

Tidioute Pa. Feb 17, 1894

My Dear Judge Tourgee; -

I have been shown the letter which you wrote to Jas. F. Morrison of Philadelphia respecting me. I am pleased and greatly touched by the flattering words you use. If you and such friends as you feel that I deserve such commendation I certainly have a right to feel proud of your good opinion and thankful for its expression. My friends who are pushing my candidacy for Department Commander of Pennsylvania are very sanguine of success although I have a vigorous and popular competitor and another one not so prominent.

The Department Encampment meets Feb. 27th and 28th and then we will know all about it. Your letter it was at first intended to publish, I understand, but it was decided it could be more effectively used on the floor of the Encampment and it is held in reserve until that time.

I read your installments of the "Story of a Thousand" as they appear and must congratulate you on the extremely interesting way in which you are telling the story. Your work will I believe stand at the head of such histories when it is completed. It is a valuable history and it is much more than a history of a regiment. It will have a great value to every student of the history of that period.

By the way in your reference to me in the Feb. number possibly the inference might be drawn that we ^(myself & men) left sooner than was necessary.

The fact was that at the last, we were working but one gun, our losses in our section were so great that I was compelled to take all my

men to the right gun and we fired three or four rounds with that alone

The last time we fired it, while the men were putting in the cartridge (of canister) I tore off the powder from a second canister and we put that in also. By this time the regiment had fallen back below the lane and the men were streaming back through the cornfield while in our front the enemy were but a very few rods distant. I have a vague impression that I saw them passing over the ground that our regiment had occupied to the left but in this I may be mistaken.

We fired the cannon, I pulled it off myself telling the men to get away if they could and under the smoke we did get quite a start before the enemy saw us. I had just passed the lane through a gap and was by the side of Sergt. Sweeney of our battery when the enemy first fired on us after leaving the gun. Sergt Sweeney fell dead and a bullet tore out my sabre hook and I made tracks for the woods and brush and got off. We did not go till we had to and, after I had more experience, I would not have stayed so long. The next morning a colonel from some regiment in Rousseau's command, I think, looked me up, as he said, to tell me what fearful execution that last shot of our gun did as he was standing off to our right watching us and could see the result. I do not object to your account as I know, rightly understood, your account is sufficiently accurate, only I thought it well enough to give these particulars as I remember them.

Again thanking you for your flattering letter in my behalf

I am, Dear Judge, very cordially and sincerely yours

