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Chaplain S. Freeman Chase Letters

S. Freeman Chase

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BEAN (PAUL W.) COLLECTION.
cChase, S Freeman.

Box 279
f 25

Head qrs 3rd Coz 4th Regt
Gettysburg Pa

July 24 1863

Dear Sister Lizie,

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

Peak June 11; and then only
letters from Willie. 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 know
not, till Jerry's return.

He tells you you are soon
to be through and at Betsy,
therefore I will seek to have

this then 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 experience will
add to your success. Genevrasing
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 Belay
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 pre-
sents many a wonder to the
eyes unused to war.

My health has been good
though the labors and exposure
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 fare and accommodations
are better and I am getting to
feeling quite energetic.
When the army moved the Genl
detailed me to remain here as Chapn
of our Corps Hospital - Dr Kildush
Surgeon of my Regt. and my "Chum"
ever since I have been ~~in~~ in the ¹³
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
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?
I am feeling quite anxious about
Nellie & Patti. I wrote Nellie on the
6th inst. soon as I was detailed here &
I cannot imagine why no reply has
reached me. Benj says Nellie was
sick. I hope suspense will be
relieved soon. I don't know where
Nellie is. She must have left August
unless prevented by sickness.

Please write soon. Direct:
Chaplain S. J. Chase, Headquarters 3rd Corps Hosp
Ever Freeman, Gettysburg Pa

Head-qrs 3rd Corps Hosp
Gettysburg Pa
July 24 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 experience 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 fare and accommodations are better 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?

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.

Please write soon. Direct

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

Gettysburg, Pa.

Ever

Freeman

20% COLLECTIBLE
BOND

Camp of 3rd Me Vols
Potomac Creek Va

June 1. 1863

Dear Lizzie;

Yours of the 25th was received Sat. Eve; but I was too tired to answer it that night and yesterday was Sunday, and I had some scruples about writing a sort of semi-business letter on that day, and to day I have been very busy from early morn^g reporting testimony at Court Martial which business I have been following since the first of last week.

The labor of some day has been quite wearisome. Somehow they found out that I was a phonographer, I can't tell how, and would not willingly be refused my services.

We have had a long intricate case - Col of the 114th Me Vols, and

It is not done yet. We have been
at it all day and met again at
8 o'clock 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 beginning
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 J. 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 will 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 Chandler's
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 as from
operating elsewhere. 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 materially
changed their relative position
by any of the fierce and bloody
battles of the past. Neither has
gained a real victory. They have
met and killed of thousands on
~~either side~~ and retired leaving

the question undecided. Thus it has been, and so far as conquering this opposite army is concerned we are no better off by all the valuable lines we have lost - and taken. We have killed their men and they have killed ours but the two forces still remain as evenly balanced 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 decided. 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 force of other agencies, among the rebels themselves - If so why may not inactivity, thereby saving life, be just as well while these agencies are approximating their result?

The rebels lose 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 dust.
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
filled with clouds of dust - some-
times so that you could see but
a very few rods from you, and ~~is~~
filling the air so high that it
seems as though it were raining a
thick shower of dust - I never
saw anything like it. Our tents
are cifted full - clothing and everything
covered & filled - it is awful -

You will wonder where so much
dust comes from; as you little
realize how near strips the earth
of its clothing. The halfo of
the surface here, all through these
regions is as bare and dusty
as the most traveled road in
Mexico. The land also has a
peculiar wealth 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~~ known in a few days -
I dislike having him leave but
do not blame him for wanting to
go home for this 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 privations. Home, society & are
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Camp of 3rd Me Vols
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June 1, 1863

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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 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 elsewhere. 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 materially changed their relative position by any of the fierce and bloody battles of the past. Neither has gained a real 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 conquering 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.

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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 privations. Home, society &c are not here. But I must close. Please write again soon. Ever

Freeman

(S. F. Chase)