

Private

Machias (?) March 26th 1863

Mr Van Aernam Dear Sir,

I thought I would trouble you again. My son has got back to his Reg. again (which is the 2nd Reg. Excelsior Brig. Co. D (?)) he claims he is not very well that his liver is enlarged, how that is I do not know only what he writes. I have no doubt but he is quite homesick and some discouraged and wants to get home. I do not believe he is very well but he may not be as bad off as he thinks he is. I do not believe that he will do the army any more good if they keep him, he thinks he has done his share of the fighting, he went into the army when he was quite young and it is not strange that he should get tired of it. I do not how far you may be from him, but I do wish you would go and see him again, and see the Surgeon of his Reg. and see if he will not discharge my son. -----scenario -----, do them any more good he might as well come home as to stay there. You know of course more about his health than I do or could if I was there. I do not know but my continual teasing will weary you but I know that you are a father, and I believe you can imagine my anxiety for my son. Now Doctor if you can do anything for my son it will be gratefully remembered by me. Please write me after you see him. I rec'd your letter in due time.

It is quite Sickly in Franklinville, there was four
buried in Cadiz(?) last Sunday., Monday, and Tuesday.
Jacob (?) Reynolds, Mrs Shearer, and two men, one by
the name of Carly(?), the other by the name of
Hitchcock so we are going ---- -----
farm for \$26 per acre, they say for old guy(?)
the judge is mad about it (my son goes by the name
of Jesse). I must now close by hoping that our
distructed Country may soon be restored to peace
and harmony again.

Yours as ever,

Herman Button

Rushford Oct 5th 1863

Henry Van Beman

Dear Sir,

I learned yesterday that there was a current report at Franklinville that I was implicated in assisting a Deserter. I wish to say to you that it is false and I am very sorry that such a story should get in circulation. I mean that Dibler was the man favored by me, I have not seen him since the 19th --- and as for being seen in Buffalo with him, I never was in Buffalo in my life. I wish you would contradict any such report and think better of me than to take such measures against our Government.

Truly yours in Haste

H. J. Merrill

PS - I start for Washington tomorrow morning. I have ~~not~~ heard nothing from Manly (?) since I saw you.

OCT. 13, 1863

Dear Major,

Capt. Livingston returned here a few days after you left. He says he don't see how he can give you Transportation to the regt., that you will have to report to Annapolis, MD. at the convalescent camp. He is a strict confirmant of the red tape order and would probably rather not accomodate a person. I do not suppose you can do anything with him but will have to go to Washington to get your transportation or hunt your way through to the regt. without.

I had a pretty severe attack of hemmorage of the lungs Sunday morning. I have been unwell for nearly a week. --- morning I was put on duty as officer of the day which made me down. Sunday morning I was down taking a bath and as I was down in the water I coughed and found I was bleeding suddenly. I got out of the tub and dressed with as little effort as possible & after a few moments only raised a mouthful as it would clot in my lung. I sent for Dr May who gave me a preparation to stop the bleeding & I am today (Tuesday) quite well though I do not go out of my ROOM yet. I was considerably frighten at first as it broke out much more severly than ever before but probably owing to my being in the water.

I rec'd a letter from Col. Jones a few days ago he was expecting to go on to the regt. in the course of last week in command of all the exchanged prisoners of the 11th & 12th Corps. He says " Carcarans (?) Legion " went west, also

two or three regular ----- the whole thing
constituting about 25,000 men.

Yours truly,

D. B. -----

Lookout Valley April 21, 1864

My Dearest Lis,

I wrote you two or three days ago that I was suffering from miasmatic, periodic hemi-crania.- I am some better now than when I wrote, but I am terribly afflicted yet.

Every day about 9 o'clock A.M. a sharp pain commences above my right eye - through the eyeball and down my cheek to the teeth - and by 10 o'clock it is most excruciating - much more than the severest toothache - about noon it begins to ease away a little about my eye & side of the face and taking (?) the whole right side of my head and makes me almost crazy until 4 O'clock. Then, where it passes off entirely until the next day when it goes through the same interesting programme - The two days past it has not been quite as severe - I am in hopes it will pass away in three or four days.

It is entirely true that the money I have ^{saved} earned since here has been honestly earned - if a faithful, assiduos (?) discharge of duties - through toil and hunger & cold - & exile from family & home, can earn money honestly - and if to save money through the most rigid economy is right, I have the ~~most~~ satisfaction of knowing that I have the most absolute right to all that I have saved - Yet I told Woodruff what he said to you about that matter - I do not desire to act as if the money I had was acquired dishonestly - neither do I desire to advertise to every body the entire condition of my private, personal matters - It does not

concern the public in the least - and if we live "quiet and private lives" and pay for what we eat, drink, & wear I think it will be all right- I have been striving all my life to lay up a little means, yet I have not been able to do so until I came here - It is a fact that I have saved more & have more to show for my services for the past 19 months than for all the rest of my life !!! -- And if everybody knew it - mean ~~xxxx~~ spirits at home would bruit it about & say this was a political war and the Republicans were coining money out of it - & would point to me as a leading Rep. in local matters & would ring the charges (or changes) on my past Success or want of success, and would say VanAernam made - of course they would swell the amt by \$3000 in less than 2 years ! You see the point ? - I think I shall be home before the half term expires of Dora's School - Yet should I not, and should you have to pay a little higher for her board, I think I would let her stay the whole term - With Love & Kisses for self & children

your affectionate Henry

PS. Tell Charley I will make his trinkets as soon as I am well enough to do so.

-----6th

My Dear Dora,

I had a line from Pa written Tuesday as soon as he reached Washington.

He said he would write again the next day, so I expected one last night, but was disappointed.

I like the carpet very well, am going to put it down in the parlor and put the other in the dining room for the summer. The plants came in good condition, I kept one fushia (?) and one rose for house plants. In the yard Pa set a -----, a Smoke Tree, ----- of Box and two or three other shrubs and the rest we divided around.

Remainder almost unreadable - It is a letter to Dora from her Mother.

Eddyville Aug 4th 1864

Henry Van Bernam M.D.

My Dear Sir,

I received today a letter from Lucius(?) Ball's chum informing me that Lucius is sick in the hospital near Atlanta. I can assure you that I feel grateful to you for the many former kindnesses to my son and feel as if to ask ~~xxxxxx~~ other favors of you would be too much yet if you can appreciate a Mother's affection for a son far away from home, deprived of the care and treatment necessary for one that is sick you will overlook it in me. I wish if it is consistant that you would aid Lucius in procuring a furlough or his discharge and let him come home at least long enough to regain his health.

I feel as if no one can care for him as well as myself. From what his friend wrote I think if he is obliged to remain in that southern climate his stay on earth will be short. If you can do anything for him you will confer a favor for which I shall be forever grateful.

Yours with respect,

Mrs Daniel Ball