

Chaplain ~~Saint~~ Adams
5th Regt

264

Camp of Maine 5th

Ten miles from Richmond

Mon. morn. May 26th 70.

Hon. J. W. Williams Jr.

Gov. of State of Maine.

Dear Sir,

As you have expressed to me your deep interest in the Maine Tift, I have thought it might not be amiss for me to communicate, once more, some facts as to its general condition.

You have been informed as to the great improvement of the Regt since our leaving Camp Franklin.

Since then, we have been placed in new positions - in new encampments - on marches - & under fire -

Through the public papers, you have been informed of our landing at West Point, & of our skirmish

with the evening.

On that occasion, the Maine Fifth
was assigned to an important position
- to the front in the woods - with none
between them & the foe - but Co. K.
& G, who were deploying as skirmishers.
This position they occupied for several
hours, & then retired, agreedly to orders,
in unbroken line.

At one time, the Reg^t was exposed to
peculiar peril, & would have been deci-
mated had it not been for the cool-
ness & sagacity of Lt. Jackson - as
they were moving over the crest of a hill,
his prompt order was "Down" - & no sooner
was it obeyed than a heavy volley, aimed
at their heads, passed directly within their heads - only
four were wounded - one of whom, Alpheus
Morse of Portland, Co. G. died that night -
I have already made known to you my
opinion of Lt. Jackson, as a disciplinarian
& the consequent improvement of the
Regt - but it gives me pleasure to add

my testimony to his courage, sagacity & bravery - He has the confidence of the whole Regt - Officers & Men - They would give him to be their leader - & are ready & willing to occupy any position of peril, if he is their commander - Gen. Hocom said to me, the evening of the battle, "The Maine Fifth has done nobly today - Col. Jackson has crowned himself with honor".

I improve the occasion to express my opinion of Maja Seaman - Faithful to every duty in camp, on picket, he is bold & undaunted in the face of the foe - He is a thorough soldier, & a true man - & deserves well of his State & of his country - I wish every Regt from Maine had as good a Colonel as Maja Seaman.

Our Adjutant, Lieut. George Cropper was never placed under fire before - but has won golden opinions from his Regt, for his firmness & fearlessness.

Discharge of duty on the 17th inst.

Surgeon Mitchell was employed
in his labors on that day. He with the
surgeons of the 18th of N.Y. (belonging
to one Brigade) dressed wounds on
the field - in the rear of the engage-
ment - before they were sent to the
General Hospital, which was at the
encampment of the Fifth - Dr. Rich-
ett has been assiduous in his atten-
tions - & I know of no hospital ar-
rangements more complete than
his - Our Brigade Surgeon (Dr.
Benn.) & Dr. Hamilton the Medical
Director of the Division have an ex-
alted opinion of his Medical & Sur-
gical skill.

The Chaplain improves the occasion to
say that the Colonel does all in his pow-
er to sustain a Regimental service on
the Sabbath - & so it is with the other Field offi-
cers, who are temporarily in command.

Had I more paper & a better writing place
than the end of my velvet, I might add
more in justice to officers & men.

But I have advertised that I meant close,
which I do, with the promise of the report &
attention of your friend & servant
John R. Darling
Chaplain of the 5th Regt.