Letter/
to Col. F. A. Seeley, Washington, D.C. retained copy.

No. 31, Volume 9.

Subject:
March to Knoxville, Tenn. - Resaca - Gen. Boughton.
Letter

To: C.F. A. Easton, Head, R.C. Towing Co.

No. 37, Vtg. 9

Subject:

Letter to Mr. Smith, Team Leader, C.F. Towing Co.
West Point, N. Y., March 29, 1882.

Colonel F. A. Seely,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel:

Before receiving your letter I had sent to General Boughton an extract from my official report of the campaign made for the relief of Knoxville.

"The patient endurance, the actual want and suffering, and the pluck and energy displayed by our troops in that winter campaign for the relief of Burnside at Knoxville is a portion of our War history of which but little has been said.

My report says: "The Corps had endured the extreme "fatigue of a three days battle; engaged in the pursuit for two "days; effectually destroyed the Railroad communication between "Longstreet and Bragg, and then turned Northward and made a march "of a hundred and twenty miles to the relief of Burnside, and "then immediately returned to its old camp. And when we consider "that this was accomplished under such unfavorable circumstances "as wretched roads, no transportation, few blankets and tents, w "with rivers to cross without bridge trains, and supplies to be "collected from the country, why may we not speak of our soldiers "with pride as equal to any in the world?"

I remember well the circumstances of the building of the bridge at Davis' Ford on the little Tennessee.

The plan had been for my corps to march to Morgantown,
Dear Colonel:

Before receiving your letter I had sent to General...

Washington, D.C.

Waite, S. T. M.

Reports on extract from my official report of the campaign...
where General Blair was building a bridge, and cross the river in rear of his corps. This would not only have delayed me but have forced an additional march upon my troops.

This was all avoided by the bridge constructed from the abandoned wagons; the successful accomplishment was due to the indomitable energy, ability and zealous co-operation of those charged with the work.

General Boughton and his command labored diligently throughout the night in the most praiseworthy manner; and to them is due the heartiest commendation for making possible the crossing of the corps the next morning.

I have always felt like expressing my personal thanks to General Boughton and his regiment, the 143rd New York, for that night's arduous work.

In the matter of dates, however, I find that mine agree with General Boughton's and not with yours.

Of the action at Resaca on May 14th I well remember the attack upon my left flank by which General Cruft's brigade was thrown back in some disorder, and the good work done by the 5th Indiana Battery (Captain Simonson's); and I was aware that the 20th Corps, promptly sent by General George H. Thomas at my request, reached the scene just in time to prevent the enemy from making any charge upon the battery. In anticipation of the very attack that was made, Simonson's Battery had been placed upon the first open ground in rear of the wooded hill occupied by my line. When the attack came, Cruft's brigade, on the extreme left of the whole line of battle, was outflanked and of course completely
were General Blair was finding a bridge. any across the river
in keen of the course. this matter not only have helped me but
have taken an efficient service upon my troopers.

This was the event by the bridge concerted from the
surrounding locality. the necessary accomplishment were due to the
important energy, spirit, and attention to the operation of those
acquainted with the work.

General Anderson and the command I hope difficulty
encountered the night the west battery was entered and to from
in one the porters' communication for making possible the cross-

ing to the shores the next morning.

I have always felt the extraordinary protection of my
for General Anderson and the regiment, the 118th New York, for
their right's greater worth.

In the matter of yours, however, I find not mine-

free with General Anderson's only not with yours.

At the section of Lassen on May 14th I went to remove the
trokes from the left limb of which General Grant's bridge was
thrown back to some distance, and the good work gone on the left

Ilium Festus (Captain Grinton) sent by General George H. Thomas of the re-

sent Columbus, promptly sent by General George H. Thomas of the re-
north, reached the scene just in time to prevent the enemy from

meeting and capturing more than the 27th. In anticipation of the very
attack that we made, skirmishers' battery had been placed upon the
left. it was open long in rear of the woods till commanders on line,

When the attack came, Grierson's brigade, on the extreme left of the

more than of parley, were authorized any of course outlay.
overwhelmed; it was driven down the steep wooded hill into the open ground below and there attempts were made to reform the line, but though twice brought together in front of the battery, which was on the rising open ground farther to the rear, it could not long be held there and so fell behind the battery.

I shall never forget the gallant efforts made by that battery. It kept back the approaching enemy at the foot of the wooded hill with a continuous volume of grape and canister, and in the deepening darkness seemed a line of belching fire.

It was at this point that the head of column of the 20th Corps arrived upon the ground and covered the battery, charging the hostile forces in the darkness, and never stopping, I believe, until they were driven up the hill and beyond our old position.

The line that covered the battery must have been from General Boughton's command. I wish I could have known it then, for my intimate acquaintance with and love for my old troops already merged into the 20th Corps, could have made their presence a recognition, at such a time and under such circumstances, peculiarly agreeable to me.

I do not forget the enterprise and energy of the detachment to which General Boughton belonged which crossed to the enemy's side of the river, marched to Shellmound and accomplished a daring reconnaissance.

It was at this time that the locomotive was secured from the enemy and brought back to our vicinity for our subsequent use. Your own constant assistance as Quartermaster in our oper-
The fire that covered the pattern must have been from General Kung's command. I wish I could have known it then.

I do not forget the superb and enviable work of the

I was at the time that the locomotive was recently

You can conduct reconnaissance as on your in one day...
ations is not forgotten by me. You have a consciousness of duty well done even if the record seems too meagre and incomplete as I doubt not it does. The praises of men are, in my judgment, usually misleading, for they overdo or they underdo, and are too often full of mistakes when best intended, but we have One above who weighs us and judges without error and who makes up for our deficiencies by His merciful kindness.

Nothing could be more gratifying to me than to find, as I now do, our beloved friend and co-worker, General Boughton, in full sympathy and unison with this ever present and All Beneficent Friend of friends.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) O. O. Howard,

Brig. and Bvt. Major General U.S.A.
You have a connection or affinity with the person you mentioned. It seems like you may have forgotten something you mentioned earlier. The phrase "a passionate" seems to be out of place here. I wonder if it was meant to say "a passionate" instead?

The breather of wind we're in, our judgment, seems unusual. If we're to make a decision, let's do so now. We can't put it off any longer. We need to make a decision and go with it.

We love our freedom, our own path to freedom, but we also need to be cautious of the mistakes we make and the consequences they bring.

Nothing can be more satisfying to me than to find a way to improve and make a positive impact.

Tired of waiting for a response,

Veita Pitts Jones

Elgie and Betta Moore-Goodwin U.S.A.