn. How do you like the business? Do you find it pleasant or otherwise. I am glad you have concluded to go to Betseys and rest through the hot weather.

The time since I wrote you last has been full of activity with us. Much of interest has transpired not only with us but all through the land. Some of the most desperate and bloody conflicts of the war have been fought and its most glorious victories won. Vicksburg and Gettysburg unite to declare, a second time on the now doubly glorious, Fourth, that this land shall be free from the rule of tyrants. Great has been the rejoicing of the Land - deep should be its gratitude and loud its praise to the God of Battles. The scenes I have here witnessed will ever be fresh in memory and cause me to desire to witness no more of war's horrors.

The battlefield is being visited continually by people from all parts of the country and presents many a wonder to the eyes unused to war.

My health has been good though the labors and exposures of the long march, the battle and subsequent days, till quite recently, were quite exhaustive and I became pretty well jaded. Our labors are not now so severe and our <u>fare</u> and <u>accommodations</u> are <u>better</u> and I am getting to feeling quite energetic.

When the army moved the Genl detailed me to remain here as Chap'n of our Corps Hospital. Dr. Hildreth Surgeon of my regt and my "chum" ever since I have been in the Army was detailed "Surgeon in Charge" of the Corps Hosp so we are still together and as he is a very nice man I am happy to be able still to enjoy his fellowship.

We are hoping soon to join the Army so as to be "in" at the taking of Richmond (?) or whatever may be done. I am hoping daily to be made glad by receiving some of the many letters which I trust are on the way to me. Shall I get a lot from you?

Head-grs 3rd Corps Hosp

July 24 1863

I am feeling quite anxious about Nellie & Hattie. I wrote to Nellie on the 6th inst. soon as I was detailed here & I cannot imagine why no reply has reached me. Benj. says Hattie was sick. I hope the suspense will be relieved soon. I dont know where Nellie is. She must have left Augusta unless prevented by sickness.

- 2 -

Please write soon. Direct

Chaplain S.F. Chase Head-grs 3rd Corps Hosp'l

Gettysburg, Pa.

Ever

Freeman

## EOV. CUTON THEFE

Dear Lizzie; Your of the 25 un mas received Sat Eve; but I was too tired to answer A that night and yesterday was Anday, and I had Some occupies about writing a port of semichariness letter on that day, and to day & have been very bury from early morny reporting testimony at Courtmastial which business & have been following She lavor of prime day has been quite wearison .. Somehow they found out that I was a phonographer, I can't till how, and would not willingly he refueld my services. The have had a long intricate case - Col of the 114 pier Vals, and

it is not done you he have been at it all day and meet a gain at go clock this evening and hope to get through by morning, Do that Sen Ward president of the Court may leane for N.4 -I think your account of your beginning not at all discouraging you will I think do better as you increase in experience and have better healthe Shink Beljart may be a better field than J. Bur I had an idea that Mr Hobas expected to occurry it. If he does you better not interfere - you can easily as certain -I have you will increase in Ancers and do well and that you healthe will improve and strength augment .. I think favorably of Nellies boarding at think if she can get a nice place I have written her just now and the subject, in answering a little

received in company with yours Do you suppose she could get a chanc - good room - at the Chandley as to what Hooker is doing on is going & do" we cannot tell - know just about as much about it as you as home do - all is quict, but still me are not usaless . Une keep a hig army opposite as from operating elsewhere. There is no doubt but that the day of the reacts doom is approaching and memay perhaps as well stand still and conquer them by masterly anactivity as any way . One thing is certain nig this aring of the petomae & its opposing are have not materially changed their relative position by any of the fine and blowdy buttles of the pash. Neither has gained a real victory - they have met and killer of Thousands on lither new and retired leaving

The question undecided. Thus it that been, and so far as conquering this appointe army is concerned me are no within of by all the rat-The have Killed then men and they have killed ours but the Two Morces still remain as evenly belanced as at the beginning. So these past buttles have been of but little value . the might as mell have stord here face to face withour a balle for the question is yestoke been growing mecker internally, while we remain show 7 as ever-Now I think the was will not be decidered, to much by for a of and as by face of other tigencies, among the rebels themselves - If Do why may not inactivity, thereby Davny life, he just as well while these agences are Aproximating their results The retur loose for more every day of the inactivity than me the and so will be more casely whipped when buttle days come - Dai not so much impatiens at inaction of the army here as I was - I believe the victor will come in from the west when it comes . and we may as well whit

till the right moment comes as to be thurling oursides against the bayoners of our well proposed Jas our the river - The are waiting in deep and trembling suspense to hear from Grant Wicksburg. If he and ceeds there; a happy goal has been reached and an impavaable cris arrived for the rebels. you ought to be our here and see the horrors of dust. It has been very dry prome time now and the past three day There has been a very high wind expecially today, The air has been filled with clouds of dust Dome times so that you could sa but a very few rods from you and in filling the ais so high that it seens a though it-were raining a Which shower of dash - I never Daw anything like it. Our tents are sifted full - clothing and ency thing Covered & filled - it is anofal -

Mon well wonder where I a much dust comes from; as you little realize how was strips the earth of its clothing. The half a so of Hu surface her, all through these regions is as bare and dusty as the most traveled road in Ahaine. The land also has a puculian wealth of dust her in Virginia. Shope me may have naine soon and that all all events this wind will subside and let the dust lie a little stiller -Benj's resignation will be read up tomorrow. The result will be known in a few days-I dislike having his leave but do not beame tim for wanting to go home for this a hard, incongenial life at the best when me come right down to the facts - But not have he cause fits toils so much as because of its privations. How society te and norther - Bill O muss close . please much agains own . Ine Freeman

Camp of 3rd Me Vols Potomac Creek Va June 1, 1863

Dear Lizzie

Yours of the 25 ult was received Sat. Eve; but I was too tired to answer it that night and yesterday was <u>Sunday</u>, and I had some scruples about writing a sort of <u>semi-business</u> letter on <u>that</u> day, and today I have been very busy from early morn reporting testimony at Court Martial, which business I have been following since the first of last week. The labor of some days has been quite wearisome. <u>Somehow</u> they found out that I was a phonographer, I cant tell how, and would not willingly be refused my services.

We have had a long intricate case. Col of the 11L Pa Vols, and it is not done yet. We have been at it all day and meet again at 9 oclock this evening and hope to get through by morning so that Gen Ward president of the Court may leave for N.Y.

I think your account of your <u>beginning</u> not at all discouraging. You will I think do better as you increase in experience and have better health. I think Belfast may be a better field than S\_\_\_(?). But I had an idea that Mr. Hobbs expected to occupy it. If he does you better not interfere. You can easily ascertain. I hope you will increase in success and do well and that your health improve and strength augment.

I think favorably of Nellie's boarding at Unity if she can get a nice place. I have written her just now on the subject, in answering a letter received in company with yours. Do you suppose she could get a chance good room - at Mrs. Chandlers.

As to what "Hooker is doing or is going to do" we cannot tell know just about as much about it as you at home do. All is quiet, but still we are not useless. We keep a big army opposite us from operating <u>elsewhere</u>. There is no doubt but that the day of the rebels doom is approaching and we may perhaps as well stand still and conquer them by "masterly inactivity" as any way. One thing is certain viz; this Army of the Potomac & its opposing one have not <u>materially</u> changed their <u>relative</u> position by any of the fierce and bloody battles of the past. <u>Neither</u> has gained a <u>real</u> victory. They have met and killed of(f) thousands on either side and retired leaving the question undecided. Thus it has been, and so far as <u>conquering</u> this opposite army is concerned we are no better off by all the valuable lives we have lost and taken. We have killed their men and they have killed ours but the two forces still remain as evenly falanced as at the beginning.

So these past battles have been of but little value. We might as well have stood here face to face without a battle - for the question is yet to be <u>decided</u>. True the rebels have been growing weaker internally, while we remain strong as ever. Now I think the war will not be decided so much by force of arms as by <u>force</u> of other agencies, among the rebels themselves. If so why may not <u>inactivity</u>, thereby saving life, be just as well while these agencies are approximating their result? The rebs loose far more every day of the inactivity than we do and so will be more easily whipped when battle does come. I am not so much impatient at inaction of the Army here as I was. I believe the victory will come in from the west when it comes. And we may as well wait and strike inactive blows till the right moment comes as to be hurling ourselves against the bayonets of our well prepared foes over the river. We are waiting in deep and trembling suspense to hear from Grant & Vicksburg. If he succeeds there, a happy goal has been reached and an unfavorable crisis arrived for the rebels.

You ought to be out here and see the horrors of <u>dust</u>. It has been very dry for some time now and the past three days there has been a very high wind especially today. The air has been <u>filled</u> with <u>clouds</u> of <u>dust</u> - sometimes so that you could see but a very few rods from you, and filling the air so high that it seems as though it were raining a thick shower of dust. I never saw any thing like it. Our tents are sifted full - clothing and everything covered & filled - it is awful - you will wonder where so much dust comes from; as you little realize how war strips the earth of its clothing. The half or so of the surface here, all through these regions is as bare and dusty as the most traveled road in Maine. The land also has a <u>peculiar wealth</u> of dust here in Virginia. I hope we may have rain soon and that at all events this wind will subside and let the dust lie a little stiller.

Benj's resignation will be sent up tomorrow. The result will be known in a few days. I dislike having him leave but do not blame him for wanting to go home for this is a hard incongenial life at the best when we come right down to the facts - But not "hard" because of its toils so much as because of its <u>privations.</u> Home, society &c are not here. But I must close. Please write again soon. Ever

Freeman

(S. F. Chase)