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were to have Maj. Kinn and Stewart to track us open dancers. Even on these two oc-
-casions, when we sallied forth men to have a scuffle among the hills, then
for anything else, when the men had nothing but their muskets and only 40 rounds of
ammunition, even then, I saw the men sitting down by the road side passing each other
with their caps, being quite exhausted with the ascent. I, although I had nothing but
a light sword to carry, did not feel much in the way of chasing the enemy who
I had got up to the top, and certainly had the Carlists here then we should all have
been picked off like so many sparrows. How then, are the men to get off their
hills with 80 lbs. ~~weight~~ to carry, when they could hardly do it with a fourth of that
weight? I wish General Canas had been with us - he would have been thought
of afterwards of adding to our difficulties for the sake of a few bloody battles.
However, I prophesy that the first week's searching will convince us of the impossibility
of carrying knapsacks, and that we shall fling them all into a ditch and be content
with dead shirts and worst shoes, until we enter Madrid. - We have been in a
great haste these last two or three days, expecting every moment to have Gen. Pe-
-lasquez. In fact I think that our stay here will be very short - they are talk of to-
-morrow as the day in which we shall march. But I rather think. Old Jarama (you
may know him by the Carlist nick-name of El Pastor) is a cunning chief,
and I suspect that he has given the word to march merely to attract the attention of the
enemy to this quarter which he does something else in another. The Carlists I hear
have assembled in great force in the neighborhood of the town, and have taken all
the best positions, besides planting their pieces of artillery down the road along which
we must pass to get to the interior. I rather think, then, that some day or other we
shall all quietly be shipped in a steamer and landed somewhere on the coast where
there are no Carlist forces. They talked of taking us to Issur, a town on the prom-
-ontory of Spain, in order to raise the siege - Huesca, a small village within 3 miles
of San Sebastian was also mentioned - but the fact is that nobody knows anything at
all about the matter, and I doubt whether the General does himself. However, since
the order has been given, I am prepared to throw out at a moment's notice, and
sincerely persuade myself that "tomorrow" and "tomorrow" and "tomorrow" we shall
go. - I received the letters from yourself and Lucy ^{given to my father} some time ago. They
were taken to St. Ander, and from thence transmitted to me. The parcel of
books, however, I have only just got. They were brought me by an officer of the
4th. Regiment from St. Ander. The letters also from you and my father, dated 10th.
August. I received a few days since by post. Altogether I have had 2 letters from you.

I from my Father (including the one sent to the parcel) I from my brother, I from Mr.
-ch Charles, and one from my friend Mowat, to whom by the way I mean to write
as soon as I can find time. I wish you and tell him so, and likewise communicate
-write to him all that is worth communicating. I would still have you direct
to San Sebastian, and put "1st Regiment" and not "1st Battalion". I have adopted
Frederick's method of numbering my letters, so that you can easily see what
come and what comes next. I think that I have written you already 4 letters; this
numbering is No. 5. I am very much vexed to think that my Father has lost
so much money on account of that atrocious petition. If I were in his case, I should
refuse to pay, and instantly begin my next unless the Hall people chose to come
forward and make a subscription. It is bad enough to sit up all night hearing
dull debates, without paying for them so dear. I have seen my Father's letter in the
Spectator, although I know the papers you mention have not yet come. It was
my old Capt. of the 3d. Comp. (Captain Stuart) who told me as we were tugging
up a hill side in our last rally, that he had received a Spectator with a letter in
it written by my Father. This he afterwards lost. - By the bye a rather curious
circumstance happened on that occasion. My Company and the Grenadiers were posted
short distance from one another on the top of a hill. Being very thirsty, and seeing
the shape of the hill going among the Grenadiers, and part of it to go, when a tall
soldier-like man jumped up and said "Mr. Thompson - would you take a drink out of my
canteen? - your father has often done it before." I asked him his name and he told me
Hyde, Corporal of the 4th. troop, 14th. Lancers. He said that he met my Father in London
who gave him some money, and he begged particularly that I should tell my Father that he was
the way much to get into the Lancers, coming out here, and that in fact he only entered
on infantry service on condition that he should be allowed to join the Lancers on their arriv-
-val. Besides this man, there are many old dragoons in our regiment who are doing as
very day as the son of a Lancer officer" to write home and write their cases to my Father.
There is brother of the 14th. two or three of the 9th. besides several who served in Bacer's
Lancers in Portugal - all of whom seem to entertain a very just dislike to the drumbeat and
harp, and want to be at their lance exercises again.

Aug. 29.

Since writing the above a steamer has arrived from England bringing me a Spec-
tator and Examiner, but no letter or parcel of any kind. The day before, another
steamer full of Lancers and horses put in at this port from which of whether, heard for
H. W. I went on board to see if there was anything for me, but there was not. - For this
last week we have had very warm weather - hardly in the least cooler. This together with the receipt of
attending parcels, has not had time to go on shore to the ship, but luckily I have not caught cold.

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Lt. Col. T. P. Thompson Jr. P.
13, Hanover Terrace
Regent's Park
London

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By giving a little attention to these things I have partly well got over them, and am the only one of the new
batch of ~~comp~~ officers interested with the command of a company in the field. D. B. I think soon be a
lieutenant. - My father says, in his last letter that Alonzo wants me to write for him. So I wd. write
just phrases, but I do not know what sort of things he wants. He has much more ~~political~~ political or
military intelligence, I am not in a situation to give him it. For I hear many things today which are con-
tradicted by as many tomorrow. For instance the first part of this letter is full of our immediate de-
-cisions - even then seems to be so full about it, and for everything I know an army not so far as
month yet - or an army just in the house. But if the Pres. is content with another like Kansas how
a married, or a sort of personal narration of our proceedings here, I shall surely send him some letters,
which after your say rather on the Collier every correct and ~~liberal~~ liberal. - I am very close to my sister, and tell
her that I mean shortly to write and if possible send her "El Hermano de Reyes" - a beautiful air with notes, and
some ^{words} for the future - as well as the words of "El Sucesor El Pánel" say to the air of La Panchadown. - Retreating.