

May 23rd 1865
Hd.Qrs 2nd Div 2nd Corps

Dear Father

The Grand Review of the Grander old "Army of the Potomac" came off this morning & afternoon with wonderful éclat. It was of course the finest thing I ever witnessed. The Cavalry and Infantry both appeared finely and the magnitude of the whole gave to the pageant a very imposing character. The troops, as a general thing marched well and presented a very soldierly appearance.

It is no longer to me a matter of surprise that sometimes General officers fail to have their troops on hand at the right time. The dimensions of an Army are so much grander than I supposed that I think it is a real wonder that our officials have been able to feed clothe and supply with the various necessaries to a soldiers comfort, our many large Armies. The camps of the "Army of the Potomac" are spread over the country for miles in all directions and it seems to me almost impossible that the officers should be able to mass them in line of battle as ~~soon~~ quick as it has been done.

We are all anxious to have an opportunity of judging of Shermans Army, but from what we have seen of it in camp we don't expect that it will make so fine an appearance as Grant's army, by a great deal.

I saw General Sherman as he left the reviewing stand, while the 5th Corps was passing. I presume he left for his camp in order to prepare for the review of his Army. He looks about as his pictures represent him.

The march of Sheridans Cavalry interested me very much. I had never before seen even a Regiment of Cavalry, and as these men passed along, their column extended so far, and the time which they occupied in passing was so long, that had I not known I would have said that at least 25 thousand cavalry men had marched past me.

Genl Barlow and staff, and Division, of course excited my attention and interest as much as anything. The Div marched & looked as well as any, I thought, Genl Barlow is a very young man, I should say not more than 27 or 28 years old. But from his conduct while in the 1st Div of this Corps deserves I presume his rank of Major General. Sam says that he is very smart and remarkably well educated. He was a lawyer in New York City before the war.

I have been, while here, exercising Government Horse flesh, very extensively, and hope before I go home to be able to ride without being jolted out of my boots_____

With love I am
Your son Farley

HdQrs 2nd Div 2nd A.C.
May 25th 1865

This was not mailed as I had hoped it would be, and I thought that I would finish it with a short account of the review of the armies of Tenn & Georgia. They presented a much better appearance than I thought they would but still fell behind in soldierly looks, the Army of the Potomac. They were large men but did not march to my mind nearly as well as the soldiers of the Army. They did not carry themselves so much like soldiers and they

Transcribed by Terry Crooks.

The original letter is in the Porter Family Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Rochester Libraries.

marched more like men who had been accustomed to go on their own hook, each ,man striding along as he pleased. You may expect me at home next Tuesday. Mr Mclean left HeadQrs this morning for Washington expecting to remain there all day and start either to night or tomorrow morning for home

With love
Farley¹

Endnotes:

¹ Farley Porter, Sam's younger brother was the author of this letter and was obviously present at the final review of the Union armies in Washington in may, 1865.

Maj.Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman commanded the western armies of Ulysses S. Grant's command.

Maj.Gen. Philip Henry Sheridan commanded the Calvary Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

Maj.Gen. Francis Channing Barlow was 30 yrs old at the time of the review. He was a Harvard educated attorney and would chair the American Bar Association.

Mr. McLean – no record found.