

Assist Surgeon  
of 16<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>

Belle Plains Va. Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> /63  
Gen. Hodsdon.

Dear Sir,

As much as I have to thank you for in the past, yet the time has again come when a few words from you will aid me greatly, both now and in the future.

When, last May, I desired the position of Hospital Steward. I could not aspire to an Assist Surgeon's berth, although Prof. Childs wished me to<sup>5</sup> then, but since that time the practical knowledge of medicine and surgery, I have obtained, has more than balanced another course of Lectures.

Now the resignation of Dr. Hunter leaves vacant a place which the Surgeons and Reg't Officers alike desire that I shall fill. Only one objection stands in the way, viz. I have not yet received my Diploma; but this has been overlooked

in other States; why should it not  
in ours? especially when Dr. Perley,  
(Medical Inspector of the Army) says  
that this is no objection; and moreover  
I should receive it were I at home  
this winter.

Gen. can I rely upon your kindness to  
assist me in this matter? A word  
from you to Gov. Coburn, would carry  
with it much weight, and would be  
to me a favor not soon to be forgotten.

Enclosed, is the letter of Prof. Childs,  
which was written nearly a year ago while  
I was still without Practical knowledge of

Excuse me for trespassing on your  
time and patience, and believe me,

Most Respectfully

Yours

Wm W. Eaton

Hospit Steward 16<sup>th</sup> Meols

To

Adjutant Gen. John L. Hodsdon

Augusta

Me.