

Transcription

"A capital fortification"

Two Days on Jamestown Island.

Dear Plant:— Having spent some two days on Jamestown Island, I thought probably a few items would be of interest to your readers, especially as so many of their friends and relatives are there. The Island belongs to one Capt. Allen, and contains some 15 or 1600 acres of land, most of it splendid farming soil. Capt. Allen, I learn, is very wealthy, and owns a good many other farms besides this. His crop of wheat is estimated, at his several farms, this year, at 40,000 bushels. He has a company of soldiers on this Island that are maintained at his expense. There are two companies from this county, the Chambliss Grays, Capt. Baskerville, and the Clarksville Blues, Capt. Finley, besides some twelve or fifteen other companies, making in all about 1400 men on the Island. The measles is prevailing among the soldiers there, a goodly number were down with it, or had not entirely recovered from the effects, though not a death had occurred on the Island up to the time I left, which was the 8th of this month. I found the boys in the Clarksburg Blues very glad to see me, and showed me every attention and hospitality that they could command. Those of them who were not sick were very cheerful, and seem to enjoy the soldier's life more than we who are left behind do that of the civilian. I take occasion to say in this letter, that I went to Jamestown under the impression that Lieut. Dabbs, of the Clarksville Blues, was unpopular among the men, but to my great gratification I found such not to be the case; and I have it from the very best authority, that there is not a more popular or useful officer in that company than Lieut. Dabbs. I am proud to say that Capt. Finley, his officers and company rank No. 1 on Jamestown Island, and if ever occasion offers, "will give the Yankees their deserts, and rip their rotten hollow hearts." There is a capital fortification there that will defy the hirlings of Old Abe in their ascent up the river. I do not believe that the enemy can ever approach Richmond by water. Messrs. Lincoln, Seward, Scott & Co. have undertaken a bad job, and had as well give it up. They can neither subdue, subjugate, kill or starve us out. We were born free and will never wear the yoke of tyranny and oppression of such base and contemptible men as control the affairs of the Federal government at Washington. All we ask is to be let alone, and he that undertakes to interfere with us, will do it at his peril.

Citation: Unsigned letter to the editor, dated at Clarksville on July 14, 1861, and printed in the Clarksville *Tobacco Plant*, July 19, 1861.

