

Rochester Evening Express,
July 25, 1861: Why Ely went to
Bull Run

Before the Battle--Reasons why Mr. Ely
went to the Battle Field.

(Extract from a Private Letter.)

WASHINGTON, July 21st, 1861.

A member of the 18th came to the city yesterday and said that he had been in a battle, in which the whole regiment was employed, and had taken a masked battery, with the loss of thirteen, and a large number wounded. The man was somewhat intoxicated, but told a very plausible story, which was generally believed. It created a great deal of excitement, especially among the large delegation from Rochester. Mr. ELY had concluded to telegraph to Rochester such facts as he could glean from a critical examination of the man, and had prepared a dispatch, when a Judge somebody came from the field, and contradicted the story *in toto*.

Mr. ELY knowing what an excitement his dispatch would create, and not wishing to frighten those who have friends in the 13th, did not send it, but made arrangements for personally ascertaining what truth there was in the report. He left this A. M. at 4 o'clock for the encampment at Bull's Run. Mr. ELY's friends tried to persuade him not to go, as it was a very dangerous undertaking, the road being infested with Rebel scouts, but he replied that *it was a duty he owed to those who have friends in the 13th, and to those surviving in the ranks, and he would go*