

REBEL LETTER (EASON BULL)

Wyman, This is a Rebel letter of you can read it I Wish you would write it off and get it printed and if you can't find it out keep it and if I come home I will read it for you. I am well. This is the 12th.(Nov.)?. Write often We have been on the march 2 weeks and we have got to move to-day or to-morrow. Good-bye. Keep this letter, there is some sense.

Eason Bull to Wyman

In Camp near Hagerstown.
Nov. 1, 1862

Dear Jim,

We arrived here yesterday after one of the dirtiest marches you have ever heard of. We crossed over to the Maryland last Thursday week. Ever since we left Goodensville we have had a hell of a time of it. First fitting with old pope then hard marching after the G.D.D. Yankees and living on green corn and muddy water and hard fighting and most G.D.D. marching.

My feet got so tired I was forced to go to fort. I can hardly get along. Our boys are nearly all worn out but still we are dogged on at the point of a bayonet by one of the G.D.D. officers who don't care a G.D.D. for us so we do the fighting and they get the honor of whipping the G.D.D. blue bellies. I tell you Jim I am getting most dammed sick of this war and if I had a known when I entered service that war would last so long and we would be led such a dammed dog life I would have run away from the whole G.D.D. southern confederacy for I begin to think we have been bumbussed the dammed thing by our leaders in this war. What the hell difference does it make to us Jim, whether we live under old Abe or Jeff. Davis neither of them care a G.D.D. for us any more than to do their fighting and voting and then we may go to Hell for what they care for they would hardly stop to speak to either of us. You must not think Jim that I am turning Yankee. I am as good a southerner man as ever but I believe we have been fooled by a set of G.D.D. office seeking villians who are to dam lazy to work and have lost good picking by the election of Old Abe so they want to set up housekeeping on their own hooks and want us poor whites and niggers to build their houses for them while they don't give a damn if it falls on us and kills every dam one of us so they can keep their dam niggers and grow fat on their dam office. You may think I talk damm queer for a sergeant in the Confederate Army but I will be G.D.N. if I don't think it is about time this killing off the poor that the rich may grow richer. If the Captain was to hear me talk so he would have me redused and gaged and buckled or perhaps shot like a poor man But I tell you Jim, I have been thinking a good deal about this matter lately since I got in Maryland. I have talked with a good many Yankees of Union men as they call themselves here and they generally talked pretty sencible talk. They seem to be down on the niggers as much as any one in the South are and say they only want to preserve the Union under government and I all most begin to think it would be ja damm shame to desolve

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it for a few office seekers. I have found a great deal of hinnes among the people here and find they don't differ with us on many points they only say preserve the Union and let the damm niggers go to hell. They ask us what we are fighting for and when we tell them for rights they say they have theirs all they ever had and it would be damm folly for them to join us and to speak canded, Jim I can't see what right we have lost to make such a hell of a fuss about. I find things here different than I expected. We are told that if Maryland was ripe for a Revolution and as soon as we entered her border forty or fifty thousand would rush for our standard but we found we had been fooled. The d.s.t. for the people here seem to be very well satisfied with their condition and if I can judge from the appearance of the country and the prosperous condition of people. I think they have more a damm good hit by staying in the Union and it would have been a damm sight better if we all had a been satisfied with our jcondition and not made a set of damm fools of ourselves. I am afraid we are in a trap here and the half of us will never get out.

I think it was a damm bad thing in comming over but we were forced in a manner as we were nearly straved out and this is a land of milk and honey every thing in abundance. I tell you Jim, we live high here to what we used to in the old dominion. We now get salt enough on our meat which makes it eat a damm sight better than we have been used to. Dear Jim, burn this letter for if it might fall into some of the officers hands and if ours was, to hear of it I'd ketch hell. Write soon.

I hear that*regiment is ordered to report to General Smith in Kentucky. Let me know if it so. I wish you was with us here as we intended to go on shortly and give the Yankees HELL.

Your friend

*your (belongs here)