

My Dear Pleasonton,

Your favor of the 6th instance was received. I had a perfect dog fight at Ream's Station a few days since. I was outnumbered – yet had all of my troops behaved equally well (some recruits, substitutes, etc. behaved miserably) a decided success would have been had. Had Meade been bolder, we would have won a great victory, for we had fifteen or twenty thousand men between Hill and Petersburg. [Miles & miles] of the fight (which lasted from morn til dark)] yet not a soul was engaged but myself. It was a great misfortune. I had been ordered to withdraw but finding the enemy confronting me, notified Meade that I would fight it out until dark or until I was driven from the field. This was about 11:40 a.m. Oh how physically wearied I am. A little rest should do great things for me, but I cannot expect it until the campaign [closes]; So Sam Grant says at least.

I have no desire to command the Army of the Potomac but I know the Army pretty well: There will be changes this [winter] without doubt. I am much obliged to you for your opinion as to my [devotions] in this war. I have been devoted, self sacrificing – and more generous to individuals than I should ever get credit for.

I am glad you saw Mrs. Hancock and the children at Longwood and glad to hear that Russell [presented] so well.

Trusting that this civil war will soon be over and that we will then begin [worrying] ourselves.

I remain as ever
Truly your friend