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Head Quarters 16th Regt. Me. Inf.
Camp Near Belle Plain Va.
December 23/62

Hon. Isaac Washburn Jr.
Dear Sir—

Your esteemed favor
of the 10th inst. is at hand and contents read with
pleasure. Allow me to tender you my thanks for the
expressions therein made as to the course I have pursued
since having charge of the Regiment.

Since my last communication, the constitution of the
Regiment has been very much changed as you are probably
aware ere this, resulting from the disastrous engagement
near Fredericksburg—

On the morning of the 13th inst. we numbered some
four hundred fifty Officers & Men all of which went
into the fight & performed their duty like true Soldiers—

The result Sir, you will see by the list of casualties
forwarded to Adj^t Gen^l Hodgden, foots up some two
hundred & twenty eight killed wounded & missing, more
than fifty per cent of the whole number engaged—

Among the number killed you will notice Capt.
Hutchins of Company "B." & Lieut Herriock of Company "D."
who were shot as far as I can learn, in the early part
of the action. The body of Capt. Hutchins was recovered
over—

and buried the night of the 13th inst. on the Battle field — Lieut. Herriotes body was not recovered.

I can truly say that I never witnessed troops perform their duty better & come up to the work more readily than did the 16th at this time — Every man's heart & soul seemed bent upon having a chance at the Enemy —

We were the first Regiment to make the charge and the last to leave the field — The Regt. has certainly done credit to itself & the Old Pine Tree State altho' at a great sacrifice —

I herewith hand you list of names for promotion to fill vacancies now in the Regt. which I trust will ^{meet} your approbation as they are well worthy the positions for which I respectfully recommend them —

You will notice Sir, that I recommend Lieut. Saurce of Co. "B" as Captain of Co. "D" — This I do at the request of the Members of Company "D" —

Hoping to hear from you again soon

I remain

Very Resp^{ly}

Yours Obedt. Serv.

Thos. Dr. Pickett.

Co. 16th Me Regt.

16. Col. Tiden.

16th Regt.

Dec. 23.