Corinth, Sept. 21st 1862

My Dear Friend,

I received your kind letter of the 7th this day week, and do this is the first opportunity I have had to answer it. I have been kept so engaged ever since, on Monday we were ordered to shuttle our tents, pack up bag and baggage and all stores that we could not find transportation for were to be burned so we remained thus until Thursday afternoon, when Genl. Hamilton sent all his transportation back to Corinth in Charge of Maj. Bagin and myself. So here we are, I do not like a bit I did hope if there was to be a fight I would have a hand in it. But they
Say the first duty of a Soldier, is to obey orders. There is a report in town, to-night, that Hamilton's Division was attacked today by a portion of Price's army, and that the 15th Minn. suffered severely. Another report says, that Genl. Stanley's Division were also attacked, and that 11th Ohio Battery and Fifth Minnesota were cut all to pieces. How true it is I have no manner of knowing. There are all kinds of rumors in town our officers expect an attack here. Genl. Grant has returned to Corinth this evening, as I understand to prepare for such an event. Missourians and Price's Cavalry, out of State yesterday, his (Missourians) loss is stated to be 400 killed and wounded. It is also—
Stated that Price is retreating & Rosecrans is after him with his whole army, you cannot form any idea of the excitement here the news from McClellan's Army is glorious, it has put new life and energy into our troops all our boys want to fight now, men that did not care anything about it a week ago are now anxious for the fray and want to get back to their Regiments.

I hope the Legislature will pass the Act you spoke of and give them Volunteers in the field a chance to vote, if the boys have a chance to vote you are all right with the "Fourth," I have spoken to as a good many and I have not heard but one person say he would not vote for you and that person is one very refined and delicate, Spoken Surgeon.
Fort Murphy — thank God his influence does not amount to much. He is the only officer in the regiment; that is not liked. The men, fairly hate him — His conversation is actually disgusting — of the very lowest kind — Most of our men are married and men of families. Just think of his asking some of our most respectable men of whom they come to him sick — if they have not got — well I am ashamed to write it down bad as I am, and I used to hearing inculgarity — he has caused me to blush — are the Indians trouble nearly over I hope so. Would you be kind enough to call upon Mrs. Collins and tell her as soon as I get my pay I will send her all the money I can. I believe me to be ever yours —

Sincere friend J. E. Collins