

Musnick Dec 6th 1865

My Dear Genl.

I have thought it best
to send you a Book in which a portion
of the papers I refer to are copied, &
other authentic slips of paper pasted. —

There are incidents of a merely personal nature
which it would not be proper for me either to
write myself, or (by that convenient process
& which a flaming modesty so often resorts to)
to procure others to write for me. Time
will bring them out. I prefer that my reputation
should improve upon a better knowledge of facts,
rather than diminish.

I observe that in your
Report I am spoken of as absent⁺ from my
Regt. occasionally without any remark to the
effect that I was at that time commanding the Brigade.

Indeed I am classed merely with Col Gilman as
"absent". when in fact I was at that time leading
my Brigade into Battle, & had my horse shot
there.

It is perhaps my own fault. I did not communicate to you every little point I happened to gain. You will see by reference to the book that the service at Gettysburg was of far more account than has been made of it here in Maine.

These things I know are now in advertisement. I wonder there are not more in a work so complicated & difficult as yours.

I refer to me there further.

You observe I was recommended in April for a full Major Genl. That recommendation was favorably endorsed by Meade & Grant, & like others before only dropped at Washington. When the army broke up Meade ^{& Grant} made a particular nomination which he was assured would be favorably acted on. But the gentlemen at Washington had other views.

The sequel has shown.

Very truly

Your friend & servant.

J. L. Chamberlain

I never had but four days proper "leave of absence" during my service. At all other times when not in the field I have been ordered away for treatment of wounds &c, or on duty by order of the War Dept. I never shirked field duty. J. L. C.