June 8, 1863

Dear Sir,

We expect to meet the enemy tomorrow, on the other side of the Rappahannock, and hope success will crown the efforts of this portion of the army. The 1st Division of the 5th Corps are now bivouacked on this side of the river from Ellis Ford to Kelley's Ford, making a front of nine miles; we have orders to cross tomorrow morning at 5 o'clock. General Averel has gone up river in command of three picked Regiments of infantry, one from each of the three of the following named corps viz: 11th 12th and 3rd. He also has two Regiments of cavalry and one battery of light artillery. Genl. Russell is also moving in that direction with a regiment from the 3rd. 2nd from the 1st and one from the 2nd Corps with two batteries, we also have quite a force of cavalry & some of the reserve artillery here. The 16th & 20th are the only Maine Regiments that are in this portion of the army. We have no means of knowing how large a force the rebels
have in front of us. Their encampments extend all the way from Beale's Ford to Chaffin's
Station, and are on the opposite bank of
the river from our own. No picket firing
has been indulged in since we have been on duty here, which has been two weeks,
although they are within 50 to 100 yards
of each other. Bushwhackers are abundant &
it is not safe to ride alone on any of the
roads in our neighborhood. This morning our orderly from
Doc. Holmes' quarter was fired at within half a
mile of this place & the chaplain of the 41st
Michigan was also fired at near same place
& received three wounds.

But Cole Chamberlain & myself are
very anxious that promotions should be made
in our regiment at once, as we are daily
exposed to the enemy's bullets. We don't know
what may happen to us, and as we are filling
positions which we hope to be promoted to, we
feel it due to us to have the rank as soon as
possible. Then again it is desirable to have
the good officers all full when we are in such
positions as we now occupy.

End of promotion.
date from May 20th

Capt. Clark is now acting in the capacity of Major, he is an efficient, brave & good Officer. The 20th number 519 enlisted men for duty, are well over the small pox.

In haste, trust you

Charles D. Gimre