

Rolla, Mo.
Saturday June 28th 1862

Mr. H. D.

Dear Sir, I have not received a letter from you for 3 or 4 weeks, why is it? I also know that I have been somewhat negligent but pray to be excused for being kept at hard drilling, at the same time being in a rather precarious situation as you will see by calling on Father and seeing his letter for it would require more time to explain matters than I have to devote at present. It is in reference to Drumpers treatment of us which I must say has been inhuman and disgraceful, we petitioned him to resign and he was not gentleman enough to comply with our wish. 62 men signed it, all of the non-Commissioned ^{officers} but I who were too cowardly to resist an insult, signed it and we have all been reduced to the ranks. He is about to arrest me and two other non-Com's and have us Court-Martialed for smiting. He talks of a Dishonorable Discharge and shooting as the result. but either will not be more disgraceful than a tame submission to such wrongs as he has heaped upon us. by the way he has three tough customers to deal with and we are determined to not be out done if justice can be had. we are now preparing charge against Cap' Drumper and if he insist on ruining us. we will set him off his pegs. his honor will be gone and he will be a ruined man. — Well, here we are stuck in another Damned hole. hid in the bushes where we will never be heard of, we are forever disgraced and our Col. is to blame.

and he has three times been petitioned to resign his command. but like Quinlan he remarks in his own mind "ha, ha! cant afford it, am making more money than ever I did before, cant do it, No. Sir." This is what I imagine to be the extent of their patriotism. The Almighty Dollar, and a Commission for Damned Laziness, during the war, magnificent, proud and noble. Shoulders-Strappers. They forget that our friends at home know no such thing as title and nobility, except when deserved by daring deeds, and all the laurels they will ever win on the Battle field could be placed in one small dinner basket.

Only think of it, men commanding me in the army. That, were I placed on an equal footing with them, would tread with contempt, and send defiance in their teeth, for I have not lived in vain, and I have been too long in the army to be scared by the screech of an Owl, but enough of this! But dont forget to see Father's letter. I may be in a dangerous position but I feel confident that I come out all right.

I have not received any news from Manchester for a long time. neither have I heard from Elizabeth Lown for a month. please write them up.

Write in mediant, and write a huge letter.

Believe Me To be Your Cousin

J. N. Southard

"P.S." I will send you a
Rolla paper to night. Look out for it



1862

W. H. Cole, Esq
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Ind.

Good letter