

Camp Merril, Washington D.C.  
June 20<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Sir,

I received your last letter yesterday. We are doing well, gradually improving in behavior & in drill. Songs & sounds of contentment reach me from every quarter. Little troubles arise of course which as Genl. Wadsworth says "are trying to the flesh" but they soon pass over. You have been very kind to us & thoughtful for our comfort & I for one appreciate these attentions. Nothing now seems to chafe but the tomshucks, and I will have them all repacked under my own eye & try to make them answer till you can afford us new ones. I enclose you two bills in duplicate which the Commissary Dept. refuses to pay because of irregularity. I give the entire command that refreshment. Because I believed it absolutely necessary for their health & to prevent the spirit of discontent already then excited. I do not feel able to bear this expense myself & wish you to have it paid & draw on the General Government for indemnity.

Very Respectfully  
G. H. Howard  
Col 8<sup>th</sup> Maine

Battle at Fairfax reported - details yet unknown -

Col. O. O. Howard,

Washington.

June 20.

Dear Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst. in relation to the matter mentioned therein. I have the pleasure to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
John C. [Name]

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*