

5-22-1863

Letter from Marshall Blair Clason to his mother-in-law

Marshall Blair Clason

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Franklin, Tenn. May 22nd 1863

My Dear Mother: —

I have rec'd one or two of your letters ^{which} I have not answered. I feel thankful for the kind, affectionate feeling they exhibited to me, and the good ~~feel~~ wishes which were expressed in my behalf. I should have answered sooner, but I have been so exceedingly busy that I have had no time to write letters. — I am much obliged to you for your kindness in attending to my business. How much money did you receive? I sent you in all \$305.⁰⁰ Did you receive it? Please answer, so that I can correct any error that has happened. I sent you two receipts at different times, one for \$200.⁰⁰ and the other for \$105.⁰⁰. Annie tells me she has provided for the payment of the \$30.⁰⁰ remaining due on Sam. Therefore that debt is entirely cancelled. I am glad I have such a good financier. She is very shrewd in business matters. She has had the advantage of your instructions. * I am glad you had that queer matter disposed of. — It gave me some troubles. Everybody took a trophy from the fields, and I took that queer. It was a very small matter, but I wanted to take care my enemies had no handle on me. — I anticipated no difficulty here, but some trouble might be made by designing persons. You know, by the papers, that I was instrumental in ~~recovering~~ recovering the sword of Gen. Serill, who was killed at the Battle of Amyville. I wrote the letter which secured the recovery. The entire letter was published, and my name given. It occasioned considerable fluttering in certain quarters, and I anticipated trouble, and prepared for it.

I have as yet received no word from my sword. I have not received it, and I do not know where it is. I have sent word

and inquired at the Express Office, at Nashville, and it can not be found there. It is not here. I do not know where it is. I do not know exactly what to do about it. I hope it is not lost. I ~~told~~ was told by Dr. Williams that his wife had written him that she and you had sent things to the Doctor and me by Mr. Davidson (Em. Andrews' husband) ~~to~~ and that he was going to bring them through to Nashville for us. The Doctor informed me that Mr. Davidson was going to stop at the house of Scott, Keene & Co., Nashville. I have written to that house and inquired after Mr. Davidson and the package. I have made a dozen efforts, and I can get only a slight clue of Mr. Davidson, and none whatever of the sword. You said in your letter that you sent ^{or was going to send} the sword by express. Did you send it by express, and how did you direct it? Go to the express agent at Delaware, if you sent it by express, show him the receipt, tell him the sword never came to hand, and ask him to inquire what has become of it. I shall put myself in correspondence with the Louisville Express Office, and see if the fault is there. If you sent the sword by private conveyance, (and you never informed me that you did) please tell me the particulars of the case, so that I can make the proper efforts for obtaining the weapon, for I need it very much. Please write me immediately, and inform me when and how you sent the sword, and if ^{not} by express, the particulars.

I do not expect to go on the staff of Genl. Hamilton. The General has resigned, and so all my visions of glory on a staff are faded. I never had made up my mind ~~and~~ to accept ~~as~~ a staff appointment. But I would hold ^{an offer} under consideration, I am now on the staff of Genl. Gilbert, of my Division, temporarily, as Provost Marshal. The position is exceedingly onerous and responsible,

and extremely unpopular. I have had considerable difficulty. I have come in contact with several distinguished officers, but I do not feel very much worried. I have been threatened with two court martials, but I am not sorely troubled with visions of the terrors of the law. I will go ahead, and hold the office until I have performed my share, and then I will let some one else bear the burden. Have you yet received my overcoat, which I sent home by Lieut. Brown, of my company. ~~If not~~ please inform me. I intend writing Brown immediately on the subject. His delay ~~from~~ in forwarding the coat is unaccountable. I do not understand it. I think I will call his attention to it.

I receive very frequent letters from my wife. They all breathe the same good, pure spirit, that has so endeared her to me. You gave me a great treasure, dear mother, when you gave her to me. I hope I appreciate her. I know she is happy when with me. She endures my absence with heroic firmness, ~~and~~ but I fear she allows herself to be troubled by too much anxiety concerning me. I have so written her, and I hope you will endeavor to lessen this anxiety of hers. I have no anxiety for myself. I am glad Annie's health has been good this spring. I am extremely thankful that she escaped her usual spring cold, which gave her so much trouble. She has made a very long visit at Milwaukee, and intends to conclude it by a visit to the far-famed falls of Minnehaha. I know she will enjoy that visit. Perhaps the season is not late enough.

There is nothing new in the regiment. Capt. Bone has resigned, and I supposed, called on you on his way home. Col. Reid has not yet returned. He is expected every day. I suppose

he will bring some little things to me. We will all be glad to see him. I hope his health has improved by his absence, and that he has been enabled to put his business affairs in good shape. Prof. Reid has been very kind to me, and I and my family will remember him and his for it. The Chaplain is well. Dr. Williams is as cheerful as ever. The Doctor is a most excellent man. A Mrs. Bowlin, of Delaware, is here, visiting a son of hers, sick in the hospital. It is a pleasant thing to have a mother for a nurse. I have not been on the sick list a day since I entered the service. I think I have no chance for a furlough on that ground. I guess I will have to "stand it through."

I hope Nelson has escaped from all dangers. I see that Grant's army is actively operating. May God shield him and restore him to liberty. May we all, after this dread war is ended, and ended with the triumph of Union and Liberty, meet again under one roof in a blessed reunion. May God fill our hearts with a love for each other. My love embraces you all.

Write me often.

Your son,

M. B. Blason

Franklin, Tenn., May 22^d 1863

My Dear Mother: —

I have rec'd one or two of your letters which I have not answered. I feel thankful for the kind, affectionate feeling they exhibited to me, and the good wishes which were expressed in my behalf. I should have answered sooner, but I have been so exceedingly busy that I have had no time to write letters.— I am much obliged to you for your kindness in attending to my business. How much money did you receive? I sent you in all \$305.00. Did you receive it? Please answer, so that I can correct any error that has happened. I sent you two receipts at different times, one for \$200.00 and the other for \$105.00. Annie tells me she has provided for the payment of the \$30.00 remaining due on Fau. Therefore that debt is entirely cancelled. I am glad I have such a good financier. She is very shrewd in business matters. She has had the advantage of your instructions. x I am glad you had that gun matter disposed of.— It gave me some trouble. Everybody took a trophy from the fields, and I took that gun. It was a very small matter, but I wanted to take care my enemies had no handle on me.— I anticipated no difficulty here, but some trouble might be made by designing persons. You know, by the papers, that I was instrumental in recovering the sword of Gen. Terrill who was killed at the Battle of Perryville. I wrote the letter which secured the recovery. The entire letter was published, and my name given.— It occasioned considerable fluttering in certain quarters, and I anticipated trouble, and prepared for it.

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is a pleasant thing to have a mother for a nurse. I have not been on the sick list a day since I entered the service. I think I have no chance for a furlough on that ground. I guess I will have to "stand it through."

I hope Velorus has escaped from all dangers. I see that Grant's army is actively operating. May God shield him and restore him to Mellie. May we all, after this dread war is ended, and ended with the triumph of Union and Liberty, meet again under one roof in a blessed reunion.— May God fill our hearts with a love for each other. My love embraces you all.

Write me often.

Your son
M. B. Clason