

Jeffersonville Ind
July 26th 1861.

My Dear Barrett, "Here I am," as the
"Clown says in the Circus." I am in this
the dullest of dull towns, recruiting.
Theoretically I am recruiting men
for the United States Army. Practically
I am "recruiting" myself. I have been
here a week and have got no one
as yet. But I eat well, sleep well
and am generally in good condition.
There interfere with my Recruiting several
things. In the first place, Jeffersonville
has been pretty well drained already.
Secondly. The volunteer service is gene-
rally preferred by those who want to en-
list. Thirdly. Rousseau has a Camp
but a mile and a half below here.
Fourthly. In Louisville and Kentucky
on which I am expected chiefly to ope-
rate, the Union men say any open
work on my part would embarrass
them - until after the August elec-
tion - I suppose you already know.

that the Union men of Kentucky are really with us heart and hand. And that the neutrality dodge is merely used by them as a means to get a Legislature and strengthen themselves so as to be able to impeach the Governor and depose him, ~~and to make them~~ They will they say after the August election. Speak and act out boldly. Of course the Secessionists use the truce afforded by the neutrality for strengthening themselves. The Union men are all the time trying to prove that the Secesh have broken the truce. - In this way they can get some timidly - Union men who merely want to "see fair play" and have "Kentucky kept out of the fight". They wish besides to ~~have~~ be able to say - when the fight comes and they do act boldly - "Why we promised to do nothing if the other side wouldn't but they have forced us in self defense and to preserve our own honor to ~~do~~ take up arms." In one word they wish to put the burden of beginning the fight upon the Secesh.

Bloody times are feared in the "Dark

"and Bloody Ground"; before and at the election - though the Unionists claim to be at least three to the Secesh's one. I never saw anything so singular as the state of society in Louisville. The division of "house against house" foretold by our Lord was never more complete and utter. E. G. - Ben Casseday is a young litterateur of some ability of whom you have heard perhaps. His father and he are associated in the Crocker business. I called on Ben the other day and learned that he has a Bro. who is an officer in the Confederate Army. Ben is a Unionist strong, his father sympathizes wholly with the Secesh. Ben introduced me to some of his acquaintances, ~~all~~ half of them Secesh, half of them Union. Louisville is a crater. I expect every day to see the lava of human blood flow in the streets. The "New asses" affair encouraged the Secesh wonderfully. They hung out Confederate flags, and were generally noisy. That Tompkins who was killed was a Ringleader of the Rebels and if he had lived there was to have been a row that night. Everyone feels that his death

saved Louisville from a bloody riot. The policeman Greene who shot him was hardly justifiable, except on the broad and righteous ground that all ~~the~~ ^{such} scoundrels ought to be killed. But a truce to Louisville.

I see by the papers, that the military authorities in Washington have discovered that some of the Departments contain Traitors. ~~Oh~~ "Oh fools and blind!" Why do they not declare now what they should have declared long ago martial law in the Federal City and summarily dispose of a few of the traitors? Apropos of that. How many "scoundrels" has friend S.P.C. got in his Department now on the plea of their "being necessary to the business of the Office?"

It seems to me that it is due the purity and self-respect of the Senate that Breckenridge & Powell and ^{possibly} one or two more should be expelled. I can say any one doubt that the U. S. Senator, who "does not conceal his sympathy with the wounded" of the Army that are trying to destroy the Government he has

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sworn to protect, will communicate to that Army any information he may acquire in the secret sessions of the Senate? In the House whose sessions are open and their sayings and doings patent, the case is different. But the Senate, being the constitutional advisers of the President and so to some extent an Executive body, it seems to me, should be careful that, in this exigency, no traitors are allowed to know its doings and retail them to the enemy.

I must say that I like the course pursued towards Vallandigham and Burnett & Co. To let them talk till they are tired (and their hearers too), and then smother them by a big vote in favor of ~~the~~ a War Measure, has a dash of comicality about it that relieves the serious aspect of this gravest of eras and at the same time shows that the people mean War and can afford to allow the utmost freedom of speech.

But when Vallandigham returns from Washington to Dayton I want to see such a demonstration in that town

as will convince him that the people of Ohio are not of his mind.

— You remember speaking about the length of the War to me? I think now that they were superficial who predicted its close in a few months. The corruptions which brought on this War are of the growth of years. And the ~~reckless~~ ^{reckless} run of the disease ~~and its violence~~ will be proportioned I think to the length of its incubation.

Possibly we may have a fearful terrible sudden fever, but I think the disease will run some time yet before the crisis is reached.

What privation, what poverty, what suffering we shall encounter before the War is ended I know not. Yet it seems to me that no true man or woman, who has ever felt the significance of ideas, and the utter insignificance of everything else, should shrink ~~from this~~ ^{from this} they call this a "quick War" unholy and all that. So it is — for those who made it. But how sacred and noble for those who enter it to defend their Country and the primal idea on which that

Country has ~~never~~ ^{never} been built. — Do you ever see Penfield now a-days? He promised me a Sharp's rifle when I was in Washington and said he would give it to me when I got my commission. He never did. If you see him, will you be good enough to remind him that I am opposite Secession and may need to use a weapon before long, and that further my opinion on guns is asked almost daily by "those guards?" I say that "I have a high opinion of Sharp's rifle but have not had much practical experience with it." There's a splendid chance here for long range shooting and I want to improve it, but can't afford to buy me a rifle, and I think P. ought, after what he has said to give me one.

— If you can get time will you not write me. It's very lonely here and I have not had a letter since I've been here.

Please remember me very kindly to Mrs B. and to all inquiring friends.

Very truly Yours
R. Delavan Mussey

P.S. There's a man here who served in Florida ^{15 mos} in U.S. Army between 1849 & 1854. Is he entitled to a Warrant?

If not mentioning on office envelopes will you please answer

R. D. Muesley
July 26, 1861.

P.S. 2. in single ych.