

Ed. Merrill to Friend whether you recd. your
promised papers all right

Camp Clara Va
March 20th, 1862

Dear Albion,

To wait

longer before writing to you
is impossible; & ~~although~~ although all
is chaos with us & around us
yet I will try & pen a few
words, you had a right to
expect it before; but I will
make no apology as you know
how difficult it is for a sol-
dier, especially when busy & sick,
to write. — Well I've just been
hindered some time, & must hasten
for the same may occur again.
I've just been talking with ~~Mr.~~
H. Merrill, "Corporal Merrill". — He
came back here from Rochester
expecting to receive a commission.
The boys were afraid he would

be appointed in our Co. He
says Col. Bartlett promised
him a commission when he first
returned from Richmond & on
the strength of that promise he
refused his discharge & came
back to 27th Regt. I presume
there was some such talk be-
tween him & Col. B. but since
Merrill has come back he had
killed himself. After he had
seen the Col., when he first came
back, he must get drunk as a
fool. This he has done several
times since. Besides this he just
lives round here, doing nothing &
expecting everything to be done
for him. He was not at all
social even with the boys of
our Co. He took Baker for his
spiritual adviser, & that was
enough to have made his chance
slim alone. The places are

all filled, & he thinks he may as
well conclude that Col. B. does
not want him. He has been trying
for several days to get his discharge
His wound has been worse of late
& he has been sick otherwise he
rides (so he says) He now thinks
of getting a place in the regular
army. Says he has a place as ^{2nd Lt.} 2nd Lt.
offered him. (The offer is by Mr.
Oly, you know he gives commissions)
I wish him success at all events
though I did feel that if he were
appointed to fill Ed's place he
would be in a place belonging to
me by right. Since my appoint-
ment I told him so, & he in that
same wide honor which he ex-
hibited in Elmira, when you & I
forced him to ^{agree} take the position
of 4th sergeant, told me, with the
coolest effrontery, that he had
felt so all the time & had told

Baker so. This agreed with what he had said only a few days before, when drunk just enough to be communicative, & with what I know was the plan of Merrill & Baker, so well, that I felt exceedingly obliged to him for his care for my rights.

This morning he has been before the board for examination & is to be discharged. He has grown better marvellously fast. Last night he thought he should be obliged to go to the hospital & early this morning said to me that he was no better. Now (not noon yet) he says he thinks he shall go down the river with the Co. His sickness, I think, is like Lt. Baker's. He had apparently been well enough up to the time when he recd. notice of his fate from the examining Committee. "This bad weather