

36

Camp M'will
Washington D.C.

June 12 1861

To his Excellency
Gov. Washburn

Dear Sir

Five boxes

of drawers come today - You
expressed a wish to be informed
of our condition. We are beginning
to get settled upon a good camp-
ing ground. The most difficulty
has come from the Com-
missioner's dept. We wanted a
Commissary from the first. I
have made the Dr. Mr. Sgt.
acting Commissary & shall
retain him in that place if
he gives satisfaction. Many
of the plants were almost
worthless - they are fast coming
to pieces - The cloth was poor.
We were disappointed in not find-

ing an extra tent for each
Co. as you intimated there would
be -

The night we arrived many
of the men went to sleep without
cups & with no ration for Breakfast -
Under these circumstances I provided
Breakfast for the whole Command
at two hotels - Coffee & Bread at
a cost of \$250 - I have expended
other sums for them and am
greatly embarrassed for want of
funds - The Dr. Mr. will not
allow our estimate but would
readily refund to you any necessary
expenses -

When we came into camp we
were all thoroughly drenched by
a violent shower & the grounds
were overflowed - The men
were allowed to take board from
the fences to sleep upon - for
Hess to their tents & I would

like to pay the owners the worth
of them - We have written to
the Dr. Mr. Genl to know about
the lay outs & will give the
result to the Adj. Genl in a
letter.

I understood that Capt. Gardiner
of Gordonie was had some public
funds that he would turn over
to me on my receipt. If he can
do so it would relieve me much.
If not. Could you not loan the
Regiment a thousand or eighteen
hundred dollars to be receipted for
by me as Colonel & to be appropriated
to necessary public purposes -
I must have a slight discretion
to take good care of my Command.
All seem very happy this evening -
Singing & playing - all sober - I thank
you for your past kindness & for
the trust you have reposed in me

My classmate & dear friend
St. John Greble of the Artillery
has been slain - "Be ye also
ready" comes home to us" now
Very truly your obedt
servt.

J. P. Howard
Col. Commandg.

Washingtn
June 12.
Lt. C. P. Howard