

Camp Howard Va
Oct 30th 1861

Wm A. P. Merrill
Lieut

Your kind favor of the 22 Inst.
was duly received yesterday, and I truly appreciate
your kindness in taking so much interest in my welfare.
I send herewith a letter of recommendation from
C. Burt Maj. 3rd Me Regt. He gave it to me very
willingly saying "I deserved it all and more, & hoping
it might lead me to a position that suited me."
Maj. Burt is a thorough Soldier and a perfect
gentleman and I feel proud to call him friend,
and I think I have lost nothing, but gained much
by being under his instruction.

I showed your letter to Cal Staples. He said
he would willingly give me a recommendation
but he did not want me to leave the Regt. Said
he would get me a first Lieut.^{cy} Commission just
as soon as there was a vacancy if I would not
try to get a Captains Commission in one of the new
Regts. Said he hated to have the officers leave
when they got so they could drill well and know
how to take charge of a Co, But I think that is
just the reason why I should take charge of a
Co. there are plenty of officers here who have

Change of Companies, - and if I am qualified to
take Charge of one I do not know why I have not
as good a right to try & get that position as
any one else. Col Staples said that was all
the reason why he did not wish to give me a
recommendation for a Capt Commission in one of the
new regts was because he wanted me to stay with
him, he could not say but what I was qualified.
I thought he was a little selfish to want to
keep me here as Lieut when he could help me get
a chance as Capt. There are plenty here who would
like to take my place and would fill it well, and
I presume the letter of Maj Burt with your influ-
ence will be all that will be necessary to secure
me a Captains Commission.

We are under marching orders and expecting to
move every day, and when we do march I
am in hope you will hear a good account of us.
Our Regt is in good fighting order, ready to
sally for the word to go. The air is
cool & bracing and the troops as a general thing
are in excellent health.

Hoping to hear from you again soon as well
as from the Gov. on the way of a Commission.

I remain your most obedient servt,

Wm A. P. Merrill

Chas B. Haskell
Lieut Co "H" 3^d Me Regt