

New York July 21<sup>st</sup> /87

My Dear Col.

Your theory that Gen Grant confessed to Halleck where he says in his Memoir "my chief of Staff" &c, is very ingenious and generous, but I do not agree with you, nor do I think will any one else. Rawlins is the man to whom Grant pointed, yet we will look in vain for any evidence to sustain the assertion. I agree to every thing you say concerning Rawlins, and would be most happy to have his name relieved of the odium thrown upon it by Grant, for odium it is. Yet how can it be done? I see no way. The shaft cannot be turned on Halleck, who was not Grant's Chief of Staff, who was not his friend and who never gave him one iota more aid than the law and regulations compelled him to give. Col. try again -

Ever Yours

E. S. Parker

Col. A. N. Markland

APCO 3415 Paper, W: 14.7 cm H: 22.3 cm Parker letter to Col. Markland

Text of Parker's letter to his brother

New York July 21<sup>st</sup> '87

My Dear Col,

Your theory that Gen. Grant referred to Halleck where he says in his Memoirs "My Chief of Staff" & c, is very ingenious and generous, but I do not agree with you, nor do I think will anyone else. Rawlins is the man to whom Grant pointed, yet we will look in vain for any evidence to sustain the assertion. I agree to everything you say concerning Rawlins, and would be most happy to have his name relieved of the odium thrown upon it by Grant, for Odium it is. Yet how can it be done? I see no way. The shaft cannot be turned on Halleck who was not Grant's Chief of Staff, who was no his friend and who never gave him one iota more aid than the law and regulation compelled him to give. Col. try again.

Ever Yours  
E.S. Parker

Col. A.H. Markland

The news at this date are not amounting to much. Fighting at  
Kniffield continues. Several Expeditions are starting upon  
our whole front, and by which we anticipate and hope  
to gain great advantages over the rebels.

We are having most delightful Spring weather.  
The trees have commenced budding out, and the  
blue birds pipe forth their jubilant notes.

When you write, tell me what news may now  
be stirring among the Indians. Do discussions & bitter  
Anomosities still live and burn among them? Will they  
attempt the recovery of their Kansas interests & claims? I  
judge so from the fact that Sam George has been in Washington.  
Major Geo Grant is now I suppose a Lt. Genl. If he accepts  
the rank, I am afraid we shall lose his services in the  
field, as he will of necessity be compelled to go to  
Washington. Whether his Staff will go with him is yet  
to be determined -

W. H. Parker Esq.      3      My Dear Brother  
E. S. Parker

from this city

APCO 3416 Paper, W: 39.4 cm H: 25 cm Parker Letter to his brother

Its pleasure grounds embrace an area of about 10 acres, and very handsomely laid. It is filled with a great variety of shrubbery & two very large conservatories, in which may be found some of the richest, choicest and rarest flowers. - Fishpond, also abound, in which however may be found nothing but goldfishes. (Brook trout cannot live here). There is also water works. A tower 125 ft. in height is made upon the top of which is the reservoir from which water is taken to supply the estate and the mansion with water. The mansion itself is palatial and would gratify almost any sane person, yet it seems not to have been sufficient for this southern nabob. Every room in this his living house, is furnished most magnificently, <sup>size about 24 x 20</sup> one room alone being furnished with material costing about \$50,000. In a separate house close by & nearly as large and imposing is his amusement room, in which are his billiard tables, bowling alleys, and bar or wine room, and card or gambling rooms. In another elegant building was his painter's <sup>& sculptor's</sup> studio, to whom this rich man kept employed to beautify and ornament his grounds, for you must know that his house was filled with choice paintings, and his grounds with classic statuary. He had also a private Chapel, where I

## Text of Parker's letter to his brother

Nashville July 2nd 1864

Dear Brother

The preceding letter was written in anticipation of my being ordered away on a special service, which Staff Officers are sometimes obliged to make, and are never heard from more. But as I closed, I found I was not going, and therefore laid aside the communication. upon looking it over at this date I find that it contains nothing improper or contraband, and cannot consequently well avoid sending it, if nor for your edification, at least for your information. Since I penned the preceding letter I have made myself more acquainted with this city and its vicinity. The city is beautifully laid out in squares, that is to say every street is at right angles to every street crossing it. The Cumberland River which passes through this city forms it base. This city you are aware is the capital of the State of Tennessee and therefore the State House is here and a most elegant limestone, fireproof building it is, and located upon the highest Eminence or hill in the city plat. Very many beautiful residence or country villas are in the vicinity. The peculiarity of Southern life consists somewhat in the wealthy building princely residences surrounded by magnificent pleasure grounds. One of the best or most tasteful is located about 3 miles from this city