

Chittanooga Tenn - 1862

Dec 6th 1862

Dear Father:

There is turmoil in the camp regarding my account. I think I must be a very Caliban for raising such a fuss, but one thing I have to comfort me, I have never raised a fuss without having both my own sense of right and the judgment and approval of all the good and honest men of the regiment upon my side, and so long as I have these I can well afford to act the firm part. The opinion of the present committee is this - You know I had been in command of Co "E" for two months, and for a year or so had been the ranking lieutenant of the regiment. It had come to be regarded as a fixed matter by both men and officers in the regiment, that I would receive the company. The men had become very much attached to me (as I may say) all men who have been under my command, and confidently expected that I would receive the company. I was just undecided whether I should remain or resign. My health was improving and I did not know but I might yet stand it. While affairs were in this situation an order was read on dress-parade - (see 1st) announcing the promotion of Lieut. Howard to Captain and his assignment to Co "E". The act itself as well as the demeanour of the Lt. Col. toward me afterwards, were on the highest degree insulting. It was not entirely unexpected for me and I had my plan of action fully decided upon beforehand. As soon as I had returned to my quarters and thrown aside my accoutrements, I sat down and made out my resignation in the following terms -

Chattanooga Tenn
Jan 1st 1868

St. Col. C. Goddard

A. A. Lee - Dept. Cumberland -

etc -

I hereby tender my resignation as 1st Lt - 105th Regt Ohio Vol - Infy - for the following reason - viz - The treatment which I have received from the ^{superior} commanding Officers, and the spirit manifested by them towards me, is such that I can no longer retain any present position with honor to my self or credit to the service - I therefore pray that my resignation may be accepted for the good of the service -

A. W. Tourgee &c -

This was evidently not exactly the kind of a document expected from me - Folles knew how sensitive I am to any such slight - and as I had been served so several times before, he now doubt thought I would give up - all thought of remedying the matter, and resign as an surgeon's Certificate of Disability, without saying anything of the treatment I had received. He evidently disliked the tone of the document and so after two or three hours for consideration he returned the application with a trivial endorsement and a notification to the following effect -

Lieut. Tourgee ought

to know that implied charges against a superior officer cannot be allowed - The officer resigning must allege an exact reason - A resignation on Surg. Certif. will be forwarded and cheerfully approved -

St. Col. Folles -

Get so fast my good

Master Lieut. thought I you had not any more to do with us some when you had gotten to prepare to take away on leaving this service I had broken my own neck and I know what I can do and what I cannot do - I would perhaps a little better - for I have been looking out for my bridge for more than a year - and am no longer put in law - I therefore changed my resignation to the following

I hereby tender my resignation as 1st Lt - 105th Regt Ohio Vol - Infy - for the reason that I can no longer retain that position with honor to myself or credit and advantage to the service - I therefore pray that my resignation may be accepted for the good of the service -

Signed A. W. Tourgee

with a notice to the following effect -

St. Col. Folles ought to know that I am fully aware that the commanding officer of a regt must forward - to his superior, and that through the official channels - whatever official communication may be chosen to address them through him - of course the option of the Comd'g Off. to approve these communications or not - is a matter of course and must be within the time specified by the Order of the War - the only ground for the refusal of the Comd'g Off. to forward them is that they are not in the interest of the service -

This hid the business - He kept it as long as he durst - two
days - and then sent it up with the following ludicrous
embellishment -

Respectfully Forwarded - Disapproved
because the officer does not state explicitly enough why
he can no longer serve with honor to himself - I recom-
mend however that Genl Surge be instructed to comply with
the advice given him by the Maj-Gen - Dept Comdant -
viz: Under his Resignation -

Wm R. Fuller, Major Genl

Could any native of Tipperary perpetrate a crime like
this? You will notice however that the officer has
by using the word "serve" instead of my words - "retaining posi-
tion" - At Brigade Headquarters it was endorsed -

Respectfully Forwarded -

F. Van Dornier - Col Comd - Brig -

From Div's Headquarters it was returned endorsed -

Respectfully returned - for a more definite state-
ment of the grounds of resignation - both from the
sunderland and from the Comd - Off - of the
regt -

A. C. Mc-Cary "

Adj. Genl

By Comd Brig Gen Darn