

From Daniel L. Chandler to John Stillman Brown

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Mound City, Linn Co. Kansas

April 26th 1862

Friend Brown[,]

We left Paola, three days since, and will encamp for the night at this place, and perhaps may remain here some days. We have seen nothing of Col. Weir, and I suppose the consolidation of the 3d. and 4th. Regts. are complete. Hereafter our Regt. will be the 10th. All of the old staff officers of the 5th have been mustered out. Col. Majr. [MS. illegible] Surgeons, Chaplain. Cloud is now our Col. Gunn is our Majr. [Zulaski?] ([Rossuth's nephew) [MS. torn] Adjnt. Drs. Baley and Barker are our Surgeon. Our Chaplain will hereafter be the Rev. Mr. Drummond, an Episcopal Clergyman, formerly a private in Capt[.] [Hays?] Co. Whether his services will be acceptable to the united Regt. remains to be seen. One thing is certain, [*text stricken through*] if knowledge is wanting, the Rev. gentleman does not lack zeal.

If I continue to hold the humble position that I now fill, I will be the only one left of the officers, great or small of the late 4th Regt. I think that I will remain, for when it was rumored in camp that my removal was contemplated a petition, was spontaneously got up [*text stricken through*] and some five hundred persons put there

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names to it, to have me remain. More names could have been procured had it been thought necessary, for whole companies would unanimously sign it. The third Regt. was not much behind the fourth, in putting there names to the paper, for many of them had known me at the Hospitals at Ft. Scott, Mapleton, West Point etc. Capt[.] [Forman?] of the 3d. said that he would sign it, for though he did not know me personally, yet the long array of names of those who did know me, was conclusive evidence to him, for he had noticed that the sick were always [hard?] to please, and if so many who had been sick, were willing to put their names to the paper, I must do about right.

I find that upon renewing my acquaintance with the 3 Regt. many of those whom I left in comfortable health, have passed that [bourne?], from which no traveler [MS. torn] mortality in the 3rd. during the past [MS. torn] has been far greater than in the [MS. torn] a poor fellow, who had ought to have been discharged from the service last fall on account [of] phisical disability but were refused, because there names were on the Co. books and help to make up a company have taken their discharge and are now "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest." Most of those who have died were mere boys who had not strength sufficient to endure the hardships and privations of camp life.

But a better state of things will be [inaugurated?] for Genl. Halleck has issued positive orders that all who have been in the hospital two months or more, must be discharged from the service. Yet I fear that red-tape will step in, to prevent the execution of our order, which if carried out, would save thousands of [MS. illegible] lives and millions of dollars to the treasury, and at the same time our army would be even more effective than it is now.

Yours Truly

Daniel L. Chandler

J.S. Brown