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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1864 August 5

Thomas W. Cahill

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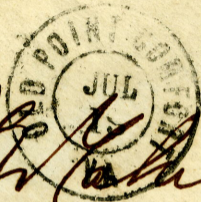
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HEAD QUARTERS
DEPT. OF VIRGINIA & NORTH CAROLINA.
Official Business.



W^{rs} John Cabell
227 Franklin St
New Haven
Conn

Head Qrs 9th Conn Col

Fennallytown D. C. August 5th 1864

My Dear wife

As you will see by the heading we are still here. Nothing has occurred to break the quiet monotony of our lives since our arrival ~~here~~ we are just sitting on the top of the hills and looking around us, nobody seems to know where the Rebels are at present, and the weather is too insufferably hot for us to desire a foot march for any distance to look for them, we are well satisfied to lay as quiet as we can, this whole country is terribly parched up not a green blade of grass to be seen, nearly everything in the shape of vegetation is dying from the long continued and severe drouth, I should judge this would be a fine looking country in an ordinary season it has a beautiful rolling surface and is very elevated, but at present every thing is so burned up that it looks very miserable, this makes every thing in the way of living very high we are paying 50^{cts} and 75^{cts} each for inferior meals in private houses rather expensive living, we have excellent water here from natural springs, of course we do not know the moment we may be ordered off and yet I should not be surprised if we remained in this

vicinity for some time, They must it would seem to me think to have some troops called veterans here to mix up with the new men though for my part I should not be surprised to find the new troops behaving just as well as those we have here

As to my personal affairs, I am getting along very well but find it rather expensive as in addition to price of food even every rag we get washed costs us ten cents a piece and I am trembling for fear I may be compelled to buy a horse, which I do not desire to do, but I do not see how I can get rid of it but will do as long as I can, I am examining and enquiring into the subject of the officers' term matter. I have just succeeded (this day) in getting a copy of the instruction to Mustering Officers on the subject. I have not yet had time to study up the subject, but believe it depends on the Division and Corps Commanders as to the Officers who may be retained in service after the expiration of the original term of the Regt. This is rather indefinite as it also speaks of the reduction of the Field and Staff without saying how the reduction is made or in what it consists, I will let you know as soon as I can what information I may obtain on the subject. Give my respects to Father Hart my love to Ellen and the Children, from your
Loving husband

P.S.

this is the 3rd letter from this place and Washington

The 3rd and all the others were except sent Kennedy who is in Hospital in Washington but it is nothing at all serious

Thos W. Cahill