Hd Qrs 7th Ala Cavy, Mobile
June 1864

Major H.C. Semple.

Dear Sir.

I enclose a pair of gold spurs which I desire you would accept as a slight testimonial of gratitude for your past kindness and friendship, and of appreciation of your character as a soldier and a gentleman. It is a source of great pleasure to believe that, in the future as in the past, I may be able to enumerate as a friend one for whom I have such great respect and admiration, and whom the bonds of age, disposition and experience cannot entirely separate, altho' the advantage of such association is clearly on my side, being the younger ~~and~~ and less wise, yet I assure you it forms not the only inducement to my desire to cultivate and mature an acquaintance, a friendship, in its incipiency so fortunate and pleasant. Friendship like most other human sentiments partakes largely of the selfish, yet it is not altogether without its moments of generosity and self sacrifice. I only regret that my abilities and opportunities prevent me from giving more tangible evidence of regard than mere empty words. I am sorry to learn that your indisposition continues, and had hoped that before this you would have been assigned to duty in

the Department of the Gulf, been able to enter upon its discharge, however I suppose you have heard by now whether or not you will be put in duty at Mobile, or ordered to return to Genl Johnston's army. You have seen active service, and your tastes and family would make it more agreeable that you were stationed at some place like Mobile.

My Regiment is still doing coast duty around Mobile, with a prospect of remaining here indefinitely, very much to my distaste, however being at present in command, and having my hands full with court martialing several Captains & Lieutenants from my Regt, the inactivity does not feed upon me to such an extent as it otherwise would. Moreover I have instituted a course of (low) reading which I allow nothing to interrupt except necessary military duties. I found it quite difficult at first to regain the habit of application, but where there is a will there is a way, and now the effort is growing more natural & easy, and altho' I greatly prefer the excitement of field service, will have some consolation in knowing that my time is not entirely misspent. And of this more anon. I have noticed with myself, and I believe it to be generally the case - that we make ourselves too much the subjects of epistolary discourse, hence the usual uninteresting character of such literature.

I must confess myself somewhat disappointed, and all of my calculations set at nought by the delays and manoeuvres which have contributed to put off the final contest both of Lee and Johnston's armies, but I presume the parties, North and South, conscious of the magnitude of the issue at stake, shrink from hazarding it on the cast of one or two grand battles. Yet when the decisive struggle comes there is no doubt of success.

I have heard nothing directly from Dick since the opening of the campaign in Georgia but I saw in the Montgomery mail of a recent date a very complimentary notice of the Battery especially of Dick & yourself. it was from the pen of occasional. do you know who he is?

With many wishes for your speedy convalescence, and regards to Mrs Semple and the Dr.

I remain respectfully
Your obedt servt.
F. C. Randolph

1844
Frank Randolph
Presenting me
a fancy Gold Stars