

Camp John Manly April 3d [1863]

My ever dear brother

Having an hour yet before drill I thought I would employ it writing to you. You must have seen in the papers that Gen Seigl was dissatisfied with the manner that he was or is treated by Gens Halleck and Hooker and feeling keenly the coldness of Hooker tendered his resignation. well whatever the war department may do with him he is no longer in command of the eleventh corps. yes the grand 11th corps has lost its idol. In looking over Seigl's and the acts of the corps it is impossible to find a place where the least might of fault can be attached Seigl with his corps at the second Bull run whiped the combined armies of Lee and Jackson, and although they were reenforced by Longstreet the next day he would have been victorious had not McDowell played the _____ and thus enabled Lee to flank him. The defences of Washington were left to Seigl at a time when it was the most difficult and laborious command in the army. no calvary raid was able to break through or surprise his lines. When Gen McClelland advanced on Warrenton the 11th corps was thrown forward to entice the rebles, but they wisly kept aloof. When Burnside assumed command the corps was made his grand reserve. At the time Burnside made his attacked on Fredericksburgh, the grad reserve was ordered from Fairfax to Falmouth, and that march is unparalled by any in the history of the war except the great grand march of Freemont from Franklin to the Shenadoah valley. But one division was moved to Falmouth, the other two being halted at Stafford. We arrived at Falmouth at the time when Burnside's army was suffering from its defeat, and to save it our division was throwed in the jaws of danger, if danger there was, for our camp was placed the nearest of any one to the rebles, and where more than a hundred guns bore directly upon it and was in plain sight of the rebles, and from which we could see the whole of the battle ground. besides we were on Burnside's left, so that if Lee had undertaken to disturb Burnside it must have first fell on us. also our picket ground was the most important, being at the river. At the present our corps has the trust of keeping safe the railroad over which Hooker receives his supplies, and nobly is it done. You have seen much in papers of the demoralization of the Potomac army. that demoralization has never reached this corps, but admiring and idolizing its leader it has been ready for any duty or service. but Seigl is lost to us You may judge of what Hooker thinks of us, for he has placed Gen. O. O. Howard in command of us, and who stands second to no officer in the army, and whose record is unblotted. My health is still the best. you need not send me any envelops at present for I have a supply, but they are unstamped ones. my love to all yours ever

D S Jones