

Perhaps you don't understand how hard it is for me to learn just how they are thinking and feeling. You have been one of them, and you hear things. I want you from now on to be my ear-piece down there, to let me know what the boys think about the way things are going - what they think about Grant. Can he count on them? What they think about me, can I count on them?"

the boy
took the order literally. - He gave no thought beforehand of what he was to tell, his one idea being to remember what came his way.

Strange things came Henry Wing's way. He was at Grant's headquarters but never was there a correspondent less interested in keeping close to headquarters, ~~and again and again~~ going on his own. News to him was where action was. - His quick eye and ear saw and heard official gestures and orders never intended for the news battery, and he acted on them. His captivating personality, his record as a soldier had won him the affection and confidence of many an important under officer. Again and again they put him in the way of getting information, of going on forays, of adding to his equipment, that less likable and companionable correspondents never enjoyed.

A war correspondent is proverbially arrogant and correspondingly unpopular with officers. There was not a dash of superciliousness in Henry Wing, no vanity of position. He was no stickler for