

Head Quarters 2nd Div.
March 15th 1865 ¹

Dear Father

I believe that the army is once more on the eve of a great move, and that before many days the Second Corps will be wending its way to some more *southern* field of operations (*emphasis in original*). The sutlers are all ordered to the rear, and the army generally ordered to dispose of its surplus stores. I am in hopes that the final order will not be received before the day after tomorrow (St. Patrick's Day) which is intended to be a day of great sport in the army. The order prohibiting horse racing has been removed for that occasion and numbers of fresh horses will contend for the various purses². Genl Smyth returned day before yesterday from leave of absence, he reassumes command of his Brigade. Genl Grant reviewed our Division a few days ago. The Div. appeared finely, and was pronounced with out exception the best in the army. Our HdQtrs were honored last week by the presence of a Washington party, who were visiting Grant and who by mistake were put down by the carts in the immediate vicinity. They were entirely without escort and seeing their deplorable condition we politely offered them our HdQr wagon and requested them in the mean time to accept our hospitalities in the shape of dinner etc,etc... This they did, and were furnished with conveyances which took them out to our front line. Genl Doyle of the British Service (Comndg Troops in Canada) was with the party and walked with me out to the picket line. Powell the artist, and Samuel Cox were also along and all went away highly pleased. Jack Jewell is back & brought me a letter from you. Andrews is also back. He brings a report that Power[s] has the appointment of brevet Brig. Genl. No news, excuse haste.³

Very affectionately
Your son

Sam Porter
Capt & J.A. 2nd Div 2nd A.C.

Notes:

¹ The division was located along Hatcher's Run near the Vaughan Road. The latter is dated March 15, 1865 not 1864 as in the University of Rochester Collection. Internal evidence for 1865 date:

- a. The Grant Review was March 11, 1865.
- b. The departure of the sutlers was March 14 (*108th New York*, p.142).
- c. The General Doyle visit was March 9, 1865. (*Meade's Army*, p.342)
- d. Powers' brevet promotion was on March 13, 1865 (NARA) A brevet rank is an honorary rank.

² *O.R.* 46,3 p.96-97.

³ The People:

a Thomas Alfred Smyth re-assumed the command of the 3rd Brigade.

b Doyle was Major-General Sir Charles Hastings Doyle (1804-1883), Lt. Gov. of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

c Samuel Cox and Powell the artist could be Samuel Cox of Co.K, 4th NYHA and George W. Powell, Co..K 4th NYHA. Company K of the 4th NYHA was raised in Rochester so these men might have been friends of Sam (Phisterer, 2,p.1306.

d. John O. Jewell was 1st Lt. on Feb.15, 1865, 108th NY (Phisterer, 4, p.3277). Andrews is William H. Andrews appointed Major of the 108th NY on Dec. 1864 but was never mustered in as such. Charles J. Powers was Colonel of the 108th NY and was severely wounded on May 6, 1864 at the Wilderness and was virtually out of the war (NARA file).