

H. D. Childs Esq
(Belle Plume Marshall Co, Ill.)

My dear old friend: I have your letter of the
9th inst. and am very sorry indeed to
hear of your sad condition.

I do not remember ~~anything~~ about
the facts of your injury though now
that you mention it, I recall having
heard something about it, whether
from yourself or others, I could not
say.

I knew something of Hull's en-
tirety to you, ^{however,} as well as of his rather
unscrupulousness. Were he living I would
not believe him on oath in a case
in which he had my personal in-
terest and if he had lived a little
longer I do not think anybody would.
I do not think, however, that a general
attack upon his character and

curacity could now be sus-
tained, for the reason.

- (1) That so many men are loathe to tell an unpleasant truth about a dead man — especially one who had so many shining and valuable qualities as a soldier as Hall unquestionably possessed.
- (2) — He was very shrewd. He kept Tolles, who was a good man, though easily misled, under the "back" from the first. He avoided all collision with Perkins, who besides being rich was a nephew of Gov. Tol. Though a splendid good man Perkins is and was very cautious and non-committal as to Hall.
- (3) — He had quite a following of favorites who had and still have more or less reason to speak well of him.

For these reasons, I do not think a general attack on his character would avail you anything. I knew something, as a ^{student} ^{in Ashitkula,} about the matter with the Treasurer, on heard something about

he was ordered to send a detest to
and would no doubt have been cashed
if the truth had been known. Hence, his words
against Campfield.

His ambition was boundless and his re-
sentment unyielding. He was cruel by na-
ture and altogether capable of falsifying
any record to serve either his interest
or his revenge.

The indorsement itself, as it seems to me,
would show this; unless he had some
personal knowledge of how the injuries
were incurred, which does not seem
probable. I think he had an antipathy to
all the officers of Co. "B" — who did not always
endorse his high-handed and tyran-
nical acts. I think he had also a special
dislike for you because of your disability,
and it is possible that he may have arrived
at that conclusion and written it
down in resentfulness at your lack
of endurance. He was a man of won-
derful physique and remarkable for-
titude and had an infinite contempt

its rather. My recollection is that it was about as you recite it. However, I do not know that I ever had fuller information as to the facts.

In ~~the~~ Canfield's case, he undoubtedly self-perjured himself in order to save himself from blame. To prevent detection, he urged the dismissal of Canfield - who was then a prisoner of war - without any hearing, trial or opportunity to defend himself ^{from one of the gravest acts of outrage ever perpetrated on an officer in a man.} ~~whenever~~. There is no doubt that Canfield obeyed Hull's orders to the letter, and that order was the necessary and unavoidable cause of the capture of the train. So too, if it had not been for that command, its capture would have been an impossibility. Hull gave the order merely to have the secret of getting ahead of the "Division Train" ~~the~~

for any man who could not endure
as much as he.

While, therefore, Hull may have made
this endorsement as a matter of per-
sonal ill-will, it is quite possible that
it may have been only a matter of
mistaken duty — an extrajudicial decla-
ration of his notion as to the fact. As
to its truth, of course, I know nothing.

I should say, however, that it would
not take much to overthrow the force
of such a statement to which you were
not a party. Capt. Braden and others of
your company ^{should} ~~must~~ know enough
of the facts in the case, to set that
matter in its true light, and it seems
to me it would be much better to pro-
ceed in this manner, than make a
general attack which ^{even} if sustained, might
do you no good.

W. Campfield is — or lately was — in Indi-
anapolis: Braden in Canton.

Hoping that you may be able to es-
tablish the facts and that they may sus-
tain your claim and also regret-
ting that I am able to give you
only empty advice, which may
after all be useless, I remain

Yours truly,
J. M. [Signature]