

8 July 1863

A Soldier's Opinion of Copperheads

We are permitted to publish the following extract from a letter of Sergeant McKee, of Co. F., 154th Regiment, to his wife who resides at Forestville. The writer was formerly a teacher at Sinclairville, and in politics a Democrat, and is known as a man of great candor and general intelligence:

"I cannot discuss the war quest, question on with any kind of patience. "Copperheads" I am disgusted with, from their leaders; Vallandigham and Ben Wood, down to the lowest hangers-on of the scurvy poisonous set. Judge the feelings of thousands of men, who have left home and all that was dear to them, to fight the battle of their country, and to help crush out this wicked, unjust rebellion, and send the traitors to the best Government the sun ever shown on, to their just doom, when looking back to their homes they have left, expecting at least the moral support of high-toned patriotism, they see the dagger-blade of treason, bloody treason drawn to stab them in the back; see men ready to sacrifice principles - in fact every manly virtue - for what? To follow the lead of such scurvy dogs as Vallandigham and Wood, who stir up resistance to the Government and its operations for putting a quietus on this Rebellion, that they may find some crooked path, or some hobby which they may ride over

these very men, who follow in their wake, into power during the next Presidential campaign! My opinion is, this war will not close during the present administration, unless an army is sent North for the express purpose of killing Copperheads. Lee's army may accomplish the object, for I know the Rebs hate - yes, perfectly despise them, for they (the Rebs) are honorable in comparison. When I think of these things, and how much we are sacrificing, I cannot be easy or silent."