

November 26, 1862

The 15th Regiment

We find in the Olean Times a correspondence from the 154th Catt. Reg., which contains two Chautauqua Companies. From it we learn that this regiment is in Sigel's Reserve, and is brigaded with three old regiments, the 20th, the 72d Pa., and the 29th N.Y. The Regiment marched through Fairfax Court House, Centreville and Gainesville and Haymarket to Thoroughfare Gap where it is at present stationed. The Times correspondent says:

Thoroughfare Gap is where the Manassas Railroad penetrates the the Bull Run Mountains, and is a position easily defended against vastly superior numbers. McDowell's failure to hold the position against Longstreet, can be accounted for in only two ways: treason or culpable mismanagement. But McDowell is not, and Sigel reigns in his stead.

The regions around here, and particularly to the westward of the mountains, is the finest I have seen in Virginia. The farmers are intelligent, and before the war broke out, were generally wealthy, and I should judge from their conversations, contented. But situated as they are in a region, which has several times alternately been possessed by Federal and Rebel armies, they have been a prey to both, and little now remains to show the former fatness of the land.

The people are generally representative of secession in its mildest form. Their sympathies are generally with the South, but their fervent prayer seems to be that this unnatural and uncalled for strife,

may come to an end, no matter which way. At the same time they profess the strongest faith in Southern courage and exhaustless resource, and believe that the South can never be whipped into submission. All those with whom I have conversed consider Lee and Jackson the greatest American Generals, and each in his sphere, one to plan and the other to execute, and to tell the truth, they have shown themselves to be men of no small capacity in these respects.

The weather thus far has been fine for military operations. The roads are as hard and as smooth as at any time during the season, and Providence seems to have removed every obstacle in the way of following up our present advantages until the enemy shall have been driven to the wall.

That there may be no thought of winter quarters, and that the fast closing year may see the rebellion so far crushed that no hope of final success may remain in the breast of its most sanguine supporter should be the prayer of every true friend of our sorely tried country.

The cars are now running as far as White Plains, some four miles beyond the Gap; and while we stay here we may expect to have our mails with regularity. Yesterday was the first we have received of any consequence for some ten days, and we have been as completely isolated as if in the center of the Atlantic.

Our recent marches, and consequent exposure and fatigue, tells somewhat upon our soldiers who are not yet inured to these hardships, and quite a number are unfit for duty. The most prevalent complaint

is hard colds and bowel complaints which latter have been caused in a measure by the irregular diet to which we have been for several days subjected.

Our Colonel elect is not yet with us, neither has our Major made his appearance. In our Lieut. Col. and Adjutant we have been exceedingly fortunate, both being men in every sense of the word, and men whom, to know, is to respect -- but enough of this.

Much as the result of the New York election is to ^{be} regretted by those who are really and earnestly for striking out by the strong arm of the Nation every vestage of the rebellion, it is no time for useless regrets. Every patriot must buckle on his armor and press forward with renewed energy until the great end is attained. Ere such men as the Woods and their colleagues can wield the power so lately received the war may be ended and the Constitution established on a basis which will bid defiance to Traitors in whatever garb they may appear.

Respectfully yours,

L.D.W.