

Washington Dec 16th 1862

Dear Jim

I intended to write yesterday but felt too blue. I found but one universal opinion that the Banks expedition denoted downright insanity. General Porter said when he heard of his old division of infantry marching up to certain death, and of the fate of so many of them he fairly cried.

General Pope was most violent of any but of course I took his views with many grains of allowance.

General Hunter said that he had offered the government with thirty thousand men or even less to march into Richmond via the Peninsula while the main army advanced above, and that he proposed this two or three weeks ago.

General Heintzelman with whom I have just had a long talk is perfectly furious about the way things have been managed. He says a senator told him that Banks and friends applied for a separate command and that the President promised it to him not for the good of the country but of Banks, and he laughed very viciously as he said "and now they are afraid about Washington again."

General Busted is assigned to a command on the Peninsula.

There is a rumor afloat which I do not rely upon that General Burnside did not want to cross at Fredericksburg but was ordered and was very averse to returning

but received a peremptory order to do so.

Some ten thousand men were slaughtered last Saturday for no good to anyone, and I for the first time feel satisfied that I have not offered my services on the field.

The army is beginning to feel that there is no patriotism in simply offering their lives a sacrifice without any object. General Heintzelman told me this morning that had not McClellan been interfered with by taking away McDowell's corps he would have been in Richmond last June.

I need not apologize for composing this letter primarily of quotations as I know you would prefer hearing my authority and my own views are too strong for expression.

Your Brother
Theodore

Yours of 15th inst is received
I will try to be home Saturday, do not write me again