

**LETTERS FROM A  
SURGEON OF  
THE CIVIL WAR**

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Letters from a surgeon of the Civil War by Martha Derby Perry

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**MARTHA DERBY PERRY**

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JOHN G. PERRY, MARCH, 1864.

LETTERS  
FROM A SURGEON OF THE  
CIVIL WAR

COMPILED BY

MARTHA DERBY PERRY  
*Author of "God's Light as it Came to Me"*

ILLUSTRATED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

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*My Husband and I dedicate these pages  
to our Nieces and Nephews, who though  
unborn in our early days, are now to us  
as if they had always been.*





## INTRODUCTION

**I**N a much weather-beaten trunk, which since the Civil War has travelled from one attic to another, have been carefully preserved a pair of shoulder-straps, a silver trefoil (the badge of the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac), a green military sash, a well-worn workbag in which is still a big darning-needle with its half-used thread, numerous photographs of officers and localities, and a mass of letters.

From the end of the war until the present time these letters have remained unopened, and as the contents are mixed with much which is personal, it seems best to separate the war news from the rest and preserve it in a connected form which may prove of interest to the general reader.

## INTRODUCTION

Although there are gaps in the order of the correspondence, it is sufficiently connected to tell its own story.

John G. Perry of Boston, Mass., entered Harvard College in 1858, bearing with him a very youthful attachment; and in the undoubting judgment of youth, he and I, but boy and girl, in light-hearted gayety strolled one evening in the moonlight to consider the unsupportable length of time before living our lives together. First the present college term; then the Medical School and hospital service after, for even in childhood John was called "the little doctor." How indefinite it all seemed, — how far, far away the future! So we wandered on, regardless of all possible interference in our joy of life, and finally decided with but little, or I may say no hesitation, that the college life, then but a few months advanced, must be abandoned and the Scientific School, offering shorter terms and