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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1862 May 12

Patrick Guiney

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West Point, Va.

May 12 1862

My dear Jennie:

I am in receipt of
your note of the seventeenth
inst.

I constantly receive
papers from you and
the side notes are always
read first & spare you.

We are stationed on
the bank of the York river
opposite West Point. For
how long I cannot
say probably only for a
few days.

The enemy are
between us and Richmond
and doubtless will retreat
to the Cotton States. However
or, a battle may occur on

the Chickahominy river.

Since the evacuation of Yorktown our division has been in what is called the Reserve so that we have taken no active part in either of the two battles which have been fought - one at Williamsburg and the other here.

The army is disappointed. The rebels should have been compelled to fight or surrender on this Peninsula. McClellan would, in my judgement, have accomplished this had he been sustained in his plan by Secretary Stanton. But I think McClellan is not blameless. He should have abandoned Yorktown long before it was evacuated. I felt all

along that the rebels could have been conquered there. Yet the way for a partial retreat would have remained open to the rebels without McClellan's Corps. at West Point to cut them off. I think Secretary Stanton has committed the crime of the age in disavowing McClellan's Plan. The result is, a long weary and expensive pursuit. When will it end?

My dear you will be patient and hopeful

I am well - my well - and dreams of our future come to me and lighten the burdens of this Soldiers life.

Yours
W. M. W.