3415

New York July 21st/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 any one else. Rawlins is the man to whom Grant pointed, yet we will look in vain for any evidence to sustain the assertain. 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. my again —

Ever Yours

E. S. Parker

Col. A. R. Markland

New York July 21st '87

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Ever Yours
E.S. Parker
Col.
A.H. Markland

3416

Nashville Feby 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 not 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~~ 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 its base. This city you are aware is the capital of the State of Tennessee and therefore the State Arsenal is here, and a most elegant lime stone, fire proof building it is, and located upon the highest eminence or hill in the city plat. Very many beautiful residences 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 –

War news at this date are not amounting to much. Fighting at Knoxville 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 dissensions & 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 Gen 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 —

N. H. Parker Esq.

Yours Your Brother
Ely S. Parker

Nashville
From Ely S. Parker
January 8
Feb. 2 1864

suppose he offered up his devout adorations to the ever living God. The Hermitage (Genl Jackson's home and estate) is about 12 miles from this city. I visited the same on the last day of last month. Our picket lines not extending out that distance, it is considered unsafe for Federal soldiers to go out there. A Major & myself however having set our minds on visiting the place, guerillas or no guerillas, armed ourselves capacie with 3 pistols each and our trusty sabres, took an Escort of 10 men and rode out there. We had a delightful ride and a pleasant visit with Andrew Jackson Donelson, the adopted son of the old General & the present owner and occupant of the Estate. The house in which the General lived and died is about 40 years old. Very many interesting and valuable relics are in the house. Among them Washington's Official Chair, used by him when the seat of Govt was at Phila. The old Genls tomb is in the garden. The Major & I met with no adventures and returned safely home without having seen a single guerilla. They are said to be about, but luckily they did not choose to pay us their compliments. Ex Prest. Polk residence was in this city. His Monument is erected in his front door yard. A singular taste

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. Fish ponds also abound, in which however may be found nothing but gold finches. (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, one room alone size about 14 x 30 being furnished with material costing about $50,000. In a separate house close by & nearly as large and impesing 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 painters & sculptors studio, where 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

Nashville July 2nd 1864

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