

Camp John Manley May 9th/63

Brother Thorpe

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well & hope you are the same. Since I wrote last we went across the River to visit with our neighbors the Rebels and while we were over there we got into a fuss with them. It turned out to be quite a fight. The loss in this Regt. in killed wounded and missing is over 200. We started away from this Camp the 15th of April and went up to Kellys Ford and stayed there about a fortnight and then crossed the River and marched about 25 miles in one day to a place called Chancellorsville. We got there Thursday night and Saturday night we were attacked about Sunset. We lay in a Rifle Pit and the Rebels came up in our Rear We fought there about a half an hour and the Rebels outflanked us and we had to run. We had to run about 40 rods to a piece of woods. The Bullets and shells were pouring in from 3 sides The 11th Corps have got a bad name for running except Bushbecks Brigade The 154th are in that Brigade. Gen Bushbeck said this Regt stood longer than they had ought to but we did not know when we were outflanked and supposed one Brigade could whip Jacksons whole Army Col. Jones was wounded and nothing has been heard from him Our Adjutant was killed Take it all round it was the worst time I ever got into. Sometime ago I wrote about staying in Dixie till I had seen the Elephant I believe I have seen all I want to now. When they have another fight I think I will get excused. I had been told that the Rebs. would not fight, that we had but to show them fight and they would run but the running where I had a chance to see was all the other way. The rebels were all drunk and marched up to our rifle pit as straight as if they had been on Battalion Drill. Whiskey and gunpowder were found in the canteens of the prisoners and their dead turned black soon after being killed.

May 12th We have been paid four months pay today and I will enclose a check for forty Dollars (\$40.00) I got a letter from Rosanna while at Kellys Ford Postmarked Swampscott Write soon and send me some Postage Stamps if you please

I came away from the Battle Field in such a hurry that I lost everything I had and so did all the rest of the Regt. I have stood up 3 nights since the Battle in refreshing showers of rain without any tent or blanket

No more at present
Yours in Haste

John N. Porter