

Philadelphia, December 28th, 1863.

Col. J. Wm. Hofmann,

56th Penna. Vols.

Dear Sir:

The "Camp Flag" of your Regiment, which was ennobled by the use to which it was applied in the great battle of Gettysburg, has arrived safely at the League House.

It is difficult to express the feelings with which we look upon these storied relics of the war. The least of them possesses an interest which attaches to no other memorials, save those of the old Revolution. But when we receive a flag that led the van through the flame and smoke of Gettysburg---that fluttered through those three immortal days over the heads of the most distinguished of our own regiments, and emerged from the terrible battle crowned with historic glory---we shiver in vain, with tongue or pen, to make clear the emotions that possess our hearts. Your Flag shall have one of the highest places amongst the tattered and war-worn colors that decorate our walls; and we feel proud that you and your gallant Officers think so well of our association as to entrust us with the keeping of a symbol which you must prize above all others.

The testimony of your brigadier was not necessary to inform us of the eminent part which your Regiment took in the battle of Gettysburg. Wherever the regiments of our state have marched, we have followed their course with confident pride, nor has our pride been misplaced, as the long list of battles inscribed upon your flags, and recorded in the despatches of your generals so amply testify.

In you, sir, as a Philadelphian, we may be pardoned for feeling even somewhat more than the usual enthusiasm with which we hail the heroic soldiers of our native state. We cannot forget that your brave deeds cover our city with a peculiar lustre, and that to hear your name mentioned on the roll of honor is almost like listening to the praises of one's own family. I am sure that when you enter the League House you will be welcomed as though you were entering the door of your home; and to such a welcome permit me to invite you and all the Officers of your command, whenever it may be your chance to visit Philadelphia.

Once more thanking you for the honor which you have conferred upon the present custodians of your flag, I remain, dear sir,

Your obedient servant,

Geo. H. Boker,

Secretary, U. L. P.