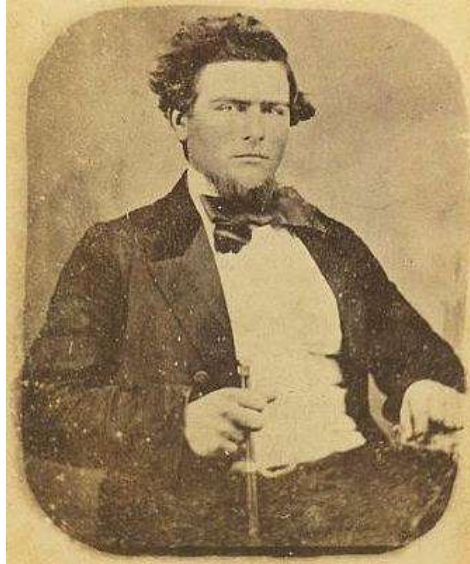


**Sergeant Henry Houstater**  
**1st Regiment, Light Artillery, Battery M, NY Volunteers**  
**Lockport, NY**



Henry F Houstater was born 24 June 1837 in Cambria Twp, Niagara, NY, and died 29 Oct 1862 in Sandy Hook, Washington, MD. He was buried in Mount View Cem, Pekin, Niagara, NY. He was the son of Jacob "Isiah" Houstater and Belinda Gould.

Age, 24 years. Enlisted, September 18, 1861, at Lockport; mustered in as private, Battery M, 1st Regiment, Light Artillery, October 14, 1861, to serve three years; appointed corporal, October 14, 1861; sergeant, February 6, 1862; died, October 29, 1862, at Sandy Hook, Md.

Nov. 28, 1861. Camp Barry - Washington. [From Henry F. Houstater, to his brother]

My Dear Brother,

I got excused from drilling today ... we are camped east of the Capitol Hill about 3/4ths of a mile from the Capitol Building. We take up our residence in tents after the stile of the Indians & Arabs, have lots of fun, plenty to eat, but the devil of it is we have to cook it ourselves, and wash our own dishes (Ah that's where the hen scratches). Our Glee Club went out serenading the Col. last night (Co. Bailey). The Captain went with us, we were warmly welcomed & invited into the tent. The Colonel's staff were all present and a jovial crew they are. We had a gay old time drinking ?? the Colonel preparing it himself, witnessed the review of all the regulars on this side of the Potomac by Gen. McClellan day before yesterday it was a grand sight - had a close view of the General and also Mrs Lincoln.

8,000 regulars crossed yesterday into Va. [Virginia] & 35,000 this forenoon and they are crossing all the time going down through the City of Washington on Double quick. It is reported that there is a great battle waging near Manassas which commenced some time last night whether it be true or not I don't know. If so you will hear about it before this reaches you. There has several large encampments struck their tents and left this forenoon which were right round in sight of us here. Had a gay old time on our journey down here, wrote a sort of description and sent to the Lockport Union today. I live with the Quartermaster. He is a tip-top fellow, have gay times, have charge of all the provisions & of course get out share of them, have so much to do that my letters are necessarily short, write as soon as you get this and let me know you get along. I have been writing so much today that I am tired out, had to help the Captain make out the pay roll and am in hopes we shall get some pay. I will try and do better next time. Your Brother, H.F.H. [i.e. Henry F. Houstater]

[P.S. written on side of letter:] The report has come in that our troops have been driven back 3 times & rallied again. Direct in care of Capt. Cothran, Camp Barry, Washington, D.C.

Nov. 30, 1861. Washington. [From Henry F. Houstater to his sister, Miss Hattie F. Houstater]

Good morning Miss Hattie,

How are all the folks at home this morning, I hope you did not have so much rain there last night as we had here. It poured down all night. We have not any floors fixed in the tents yet, have to lay our packs ? on the ground, and the water run through under some of them last night, but we had ones well put down and a good ditch round the outside so that we did not have to swim. There is some of our men who are sick so that they are from the service. There was one of our men over to the Hospital across the river and there saw Mart Burns. He sent word to Jim to come over and was going home next week. I am afraid the Elsworth Regiment will break up if he leaves. We went out and serenaded Col. Bailey night before last, Capt. Cothran went along with us. The Colonel invited us in, his staff were all present. We found them to be a jovial set of fellows, we had a gay time until about 11 o'clock, the Col. preparing toddy for us himself.

How is D.E. Sharp getting along, tell him to direct his letter to Washington, D.C., care of Capt. Cothran & you do the same. I shall only write a few lines this morning, should not have written but thought it might be that you had not recd the letter I sent as the mail is somewhat irregular. I wish you would write immediately and let me know how you are getting along. I am pretty well as is also Wm. James Robinson. The Qr. Master took me into his tent where we live quite merrily with a few more good fellows. We have plenty to eat & c. The weather here is quite mild with cool nights & rain frequently.

My respects to all my friends that you may chance to see and my love to yourself and all the rest of our folks.

From your brother in haste,

H.F. Houstater.

We are not likely to get any pay before the last of January.

Camp Barry, Dec. 1861.

The Camp Barry Herralld :

A weekly Journal issued at the convenience of the proprietors. H.F. Houstater editor & propietor.

Quartermaster Oliver & Doc' Holms [Holmes ?], Associate editors - M. Bonestul, special correspondent.

Our watch word is "Beef Steak."

In writing our editorial this week, we shall divide it into 3 parts - that is it will be in 3 divisions - First we shall commence writing it - 2nd we shall leave off when we got through (or rather when we get ready) - 3rd we shall refer to it as often as we shall judge if expedient. ... Our readers will find the news of this weeks' paper to be highly interesting ...

We think now that there is a prospect of the war being brought to a speedy close as it is the opinion of all that when Capt' Cothrans Battery appears before the enemie's ranks they will at once "holler murder" and take to the woods - and Jeff Davis will burst his brains out against a tree - Beauregard will sail at once for the Fegu (?) [Figi ?] Islands - Alexander H. Stevens will die of fright - the Southern Confederacy will prove a failure - the Union will be reestablished - and its course will be upward and onward forever. The British Lion will settle back on his latter and mutter a growl of disappointment & despair.

The Emperor of France will look on suspiciously while Italy will rejoice and from her mountain tops and the bottoms of her deepest rivers will go up the cry of Glory - Then will the whole American people rejoice Old Abe in the inexpressible Joy of his heart will laugh 'till he cries. And from the effects of his great joy will cry 'till he dies - and then Captain Cothran will immediately - Marry the widdow & become president of the United States. H.F. Houstater will be appointed Secretary of State, Reuben W. Oliver, Secretary of the Treasury. Doc Holms, Secretary of war. M. Bonestul [or Bonesteel] Postmaster General, and of course we shall remember all our friends who would like an office.

Then we'll have glorious times, lots of money, & a nigger for a waiter. The American Eagle will plant his feet on the Capitol at Washington and when he flaps his wings the feathers will brush the poles. American .[?] will go on multiplying

until they become as numerous as the leaves on the trees of the pebbles on the seashore, and from their midst will arise one grand triumphant song and then praise shall resound to the honor of Captain Cothran's Battery forever & ever.

### Editor's Easy Chair

As we sit in our easy chair (office no. 1 Broadway) taking down items as they are brought in by our reporters we had not observed how rapidly our whiskers were growing, or to speak polite, how fast the vegetation on our face was coming forth, until our special artist laid on the table a likeness taken as we sat in our sanctum. Our readers will notice a copy of said likeness at the head of the column.

A report has just come in that at about 8 o'clock last night a vow (?) occurred at no. 10 Broadway in the tenement occupied by Corporal Bullen & his detachment. No lives were lost but one man fell against another & clinched hand which caused the dart [claret ?] to fly. One of them was escorted to the guard-house but we are informed that he has since been released. It appears that some of them had found their way out of camp & obtained some liquor - or otherwise some liquor had found its way in to (into) them.

The same report stated that on Christmas Eve a requisition was made by some of the boys for ten geese - and that said geese made their appearance in due time without aid from the quartermaster. We presume this is true as goose quills have been plenty of late.

Our associate Holms, was in the capitol on Christmas and reports a - now there - in which a so?? got a sound drubbing for "putting on airs". We hope this will be a warning to the boys in Co. M not to become flighty or their pride together with their shanty may take a sudden fall - by some feller Soger's ? throwing his closed hand in their faces.

### News by telegraph

Latest from Washington. It is reported that president Lincoln's intentions are - if the English go in against us - to leave McClelland [i.e. McClellan] here to take care of the rebels - while he sends Captain Cothan away immediately with his battery to storm Gibraltar. This strong hold of the British was? once in our position (and it is said that the president has the utmost confidence in Cothran's battery to take the old rock to the waters level in two hours after opening fire upon it) - He is confident that in a week's time we shall be able to send him back home with rage into his loin.

A telegraph report comes to us this morning - that rebel forces at Manassas by some means hearing that Cothran's battery had crossed the river & were marching on towards their entrenchments - became peril stricken and leaving fortifications guns & some of them even throwing off their coats & boots and all fled precipitated, back some 15 miles & concealed themselves behind a big rock - If this be true - and we have no reason to doubt it - it is certainly cheering news for our side. And it is sufficient to satisfy the president or "any other man" to a demonstration - that it is only necessary now for Cothran's Battery to cross the river and march on and meet the enemy and "they are ours."

This morning (Tuesday) the regiment were mustered in for pay at 9 o'clock. All who were not on guard or in the hospital had to appear in the ranks with knapsacks packed or receive no pay. They all receive their pay now up to the 1st of Jan. Capt. Cothran's Co. will receive two months pay.

## Supreme Court Items

Term of the Supreme Court set on Monday - Justice Gommely presiding.

Case of R.W. Oliver, VS S.W. Lockwood for Libellious [sic] correspondence to the Lockport [Lockport, N.Y., where Houstater and others were from] Journal. Editor of the Herald counsel for plaintiff. To Lockwood, preferring to plead his own case it was argued at considerable length. Jury brought in a verdict in favour of plaintiff, and defendant was fined a pocket knife - a pair of pocket combs and other articles of like value. At which defendant became wrathful (?) & threatened to thrash Doc Holmes. But Holmes was showing no inclination to become intimidated - Defendant cooled [sic] down and concluded to grin and bear it - but afterwards out of pure revenge came into the office & wilfully purloined ? & carried off a box of angintum [ammunition ?]. Court adjourned for one week, when Lockwood will again be brought up for theft - He now being at large we would warn all to beware of him and take care of their property & especially their ang?? [Ammunition ?]

## Correspondence

We rec'd a highly interesting letter from a friend in old Niagara [county] which we are not permitted to publish. We are very thankful for said letter from said friend (Wm. D.E. Sharp) and the notice of said letter together with the receipt of our valuable paper (The Camp Barry Herald) calls for another letter in double quick from our friend in old Niagara. We send out best respects, kind regards, together with our compliments to Major Briggs & Family and if ever we come back to "Old Pekin" [his hometown] again we hope to meet them - and now with our best respects to D.E. Sharp, we remains his friend - hoping to hear from him immediately. [signed] Editor.

## Destructive fire in the City

A fire broke out in the Government stables near the observatory on Thursday at about 8 o'clock P.M. There being no engines at hand the fire was immeasurable?? & proved very destructive. Report says there was about 500 horses destroyed and other government property altogether - estimated at \$100,000. From our office we could plainly see the con?? flames as they swept madly on devouring all before them, viewing it through a glass the sight was grand and terrible.

## Important if True

It is reported that a man belonging to Co. M, Col. Bailey's Artillery - who sails under the name of Hathaway (?) boldly asserts that if the English and French join in with the South - He will desert & join the Southern Army. Such characters should be marked.

## A Huge Affair

On Wednesday the 25th, a call was made on Captain Cothran for \$1.00 to go towards accumulating a fund for the purpose of purchasing a Spy glass for the Colonel (who by the way has not acted very becomingly towards our officers since the Sutturs(?) removal. The Captain of course refused as any sensible man would, when in a few hours he was summoned to appear before a board of examiners to answer to his qualifications for holding his office. They intending if possible to throw him out and one of the staff take his place.

The Captain in answer to the summons appeared before the board and passed the examination triumphantly - not failing to answer a single question propounded. All Hail to Captain Cothran - Long may he waive .

## Sick Report

Our hospital report is as follows - James Starks - Eldridge Lewis - Wade(?) Taylor - Emanuel Wirtman (?) - Four of our men who have been ill during most of the time since they enlisted were discharged last week and have gone home. Their names were as follows - Oscar Benedict - Dinkleberger - Webster, who were from Niagara County - another by name of Finch from Orleans County. Edwin Trude(?) of Lockport died in the hospital in the city last Monday

Dec. 1, 1861

[From "Mary" to Henry Hosutater - saying she missed Henry's goodbye when he left for the Civil War]

Dear Henry,

A am sorry I was not at home to bid you "good-bye" when you called. I went as far as Lockport with James. I have a favor to ask and that is that you will fire the first round from the cannon, over which you are placed, if you are ever called into battle, especially for me and see to it that every shot tells [or kills?] Will you Mr. Corporal?

That an all wise providence may be your guide and bring you home safe is the prayer of your friend.

Mary

Jan. 27, 1862 - Pekin, NY. [letters to Henry Houstater from his sister Hattie, and Sal]

Good evening Maj.

I thought I would write you a few lines tonight ...

[talks about various things, including Sophia being sick with Bemitant(?) fever, etc]

Yours in hast, Hat.

My Dearest Brother,

I received your letter ... I was very much please at the picture you sent me and think it look very much like the Captain. We have had grand slaying [i.e. sleighing - or sleigh riding] here for about three weeks. They had the Lyceum Exhibition Fryday night and wednesday night. Wednesday night the Church was crowded so that some came near fainting and they thought there were about 200 went away from the church that could not get in. We were up Friday night it went first rate. The house was full again. ... Truly yours, Sal

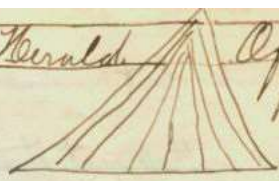
May 10, 1862, Huron. [From John Gould Houstater (brother of Henry) - to his sister Hattie Houstater]

Dear sister,

I promised to write you as soon as I arrived here but I had not made up my mind where I should stop until now. I arrived in Detroit the next day after leaving home and waited there two days for the boat which did not arrive in consequence of the storm which was raging upon the lakes. I then took the Barr for Saginawm where I arrived the same day in the afternoon. I stayed until Saturday, when I took the Steamer for this place where I have got a good job. It took us about twelve hourse to come here on the boat and you may be rest assured ..[etc.]

J.G. Houstater  
Huron City  
Direct to Michigan

# THE CAMP BARRY HERALD



A Journal published Semi-Occasionally at the convenience  
of The Editor — Terms \$2 per Annum Friends half price  
H. B. Hornstater Sole Editor & proprietor  
Mr Bonestul Special Correspondent

Since our last issue many startling  
events have taken place — many changes  
of an important nature have occurred  
and yet the world moves on as usual.  
The old year which has wrought such  
direful changes in our national affairs  
has closed upon us — and a new one which  
promises to be still more eventful has dawned  
upon the world.

Within the last week a great battle  
has been fought & won by the Union  
forces — since which "Old Abe's" spirits  
have been on the rise, new hopes have  
kindled within his breast. A new idea  
has taken possession of his great mind  
and it is said that a complacent  
smile has been known to rest upon his  
bearded countenance. What great scheme  
he has in contemplation it is impossible  
for us to tell, but we hope in our next  
issue to make some very important dis-  
closures & relieve the minds of our  
readers on this important subject.  
If we may be allowed to  
re-act on this important subject  
If we may be allowed to  
express our opinion, we would  
say that he intends to turn

the army against the numerous  
band of thieves in the way  
of Government Officials.

This we think would  
be a master stroke of  
policy & would elicit praise  
from the whole nation.  
For certainly we never can  
expect to conquer traitors  
until we drive the thieves  
from our midst, who are  
grabbing every thing that  
they can get hold of.

The weather in this  
vicinity has been very bad  
for the past 2 weeks. It  
has been storming almost  
incessantly — The roads  
are almost impassable  
and it is impossible for the  
soldiers to get out on foot  
to drill.

Gen McClelland was seen  
to pass through the camp  
yesterday

Camp Barry, [Jan. 1862]

The Camp Barry Herald : A weekly Journal issued at the convenience of the proprietors. H.F. Houstater editor & proprietor. M. Bonestul, special correspondent.

Since our last issue many startling events have taken place - many changes of an important nature have occurred, and yet the world moves on as usual. The old year which has wrought such direful changes in our national affairs has closed upon us - and a new one which promises to be still more eventful has dawned upon the world.

Within the last week a great battle has been fought & won by the Union-forces, since which "Old Abe's" spirits have been on the rise. New hopes have kindled within his breast. A new idea has taken possession of his great mind and it is said that a complacent smile has been thrown to rest upon his troubled countenance. What great scheme he has in contemplation it is impossible for us to tell. But we hope in our next issue to make some very important disclosures & relieve the minds of our readers on this important subject.

If we may be allowed to express our opinion we would say that he intends to turn the army against the runaway band of thieves in the way of Government officials. This we think would be a master stroke of policy & would elicit praise from the whole nation. For certainly we never can expect to conquer traitors until we drive the thieves from our midst, who are grabbing everything that they can get hold of.

The weather in this vicinity has been very bad for the past 2 weeks. It has been storming almost incessantly - the roads are almost impassable and it is impossible for the soldiers to get out on foot to drill.

Gen. McClelland [i.e. McClellan] was seen to pass through camp yesterday.

#### Important Announcement

It is with regret that we announce to our patrons and friends that our Associates - Oliver and Holms have retired from the Editorial corpse which leaves an additional amount of care upon us individually. But we intend that the Herald shall continue its triumphal course. The most pleasing and interesting journal published in this city or any other city - Wilkes Spirit of the Times not accepted.

Our former Associates have resumed their old partnership with the women, which we presume will be a fruitful one - & we hope they may live a life of prosperity & see a generation of soldiers coming up around them. We have only to add that they retired from the editorial core honorably and that we shall miss them.

Lieut. Eggleston received an answer from Goo(?) Morgan granting his resignation last Saturday, and on Monday he took his departure for home, where his friends will undoubtedly be happy to meet him. We wish him a safe & pleasant journey home.

#### "A Big Thing"

A scene occurred in our office today which by eyewitnesses is said to be a big thing. For some time past there has been some trouble brewing between S.W. Lockwood & the Editor of the Herald which this p.M. came to a focus. Lockwood, who by the way is some buncum, which our readers will become convinced of by reading some effusions in the Lockport Journal [Lockport, N.Y. newspaper that Houstater wrote for] signed S.W.L., especially one dated the 18th, which we are informed is a production of 2 weeks labor.

But as we were going to remark, he came into our office this afternoon & proceeded to disgorge some of the bile from a foul stomach and we had the audacity to very coolly tell him that he was a dam fool, which roused all the satan there was in him. He brushed up at a furious rate & threatened to whip us if we would raise our hand. Our hand was raised in close proximity to his nose as we told him that we could whip him lying down with one hand tied behind us. But to cut a long story short - the dialogue continued for some time, during which he foamed at the mouth - but finally cooled [sic] down & as usual made apologies, after which he went away convinced that we were thoroughly able to perform our part in a dialogue, and we concluded that it was dangerous to speak the truth at all times.

## Death of a Comrade

Last night about 3 O'clock] (or rather this morning) Mr. John Shaw of Lockport, a highly respected member of Capt. Cothran's Co., died of putred sore throat. It is said that just before he died he awoke from his slumbers and spoke - saying that he had been dreaming of home & shortly after breathed his last very quietly. Some of his friends went round through the Co with a subscription & took up about \$70 for the purpose of sending the remains home to friends. The Capt. & 1st Lieutenant put in \$5 apiece.

His body will be send home tomorrow in care of Mr. Corroin(?) of Niagara County, who is here on a visit. The young man had \$27 dollars of his own which will also be sent to his father & mother.

It will certainly be a sad thing for the parents to receive their son a corps - but such are the chances of soldiers, who have all sorts of hardships to endure.

Yesterday we had another refreshing rain.

We are happy to acknowledge a visit last evening from Lieut. Kittinger & Sergeant Lowe.

We heard very heavy firing at intervals during last night, which appeared to be down the river - what it was for we are as yet unable to say.

A negro was found dead near the hospital of the Irish Brigade on Sunday morning. Another was stripped of his clothing & whipped on the same day by sentence of Court Martial in our Regt. Alas for the "poor negro," he will get persecuted wherever he goes.

Dec. 10, 1861, Washington [Letter from Henry Houstater to sister Hattie

My Dear Sister,

I recd your letter written the 6th this evening, also one from Jennie Gould. ... [talks about other letters from Jane and Margaret] ... We are having very fine weather here now it is almost too warm to be comfortable, but the nights are quite cold. Charley Robinson was over yesterday to see us but his visit was necessarily quite short. He arrived about 10 o'clock a.m and had to return at 5 p.m.

I am quite well at present, but we had to move again today and pitch our tents in a new place & new colds of course will be attending consequences. You spoke in your letter that mother thought of sending me some things. I am not very badly provided for now as I am stopping with the Quarter Master and together we have a pretty good supply of bedding but it was alone I should not have any to spare but could get along. Apples cost about 2 & 3 cents a piece, butter (& poor at that) is sold here at the sutters at 30 cents per pound. But we very seldom buy any as we get along very well without it. In fact we have lived well since we have been here. I wish you would send me some Lockport paper occasionally. Mother can do as she sees fit about sending things but she had better not go to much trouble as I am getting along very well.

Our postage dont cost us anything now as we get envelopes franked by Congressman. Mr. VanWicke franked 2 packages for me and Burt Vanhorn was up here Sunday and franked quite a quantity for the boys. You must write me a good long letter. Now you and Nancy & Sarah can all write and put it in an envelope. Tell Father I should be very glad to hear from him. I have not much time to write and must close as the bugle is sounding for the lights to be blown out. My love to all and write soon.

Your Brother,

H.F. [Houstater]

P.S. Give my respects to Dolph (?) and tell him I should like to hear from him.

Direct in care of Capt. G.W. Cothran

Camp Barry

Washington, D.C.



Dec. 17, 1861. Camp Barry, Washington. [From Henry Houstater to his family, Pekin, NY, Niagara County].

Good morning to you all.

As I have rec'd but one letter from home since I have been here. I thought I would continue to write until I did receive something in return. I rec'd a letter from Harriet and replied to it. I have written two letters to Margaret & have not rec'd any in return but have recd two letters from June since I have been here. Weather here continues fine, have not had any rain in about two weeks.

How did the suit with Joe Kidder terminate? I heard that Mort Burns had come home to die, or that he was not expected to recover from his illness contracted while in the army. I am well at present as is the greater part of the Company. But there is a few sick & I think two or three of them will get their discharge from the service. It is the prevailing opinion here now that a war with England is inevitable and that immediately. If such turns out to be the case I think we shall be in a nice fix. Although many think that the Northern States can whip the South and all the rest of the world with them, "But I don't say it (?)", I have thought from the first that it was a foolish act as well as a breech of international law. To board a foreign vessel & capture passengers let them be who they might. When we had already more than we could attend to then to commit an overt act (from which we could gain but little anyway) and bring against us the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. I think to say the least is mighty poor policy. But so it goes & we must abide the result.

I visited the Catholic cemetery a few days since it is not more than a mile from our encampment. Saw where Senator Douglas' children are burried, it is a pretty place. I will send a sprig from a plant which is growing at the heart of the graves. I presume you know the name of it I do not. Do you get any papers? I send a Clipper every morning. I was through the patent office day before yesterday, it is a splendid building constructed of marble and contains an innumerable no of curiosities in the way of machinery, and relics of both ancient and modern times. The presents made to President Buchanan, by the Japanese are very fine & interesting, among which is very fine swords, belts & screens & other things too numerous to mention. But nothing impressed me so much as the clothes worn by the great Washington [i.e. George Washington] at the time of his resignation at Anapolis. And his battle sword, his tent, his camp chest, camp kettles & other utensils for cooking. I also saw the coat worn by Gen. Jackson [ i.e. Andrew Jackson] at the Battle of New Orleans. My time for writing has run out and I must say goodbye.

[signed] H.F. Houstater

Direct simply - in care of Capt. Cothman, Cam Barry, Washington, D.C.

Jan. 20 [1862]. Washington, [D.C.] [Letter from Houstater to his sister Hattie]

My Dear Sister,

I will send by express today \$30 in Treasury notes - one ten & one 20. James Robinson will also send some money enclosed in an envelope within which you will please deliver. I wrote you a letter last night stating what disposition I wished you to make of it but will state to you here that you may pay Kelsey \$4 and Dan Daghorn (?) 75 c. You may also let Jane have a couple dollars for me - I am in a great hurry & will write no more at present. Write soon.

Your brother,  
Henry F. Houstater

March 21, 1862, Camp near Winchester, Virginia [from Henry Houstater to "Friends of the Lyceum"]

Friends of the Lyceum

As considerable time has elapsed since last I wrote you, I thought it possible that you might be interested in learning the whereabouts and late movements of Captain Cothran's Battery, and as we are in a "State of rest" at present I take the opportunity of communicating with you by means of the quill. I should have written sooner but for our being ordered about "from pillar to post" at all times of the day and night, so that I hardly dare remove my knapsack from the carriage long enough to obtain writing implements through fear that we might receive an order to march before I could return it again.

When last I wrote you we were at Frederick, M.D. Since that time we have been at various places & not long at any. And at no place have we met the enemy or even seen them except as prisoners. Our victories are generally bloodless ones unless I mention our foraging parties which occasionally make descents upon secession farmyards when cattle, sheep, pigs & poultry alike freely bleed for their country.

Of our numerous marches and of the various places where we have been stationed before arriving at Winchester I shall have neither time nor space to enter upon with a detailed account. Suffice it to say that we have marched at all times of the day & been routed up at all times of the night to march and marched in all sorts of weather & over all sorts of roads.

Of the places we have been & passed through I shall notice only a few of the principal ones. Of Harper's Ferry to commence with - the place made famous for the John Brown raid - when we arrived on the opposite side of the river from it was almost entirely deserted & the principal part of the town had been destroyed with fire by the rebels. Of Boliver directly back of the ferry I know nothing about (As we passed through there in the night). Only as I saw it from Maryland Heights where we had our Battery stationed far up among the rocks (?) commanding a view of the country away out into Virginia, and to the West the Allegany Mountains looming high up above the surrounding country until the sky appeared to rest upon their tops. While to the East the blue ridge stretches out either way as far as the eye can reach obstructing the view in that direction.

The next place I shall notice is the village of Charlestown, which is noted principally for the trial and execution of John Brown. This village is about 7 miles back from Harpers Ferry and is surrounded by a beautiful & fertile country. There we remained one week & during the time were ordered out at two different times in the night with our guns at double quick. Once it was reported that the Home guards were all cut to pieces when we went 6 or 7 miles but at no time did we find occasion to fire a gun. Our next march was to Berryville, formerly called Battletown, and from there here. Yesterday we had quite a heavy rain which continued during most of last night - but towards morning the weather became colder & when we arose we found the ground covered with snow.

May 27, 1862. Camp near Williamsport, Virginia. [From Henry Hostater to his father, Jacob].

My Dear Father,

Thinking that you might feel uneasy concerning me since the battle & our retreat at Winchester, I have borrowed a sheet of paper from one of the boys & with a stump for a writing desk will write a few lines to assure you of my escape unhurt. The particulars of the affair & of the past which Cothran's battery took ? it I will put over to a more favourable opportunity. We have lost 3 or 4 of our men as prisoners, 2 killed & 4 badly wounded. One shell from the rebels guns killed six of our horses & wounded one man. The rebels captures many of our baggage Waggon & took a good many prisoners. General Banks had sent Gen Shields with his division across the mountains at New-Market & he with two Brigades under Donnelly & Gordon was retreating back through the valley for the purpose of drawing the rebels from their position in the mountains & get them back in the valley where Shields was to come up in their rear & cut off their retreat.

But unfortunately for us Jackson played him a Banku [Kanku - Kankee, Bankee ?? - perhaps Banchee] trick & came too soon for us & from a point unexpected. We had three batteries of artillery - Cothran's - Best's regular battery of short ranged brass field pieces (?) and Hampton's volunteer battery of 4 guns comprising in all 16 guns. Early in the morning the enemy drove in our pickets & the battle commenced. We opened the fire with shell upon the enemies left wing which was coming up on a hill at my right. We soon drove them from their position & gained the hill with our p?? about 1/2 mile

from where they had appeared. They then fought forward artillery & opened a heavy fire from 3 points upon our center & right & left wings. Bests brass pieces (?) being of so short range were of little account so that our battery had to stand most of the fire. The left section (2 guns) was on the left wing & the right & centre sections were on the right wing (I have change of one piece of the centre section & James Robinson the other).

The cannonading was kept up about 2 hours when the rebel infantry poured round the side of the hill to flank us on the right when my piece(?) was ordered forward to the brink of the hill & two regiments of our infantry were ordered to charge upon the enemy, which they were going forward to do just as I brought my piece into position. Then our infantry charges over the brow (?) of the hill to the right of where my piece (?) was planted but met with such superior numbers that they became panic stricken, broke & fled in disorder leaving my piece exposed to the enemy who were but a few rods off advancing steadily for us with a heavy fire of musketry. We had only time to fire one round of canisters which we gave to a regiment (said to be the Mississippi Tigers (?)) which was advancing in solid column 4 deep, bearing a black flag, it mowed a road through them about a rod wide sweeping them clean but they closed tight up again. We then started off at double quick with the piece (?) through a shower of musket balls among our flying infantry which were falling fast around us. The musket balls sounded like a swarm of bees. We had not proceeded but a few rods when a ball cut a stirrup from my saddle & left me to ride with one stirrup.

The rebels now began to close in upon our center & both flanks with large forces which they had distributed during the night, pouring in upon our small army a deadly fire of artillery & musketry. The rout (?) became general & away we all went down through the streets of Winchester & off on the pike leading to Williamsport by way of Martinsburg, the inhabitants firing upon our troops from the windows as we passed through the streets. But I think that city will pay for it when we get back there again which will be as soon as we get reinforcements. The rebels followed us up firing upon us with artillery. Our two guns were placed in the rear guard with cavalry under Gen. Hatch to cover the retreat. We frequently halted with our guns & fired upon the advancing rebels to hold them in check so that our infantry might get out of their way. Gen. Banks' army retreated 34 miles that day but they retreated in good order after he got them collected outside of the city. A part then crossed the river into Maryland that night, but we still remain with the cavalry on this side of the river. Williamsport is on the other side of the river in Maryland. We went into the battle Sunday morning without any breakfast, had retreated all the previous day without anything to eat & retreated all the remains of Sunday without eating. James Robinson escaped unhurt. His horse was shot near the Fitlock joint.

Letters to be directed to Cothran's Battery, Gen. Banks' Division, Williamsport, M.D.

Your affectionate Boy,  
Henry F. [Houstater]

June 4, 1862. Williamsport, M.D.

[From Henry Houstater to his sister Hattie in Pekin, Niagara County, NY]

My Dear Sister,

... [talks about receiving letters, etc] ... while at camp Barry in Washington, when I little realised the horrors, the toils - privations and hardships of war. Since that I have realised its stern realities. I have been there when we were victoriously following a vanquished foe, harrassing their rear as they fled before us. And I have seen the opposite where we were obliged to flee before a victorious foe with a storm of musket balls pouring upon us and the fearful whistling and bursting of shells around us as we fled before them after being overpowered by superior numbers.

Of our being vanquished at Winchester by an army of five or six to one and our narrow escape from being surrounded and cut off and then the rapid retreat of 35 miles across the Potomac closely followed for most part of the way by the enemy - I presume you have seen the particulars of in the papers, so that I will not attempt to describe it to you and I have not time if I had the inclination to do so.

Since the army crossed the river we have been encamped just outside of Williamsport, a very pleasant town about 25 miles up the river from Harpers Ferry in Maryland. But I expect we shall cross the river back into VA tomorrow as one brigade is crossing today. We have had considerable rain of late with heavy thunderstorms and there is every appearance of a heavy

storm now in a few hours. I recd a letter from Jane today stating that Father was quite smart. I was very glad to hear it. She also told me that Dolph Stein had sued him for 9 dollars per month while he was there. I dont see how he can collect it as he hired for a year for \$120 or \$10 per month. He told me when I was back there on a furlough that he had agreed to remain & work for father a year for \$120. I think he has been niggged about enough by now by the Steins.

... Does Maj. Briggs remains on the Collins place yet? I should like very much to see the Maj. it would do one good to see him laugh. There is many of our boys sick & several have been discharged as unfit longer for service. The Company has decreased much in members from losses in various ways out of 156 which came out there is not much more than a hundred remains. Well Miss Hattie, I must close ... I wrote a letter to Father just after the Battle of Winchester

Your Affectionate Brother,  
H.F. [Houstater]

July 26, 1862. Camp near Washington, Va.  
[From Henry F. Houstater to his Father]

My Dear Father,

I was very sorry to hear that they had taken John away as the present time as I well know it will be difficult for you to get along with your work. But the Burns tribe (?) are kin to the devil & never can be satisfied. I hope you may be able to get along with the harvest & I will send enclosed in this a \$10 note which may help you a little. I have not much to write & not much time to write it & so I will close hoping this may find you enjoying good health. My love to Mother & all the rest of the family.

Your affectionate boy,  
Henry [Houstater]

Aug 10, 1862, Virginia

... on the enemies left surrounded on three sides by woods was a wheatfield. In front of this field the rebels had a battery planted - the field fronted the mountain.

Gen. Crawford's Brigade was ordered into the woods to engage the rebel infantry and finding this battery beyond the field, ordered his men to charge across the field and take the battery at the point of the bayonet. As they neared the battery, thousands of infantry which had lay concealed rose up in front and on their right flank and powered in a murderous fire upon them and they were compelled to fall back again into the woods, where they held their position until Gordon's Brigade came forward to their support. They then held their position fighting until the two Brigades were nearly cut to pieces and the greater part of their officers killed or wounded. The 28th N.Y. Suffered terribly. Col. Donnelley was mortally wounded yet he rode from the field. Lieut. Col. Brown lost an arm. Capt. Bush was killed. Capt. Bowen is missing. Lieut. Warren is severely wounded, and how many more are killed and wounded among the officers I cannot say.

Our infantry retired from the woods just at dusk of evening. Regiments came out companies, and our troops commenced falling back upon a new line of defense about a mile from the first. The firing had now ceased - the battle comenced at a quarter past three Oclock and continued without cesation for nearly five hours. Gen Gordon rode up to our battery and ordered it to be conducted to the rear.

[Col. Dudley Donnelly (28th NY) - Mortally wounded at Cedar Mountain, VA, August 9, 1862; Died August 15, 1862, Culpepper Court House]

[George M. Cook - enlisted May 4, 1861 at Lockport, NY - wounded Aug. 9, 1862 at Cedar Mountain, VA, died Aug. 29, 1862, temporary hospital, Culpeper, Va. for his wounds]

[Death of Henry Houstater - Letter announcing his death - Express note for shipping his body back home]

\* Oct. 29, 1862. Headquarters, Battery "M" First N.Y. Artillery, Camp near S. Hook, Md [Maryland].

General orders, no. 3.

The Captain commanding is officially announcing to his command the death of Sergeant Henry J. Houstater which event transpired this morning about 6 o'clock - he cannot refrain from giving utterance to some of the emotions that actuates his bosom on this sad, solemn and painful occasion. He feels that a faithful officer, an excellent soldier, a born companion, and a whole souled and devoted friend has passed from among us to return no more forever.

It seems but yesterday that his familiar countenance was seen in our midst, radiant with health and animation; but alas, alas! we shall behold that cheery countenance no more; and ne'er again shall we hear that manly voice encouraging his men in action, nor will it again enliven the monotony of the camp with sweet music.

No more patriotic heart thus offered in any man's bosom than in his; no man more warmly and patriotically espoused the cause of his country than he. A braver or more courageous soldier never lived. When this Company was formed he was the first man to enter his name on the Roll; and until his final illness was ever at his post, faithful in the discharge of his duty, and never asked to be excused from the performance of any duty or any order. No member of the Company yielded a more prompt obedience to all orders and none more intelligently performed his duty.

While we are unable to restore him to his friends as he left them, we can and do send to those bereaved relatives, those sorrowing friends the assurance of our deepest sympathy at our serious and their irreplaceable boys.

By command of Capt. George M. Cothman (?), John W. Weld, Sgt. Major.

*Mr. President [President of the United States]& Gentlemen:*

*The fearful storm which has been so long gathering along the national horizon, and which has for the past few months presented such a menacing(?) aspect has at length burst forth upon us & threatens to deluge the land and wash away the fairest government structure, the sun ever shone upon which enshrouds us, not one glimmering [sic] star appears to cheer our hopes of the future. What is to be done? The time for conciliation & compromise has passed. Civil war is m??, already the Capitol is threatened with a powerful army, and the stars & stripes appear to droop & tremble upon the staff. How is it to be preserved Gentlemen? There is but one course left open, and that is to fight. Already the cry "to arms" sing through the land, rally to the standard, defend your homes and your capitol. Now gentlemen, although much I regret & denounce the cause which led to this state of affairs, yet I am ready to go as far as anyone to defend our [rights - crossed out] flag & capitol, but there I shall stop the coercion(?) or subjugation of the Southern states. I never will contenance(?) neither by word ordered for the reason that I consider it to be an impossibility. Gentlemen, we cannot conquer them, probably in a few days they will present us a front of 15 states containing nearly ten millions of people at home and in defense of their homes & firesides, presents a power which the combined forces of the world cannot conquer. We may overpower them for the time but conquer them never.*

*It is said, and it is well known to us that the United States can raise a numerous army, that our troops pre-possessed of courage and all the requisites for good soldiers, that they can achieve almost anything that is achievable. But let us bear in mind that the Southern confederacy is a part & parcel of the United States, that they too can raise brave soldiers, that in order to subjugate them we have got to go there to do it, while they are at home. Or suppose we should be able to conquer them for the present, would our situation be any better. How large an army would it require to hold them and if we hold them by force what sort of a government would it be? A republic where one half of the people made laws for & compelled the other half to accept & abide by them. A strange kind of republic indeed. Would they submit to it? Would they be contented, not at all, but soon another rebellion would break out & we should finally be compelled to treat with them as an independent nation.*

*Gentlemen, this is no time to talk & deliver long speeches. Action is the necessary word in times like these.*

*What has been usually termed the great Republic, now presents a most extraordinary spectacle, where for more than 80 years peace & posterity - has reigned over a free United & happy people. Suddenly we behold the scene changed to one of strife between sections. What the God-like Webster hoped might never meet his gaze has been reserved for the present generation. And today we behold "states dissevered(?), discordant, beligerant." It is with reluctance that I have risin to speak and but for the charges & intimations thrown out by my opponent both publicly & private I should not have consented to come here this evening for the purpose which I have, but would preferred to have remained silent. I know it is useless to talk. We have fallen up on evil times, when passion and prejudice, & ambition can so blind the judgments, and deaden the cons(?) [consequences?] of men, that the truth can neither be seen nor felt.*

*Although we hold the position that we are entirely right - while the people of the South are wholly in the wrong, and they hold the same position in relation to us, yet should we not pause and reflect, and consider whether we as well as they have not been egregiously(?) deceived upon this subject. It does not become a free people to rush madly & blindly into violence, bloodshed, death, and disunion without first satisfying ourselves upon whose souls the guilty consequences must rest. But we came not here to discuss the question who are in the wrong - time will tell better, at least what the result shall be whether good or evil.*

*The subject which we have on hand is one which involves a constitutional question. Does the constitution grant power to coerce a state? I hold that it does not. But as this question is somewhat connected with the present state of affairs in the government,- as democrats here are denounced as secessionists & traitors. Before proceeding to talk upon the question I wish to state my position. In the first place I wish you to understand that I am not now now never was in favour of secession in any shape or form. But am for the union, the constitution, and the government as established by our fore-fathers, at all times and upon all occasions. I consider it not only for the interests of states individually - but for the interest of the whole that each state cling fast to the union as our only hope as a nation for the future. I do not wish to see one single state take its departure and and sever the bonds of that immortal league, which has so long been a common protection to all from harm without & within.*

*I do not wish to see one star blotted from the face of that noble emblem of free institutions which has for nearly a century floated over land and sea, but rather to see new ones clustering around until our domains shall extend from ocean to ocean on all points of the compass. And then if we should deem it expedient to reach forth our arm and draw under our protection adjacent islands. So far am I a secessionist. As for being a traitor, if it was to be arraigned before an abolition tribunal no doubt I should be convicted of treason. Not treason against the government, but treason to abolitionism. For while I condemn the course taken by the secession leaders as unjustifiable [sic], I denounce the course pursued by the Abolitionists of the North for the last 20 years to be equally treasonable. I consider that they have laid the foundation for all the present strife raging between North & South, and the republican party with their doctrine of an irrepressible conflict as the means of working out the consummation of their foul scheme for the overthrow of Southern institutions at the expense of breaking up a once harmonious Union.*

*While I revere the union with all its memories incidental to its past history, and am ready to uphold the government & the executive in every constitutional means to sustain the union, yet I am equally ready to denounce all usurpations & perversions of the Constitution. For I consider the union of little worth unless the constitution is preserved & maintained inviolate. I consider the people are the government & the executive & legislators as servants to perform the will of the people, and as a matter of course they have the right to question the course pursued by their representatives. And furthermore that it is an inherent right of every American citizen - a right for which our forefathers fought & bled for to gain & admonished us as their successors to faithfully guard & preserve the privilege of a free expression of opinion upon all subjects. And that is not only a right [and] the duty of American citizens to raise their voice against the centralization of power into the hand of one man, but to stand up for the constitution & see it be faithfully executed in all provisions. And holding these views I deem it my privilege as well as that of every other one, to question the policy of an administration or a party. Let it be Democratic, Republican, or Abolitionist in time of war or in time of peace. If the principals [i.e. principles] of the R-n [i.e. Republican] party or the policy of an administration will not stand discussion they are not worthy to stand under and circumstances.*

*I have heretofore remained silent as far as possible under the taunts of those differing with me in principal [i.e. principle] of "rebel" & "traitor." But I find it will not answer even to remain silent. And now while I do not commend the policy of the administration as the wisest under the circumstances - I here publicly & unequivocally(?) denounce the course of the abolition portion of the republican party not only as destructive to the union but derogatory & treasonable to the hope of free institutions & self government throughout the world. I will only say to those who have been so lavish in their denunciations that if "this be treason make the most of it" and I will add simply that I hold myself responsible only to the laws and lawful authorities of my country, and not to an abolition society nor a republican mob.*

*I am speaking for myself alone & from my own honest convictions, and I hold myself accountable for all I have said. If there are any here who agree with me it is their privilege. Those who do not agree with me, it is their privilege to dissent. I wish to coerce no one to my opinions. But I will dwell upon this subject no longer, but return to the question, as has been already stated. It is a question in relation to the powers delegated by the people to the general government through the constitution.*

*1st we hold that all the just powers of a government emanate [sic] from the people, and as this government is based upon the consent of the governed that it is only by consent that it can be maintained, and not by force that we agree with some of the most eminent American statesmen, who have gone before. That internal war is disunion & inevitable destruction to a republican form of gov to prove, which we have only to refer to the history of the mightiest republics in past ages which have all sank to everlasting ruin from internal wars. European governments are of force. Ours is a government of consent or opinion. It was not self created, but a creature of the states. The result of the Constitution, emanating from the people through their delegates in conventions assembled, as all the powers of the general gov are embodied in the constitution. Let us examine it in the first instance before this constitution was ratified by the people of the several states. It was understood that all powers not delegated to the constitution were reserved to the states. Art' 10 [i.e. article 10] Amendments, the only clause inserted in the constitution which authorizes using force against any portion of the people of the United States at all is under art. 1st, sec. 8, powers fo Congress.---*

*What are the laws of the union(?) The constitution(?) Then if there be no clause in the constitution authorizing force to coerce a state. The argument is at an end. "Congress shall provide for calling forth the militia [i.e. militia] to suppress insurrection" does not mean coercion [i.e. coercion]? Not at all. But this is the clause upon which their whole argument is founded. They claim that this is a rebellion or that secession is rebellion, which I will not deny. But does the constitution provide for putting down a rebellion. The term is not used in the entire instrument. But the gentlemen have labored hard to make it appear that rebellion & insurrection mean one & the same thing. Let us see. First we will take the authority of Mr. Webster. He says it is a rising of no? [significance?] against civil or political authority equivalent to sedition only that sedition expresses a less extensive rising of the citizens. It differs from rebellion for that expressed and attempt to overthrow the government. Insurrection as spoken of in the constitution refers to the rising of a portion of the citizens of a state against state laws or state authorities & if it be so extensive that the militia of the state are not sufficient to quell it.*

*At a requisition from the governor of that state it is the duty of the general government to call forth the militia [i.e. militia] of other states. What ever, no may be deemed necessary and send them to the aid of the state authorities. The term "Rebellion" & "Revolution" are synonymous. Both imply a renunciation(?) of allegiance to the government for the purpose of establishing & maintaining by force a different form [of government crossed out here]. Now in order to fortify my position in relation to using force against delinquent states and firmly believing that the framers of the constitution understood the meaning of its terms & the purpose for which it was framed a little better than the honorable gentlemen opposed to us here this evening I will resort to the proceedings of that convention who are so famed for their wisdom & foresight - and it would hardly look reasonable that a matter of such magnitude should escape their attention and it did not. For we find that the 6th (?) resolution of Edmond Randolph's propositions provided that the federal executive should have power - "to call forth the force of the union against any member of the union failing to fulfill its duties under the articles thereof. And Mr. Patterson also in the 7th resolution of his propositions provided as follows --*

*The Journals show that the sixth resolution of Edmond Randolph's proposition provided that the federal executive should have power - "to call forth the forces of the union against any member of the union failing to fulfill its duties under the articles thereof["] - Mr Patterson also in the 7th resolution of his propositions after making acts & treaties the Supreme law provided that "if any state or body of men in any state shall oppose or prevent the carrying into execution such acts or treaties the executive shall be authorized to call forth the powers of the Confederate states or so much of them as may be necessary to compel obedience to such acts. When these resolutions in relation to the employment of force were brought before the convention they were repudiated, not a single member speaking in favor of them.*

*Mr Madison said that the more he reflected on the use of force the more he doubted the practicability [sic], the justice, & efficacy of it when applied to the people collectively & not individually. A union of the states containing such an ingredient seemed to provide for its own destruction. The use of force against a state would look more like a declaration of war than an inflection of punishment, and would be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution of all previous compacts by which it might be bound. He hoped that such a system would be framed as might render this resource unnecessary, and move that the clause be postponed, agreed to unanimously.*

*Mr. Madison again said "that any government for the United States["] formed on the supposed practicability [i.e. practicality?] of using force against the unconstitutional proceedings of the states would prove as visionary and fallacious as the government of Congress. Could the natural resources if exerted to the utmost to enforce a national decree against Massachusetts abetted perhaps by several of her neighbors - it would not be possible. -- Alexander Hamilton in discussing the subject of force is reported as follows. Force by which may be understood a coercion of laws or a coercion of arms, Congress have not the former except in few instances. In particular this coercion is nearly sufficient - though he held it in most cases not entirely so a certain portion of military force was necessary in large communities. But how can this force be exerted on the states collectively? It is impossible. It amounts to a war between the parties. Foreign powers also will not be idle spectators. They will interpose, the confusion will increase, and a dissolution of the union will ensue.*



... Mr. Mason [in the other ms. draft version, he refers to Mason as Colonel Mason] was opposed to a plan that could not be enforced without military coercion. He said the most jarring elements of nature, fire & water themselves are not more incompatible than such a mixture of civil liberty and military execution. Would the militia [i.e. militia] march from one state to another in order to collect the taxes from the delinquent members of the Republic? Will they maintain an army for this purpose? Would not the citizens of the invaded states assist one another until they would rise as one man and shake of the armor(?) altogether? Mr. Martin said that he was not opposed to assisting states against rebellious subjects but he thought the federal plan did not require coercion. I might quote still further from these debates but I consider it unnecessary. It is a fact beyond all doubt & dispute - that the employment of force against states was distinctly proposed & that every member who participated in the discussion repudiated it and the proposition was abandoned.

I consider that they are arguments in favor of our position, which cannot be gainsayed. They speak from the foundation of the government. They stand upon the page of history, placed there by one who has been termed the father of the constitution. This government was formed upon a free basis. Each state entered into it by their own free will & by consent of her citizens, and the moment we undertake to hold it together by force it destroys the nature of the government and it is no longer a free government but a military despotism(?). Governments are of two kinds - free governments & governments of force. Governments of force rule the old world, where powerful standing armies are ever kept up at the expense of the people to hold them in subjection & enforce the laws. And in each of the governments we find a system of slavery more detestable than any ever known in the Southern states. The framers of this government sought to desire a system by which this military force might be dispensed with a system which might be maintained by the free will of the people.

It was formed by mutual conciliation and compromise in order to secure themselves from invasions without they entered into a league defensive. For the purpose of harmonising each state conceded certain rights to form a system common to all. Each state in the this system was to be insured a republican form of gov. The right to form & regulate their institutions as they should think proper & most suitable to their condition, interest & climate. But they did not concede the right to make war upon or coerce a state & it was perfectly understood that all powers not conceded or granted were withheld or reserved to the states individually. And before they would enter into the compact they had a clause inserted in the Constitution which is found under amendments act 10. Each state was to be a republic of itself, and as a whole a confederate republic of republics, each state was to be sovereign in everything but the powers which she had delegated to from a system placing all upon an equality. - And in relation to the powers granted let us look to the conditions upon which the constitution was ratified by the state conventions. It appears that several asserted in language not to be mistaken, the right of the people to resume [their rights - crossed out here] the powers granted whenever the same should be prevented (?) [perverted(?)] to their injury or oppression, and that it was with this impression & upon this condition that the states ratified the constitution.

The delegates of N.Y. declare and make known, "that all power is originally vested in and consequently derived from the people,["] and the government is instituted by them for their common interest, security & protection. That the powers of gov may be reassumed [or reassured?] by the people whenever it shall become necessary to their happiness that every power - jurisdiction & right not clearly delegated to the congress of the U.S.A. or the departments of the government remains of the people of the several states of their state gov'ts.

Virginia declares - that the powers granted under the Con. being derived from the people of the U.S.A. may be resumed by them whenever the same shall be prevented to their injury or oppression, and that every power not granted remains with them and at their will. She further says that with these impressions she asserts to and ratifies the Con. - (?) I declare & c - that all powers is derived from the people, that magistrated are their trustees and agents and at all times amenable to them. And that the powers of government may be reassumed by the people whenever it shall become necessary to their happiness.

*Now, did the states ratify the constitution upon these conditions with the knowledge that the constitution contained power to coerce them? Not at all. The very idea is preposterous that any body of men should enter into a compact with the impression and understanding that they were to withdraw whenever they considered it to be for their interest to do so. When in that very compact they had given power to other parties in the compact to hold them by force whether they had reason to withdraw or not - The subject was discussed at the time of the adoption of the constitution, who were to judge when a state was aggrieved(?) beyond endurance in the union. It was the opinion of Jefferson that the people of the states themselves were the proper judges. And as the power was not vested in the Supreme Court and there was no provision made in the Con., and all powers not clearly delegated were reserved. It would appear that the states were to be their own judges in this matter, and I am certain that if the state of N.Y. considered herself aggrieved (?) beyond redress(?) in the union.*

*We should not ask the opinion of South C. [Carolina]. Upon the subject, Mr. Webster [i.e. Daniel Webster] was considered the greatest constitutional lawyer of his time, and in order to give you an idea of what his opinion was in relation to a cause for a state withdrawing from the union, I will quote from his speech delivered at Capon Springs in 1851. He said "I do not hesitate to say & repeat, that if the Northern states refuse willfully & deliberately to carry into effect that part of the constitution which respects the restoration of fugitives the South would no longer be bound to observe the compact. A bargain broken on one side is a bargain broken on all sides!" I am a firm believer in the doctrine of state rights and opposed to consolidation.*

#### *Regarding the 1860 Presidential election*

*Our country at the present time presents a scene at once grand & imposing. A great act is being performed, not an empty "theatrical farce," but an exciting reality, a chapter in the history of a great nation. The stage upon which it is being performed is the "Land of Washington," the actors in this great drama are the people of the "United States of America." A great political contest is waging. Four great political chieftans [sic] are arrayed against each other before the people; each upon his own platform and under his own banner. And as the time draws near in which the final stroke is to be given (not with sword & spear but by the people through the ballot box), that is to decide which one is to be victorious, the contest waxes warmer. The hosts of the followers rally around their "Standard-bearers." The public mind becomes more & more excited. Stirrup speakers become more eloquent as they hold forth to the multitudes their Union saving doctrine. And to each of these firey [sic] orators someone out of these four candidates is alone able to save the Union. Political editors weld their pen with a will their leading columns grow taller, they admonish the people to rally, elect their candidate & save the Union.*

*The question which we have for consideration is which among these four candidates, as they stand upon their respected platforms, is most worthy of being sustained. That is which platform of principals [i.e. principles] & which man is likely to be most subservient to the interests of the country, which is nearest in accordance with the great principals [i.e. principles] of government as laid down by the fathers of the glorious republic. The only way we have of judging is by the principals [i.e. principles] of these candidates as laid down in their platforms and by their public career in the past. First, for convenience, we shall notice Mr. John Bell, the chosen leader of that once seemingly formidable party that characterized with so many names, such as the "dark lantern party," the "know-nothings," "the Americans," "the Union parts," etc. And we hardly know which name to apply to them. "Know nothings" will hardly do as for we don't imagine they are fools; "Americans" is not appropriate, as the other parties happen to consist of Americans too. But out of courtesy I will call them the Union Party. Well, Mr. J.B. as a great leader of this party stands forth with the great glorious battle cry that "Americans" must rule America, Well, we always supposed Americans had rules over America, ever since they threw off the fetters of "Great Brittan."*

*But they say native born citizens, well then, does not this doctrine amount to simply this, "that one class of citizens shall rule over another class of citizens," just as Mr. Lincoln says that one portion of the states shall rule over another. Another of their cries is "Down with foreign emigration." Let us reflect for a few moments upon this portion of their doctrine. Would it not if carried out strike a deadly blow at the best interests of our country. Emigration seeks here political &*

religious equality, & to refuse a home to the poor & oppressed, those who have been kept down under the heels of tyrants, is certainly most uncharitable & unchristian (and unworthy of a nation claiming to be freemen). Who were they that first congregated here, who were they that came over in the "Mayflower"? And what was their object in braving the dangers of the mighty Atlantic & establishing themselves here in the wild woods far from all civilization? Was it not to find a home where they might enjoy religious liberty. Where they could worship according to the dictates of their own consciences, where they might think & act for themselves. And does not the modern emigrant cross the Atlantic for the same purpose.

Absurd efforts have been made by the leaders of this American Party, to trace all the virtues of the American character back to the early colonists & to find the germs of our institutions in their first acts after landing on the shores of the new world, & thus make a distinction between them & the modern emigrant. It is assumed that the former were models of wisdom & virtue & that we get from, our ideas of civil & religious liberty, nothing can be more fallacious. The records of the past bring to us facts which go to show the contrary we are told, that a contentuous (?) feeling was shown on board the Mayflower & it is given as a reason for forming a government by its emigrants that observing some not well effected to unity & concord but gave some appearances of faction. It was thought good to combine together in one body & submit to such government & governors as they should by common consent make & choose the same considerations of religious liberty or personal advantage which led the early colonists to the shores of America still continue to draw hither the inhabitants of the old world.

No one denounces the early emigration because there were criminals(?) mingled among the the good & wise & shall we because there some among the many thousands that came to our shores annually that are ignorant, some that are outcasts, and criminals, I say shall we denounce the whole. Why we might as well fonswear? shaving because some have been so unfortunate as to cut their throats. The charges of pauperism & criminality made against our foreign citizens is unjust. The violations of law while they are not familiar with our institutions & where placed under circumstances of great temptation, is no more frequent than the commission of crimes than those of American birth where they emigrate to California or upon the shores of the Gulf of Mexico or the Pacific Ocean.

What is this emigration which they wish to denounce? It is the triumph of our country & its institutions over the "monarchical government of the old world." It annually brings over thousands of pilgrims & transplants them into happy homes, making them prosperous & happy & our nation great. No Alexander or Napoleon in the height of their conquests ever made such acquisitions of power as emigration brings to us. They say that emigration brings with it destitution, poverty, & crime. Now who is it that builds our railroads & canals & performs all of our great public works which causes our nation to rank foremost for spirit & enterprise among the great list of empires. Trace these poor foreigners until they plant themselves upon the hitherto useless land of the West (useless because uncultivated) & see what wealth is evolved by their very contact with the soils. Thye were poor and the fertile land valueless, but combine these two kinds of poverty & the wealth which Alchemists dreamed of is the magical result.

From whence comes this mighty volume of prosperity which rolls over our land. [he goes on for many sentences, talking about emigration, obviously in favor of immigration] ... But we shall not proceed any farther to notice the principals [i.e. principles] of this American, or Union party, as they choose of late to call themselves. Let the remainder of their principals be ever so national. They may be founded upon the purest Republicanism, yet their doctrine in regard to foreign emigration will present their ever succeeding in the election of a president. I will therefore leave this union party to die of itself, for its members must certainly see their folly sooner or later and discard principals which are certainly unworthy of being proclaimed by any party of men claiming to be freemen and born a few country.

I shall now proceed to notice Mr. John C. Breckinridge & his party [lawyer, U.S. Representative, Senator from Kentucky, the fourteenth Vice President of the United States, Southern Democratic candidate for President in 1860, a Confederate general in the American Civil War, and the last Confederate Secretary of War]. He is said to be a man of fine personal appearance & of marked abilities, a finished scholar, a noted lawyer & a meritorious politician, and if I were to judge from his past career as a statesman I should say that he was every way capable of filling the "presidential chair." But where do we find him at the present time. No longer a member of the national Democratic party but he stands as the chosen leader of the extreme South, the fireaters, the seceders from the national Democratic Convention at Baltimore. And what was the cause of their seceding? Because they could not have their own way in regard to slavery. Because they could not bring the Democratic party to coincide with them & adopt their doctrine in regard to slavery in the territories. Now the question arises, what is their doctrine as regards slavery in the territories? It is this: that Congress has the power under the

*constitution to legislate slavery into the territories & that it is the duty of that body to establish it there & the duty of the government to protect it. & therefore we see at once that it is a sectional party which seeks only to promote the interests of the Southern states and is therefore not worthy of being sustained & it will not be sustained by honest conservative men who wish to see the government carried on as the founders of the republic intended it should be.*

*[Political ms. in the hand of Henry Houstater]*

### *Hot & Cold*

*The course taken by Junius [perhaps means: Junius - pseudonym used by Whig partisans in the U.S. in the 1840s] in political affairs reminds us of the satyr & the travels - a satyr who was ranging the forest in an exceedingly cold season met a traveler half starved & shivering with cold. He took compassion on him & invited him home to a warm cave he had in the crevice of the rock. As soon as they had entered & sat down notwithstanding there was a comfortable fire. The chilly traveler could not forbear blowing his finger's ends. Upon the others inquiring why he did so, he answered that he did it to warm his hands. The honest Satyr having seen little of the world admired a man who was possessed of so valuable a quality of blowing heat & who therefore resolved to entertain him in the best manner possible. He spread the table before him with fried fruits of different sorts & produced a remnant of cordial wine which as the rigor of the season rendered very proper. He mulled with some warm spices infused over the fire, but this the traveler thought fit to blow likewise & upon the satyr's demanding why he blew - replied to cool the dish. The second reply provoked the Satyr's indignation as much as the first had kindled his surprise & so taking the man by the shoulder and with the help of his foot thrust him out of doors, saying that he would have nothing to do with a man who possessed so vile a quality as to blow hot & cold with the same mouth.*

*Junius until very recently has told us that all our present national troubles was to be attributed to the Democratic party, against whom he would not use invectived(?) of sufficient strength & magnitude to satisfy his indignant nature & outrages patriotism. We had heard him proclaim it so often & coming from a person of his abilities & resources of information, supposing of course that he must know & we not having a chance to become much acquainted with governmental affairs of course believed what he said (but likely unto the man who undertook to keep his horse without eating). Just as we began to believe it, he turns short about & with the same tongue & from the same mouth & almost in the same breath in which he has laid the cause of all difficulties upon the Democratic party, he says it was caused by no party - but it is the antagonistic principals [i.e. principles] between north & south or slavery & freedom. Now we think the object of Junius is too palpable to need any comment, but like the Satyr, we think a an possessing so vile a quality - as to blow hot & cold with the same mouth & in the same breath is a suspicious character & we think it best to turn him out*

*Nov. 20, 1860. [Lewiston, NY] -*

*[ms. speech used by Henry Houstater in giving a speech to group of people gathered to support presidential candidate Stephen A. Douglas. The Ladies made a flag to give to Douglas, and he thanks them for it in this speech]*

### *Ladies & Fellow Democrats*

*It is with much hesitation & a feeling of my inability that I come forward to respond to the noble sentiments of the Lady who has been chosen by her associates to present to us as the work of their own hands, this noble emblem of our country & its institutions. It represents to us the estimation in which the ladies hold the cause in which were engaged. Ladies it inspires us with new courage to see you take an interest with us in the great cause of Democracy, which is now progressing so favourably throughout our noble empire state. Hence forth we shall work with new hope & vigor and let it be our motto. That the constitution must & shall be preserved & carried out inviolate, that each & every state & all the people therein shall enjoy each & every right guaranteed to them by that constitution.*

*And fellow citizens, let us never cease to remember that this beautiful land with this glorious liberty and the noble institutions of government which was purchased through the blood of our forefathers are ours. Not only ours to enjoy but ours to preserve. And let us resolve to maintain & perpetuate these great principals [sic] of our forefathers, so that when we shall pass from this stage of existence we may transmit this government inviolate with the glorious star & still waving o'er the land untarnished to the generations which shall follow after. We thank you ladies not only for the material aid which you have rendered us, in preparing & presenting this banner to us upon this occasion, but for your ?? And we shall*

*ever hold you in grateful remembrance for the same & hope by our future conduct to ever merit your smiles & your approbation. May peace & prosperity attend each & every one of you. May you long live to enjoy the blessings which the constitution guaranteed to us all as Americans & which the Star S.B. [i.e. Star Spangled Banner] is an assurance of the protection of these rights wherever it may wave.*

*Unusual manuscript song, written by Henry Houstater -  
Written in an operatic way - to teach children their ABCs.  
This ms. probably dated from his time in Illinois in the late 1850s*

*The School Master  
(Bass solo) Master*

*Some, some my children let me see  
How you can say you A, B, C;  
Bring your books, and hit her come to me,  
And let me hear you E, F, G.  
Bring your books, and frightened dont you be  
While you repeat to me your L, M, N, O, P.  
Come, come my darlings, and let me see  
How you can say you X, Y, and Z.*

*Scholars [i.e. school children]*

*[alphabet is given]*

*Master [sings ABCs]*

*To one: Don't you be so much alarmed,  
Donr you cry you shant be harmed*

*To another: Don't you laucgh you rogue at me  
Mind I say you ABC*