Capt. John Bigelow, Jr.

Since the beginning of the term, THE TECH has been sending letters to various places, in hopes of obtaining information regarding Capt. John Bigelow, former Instructor in Military Science. Captain Bigelow served with distinguished bravery in the operations about Santiago, and was wounded four times in the charge up San Juan Hill. The following letter, which the Secretary of THE TECH has just received, is of more than passing interest to Technology men:

"Camp A. G. Forse,

"Huntsville, Ala.,

"Dec. 20, 1898.

"My dear Mr. Brooks: Your kind and flattering letter of October 9th has been lying on my table here with other private communications, waiting for me to find time to answer it. Since the middle of October, when I returned to duty, I have been struggling to attend to all the duties of a commander of a troop of cavalry, very much run down through neglect, and encumbered with men in various stages of disablement, without a single lieutenant. It happens, after such an experience as our troops went through in Cuba, that officers are fewest when they are most needed. For our officers suffered more in proportion than the men. My regiment lost in killed and wounded eleven out of nineteen, more than fifty per cent. A large number in addition were laid low soon afterwards by various kinds of fevers. At no time since I returned to the regiment has there been one officer with a troop. Some of the officers are commanding two troops.

"I have had the most uncomfortable experience in this camp that I have ever had in camp. But the men and horses have fared much worse than the officers. The nights have been cold enough for snow and ice, and the men, most of this time, had no stoves. It has rained, and blown, and snowed, and sleeted, and done everything else that the heavens can do to make themselves disagreeable. We are encamped on the top of a round hill, in a field of pure clay. It had been cultivated, but during our occupation of it has had nothing green on it but weeds and recruits. Happy is the soldier who has provided himself, at his own expense, with a pair of rubber boots and a rubber overcoat. Buildings are being put up for kitchens and dining rooms. People in town tell me that the worst of the winter is over. I have no doubt that it will be before these buildings are completed. We are just commencing to construct shelter for our horses, among whom pneumonia is not uncommon, and numbers of whom are suffering from abscesses and other troubles in their feet, due to standing in the mud.

"I am about to leave the line of the army to enter upon a sort of staff duty, as collector of customs at the Port of Sagual Grande, on the north coast of Cuba. I wish that I had known that this was in store for me while I was in Boston. I might have learned something about the duties of a collector of customs in my intervals of leisure as Professor of Military Science. But there is no use in an army officer's trying to guess what the Government is going to put him at.

"With my best wishes for the continued success of THE TECH, and for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and my other friends at the Institute, I remain

Very cordially yours,

John Bigelow, Jr.

"I suppose I can get a Tech. man to design me a palace and custom house."

J. B., Jr."

We regret to announce the death of William Henry Smith, of the Class of 1900. Mr. Smith died at the City Hospital Saturday, December 17th.