

Fort McKenz
Baltimore July 23

General

Having been somewhat intimately associated with invalid soldiers for many months have concluded to address you on the subject. There is a large number in the Hospitals about Washington and in Va. most of them I am happy to say seem improving in health and everything is done for them to promote their recovery, and contribute to their comfort. Still the time is far distant when many of them can join their Regt. A change of climate would in my opinion go far to promote their more speedy recovery. Another drawback is "Home-sickness" I do not say this as reflecting upon their morale, for I look upon it as a disease to which

Human nature is keen and cannot
 more be overcome by force of will than
 any other disease. In more than one
 instance I have known death to result.
 You are doubtless aware that many of
 the States have assumed the care of their
 own sick, and as the Gen. Government
 allow a compensation, is not burden to
 the State. Provision could with little
 expense for all needy one in Portland.
 The "air of Maine" would revive the drooping
 spirits of the sick and war-worn soldier
 from our State, and soon would return
 to their Regts with renewed vigor.
 The urgent appeals so repeatedly made
 to me, to obtain leaves of absence, has
 induced me to make this request to
 you. There are but few of our Maine
 troops at this Hospital, they are all
 well provided for. We have 1100 or eleven
 hundred sick here, all in tents.

To Gen. J. G. Hodgesdon
 Augusta
 Maine

Respectfully
 Your Obedt. Servt
 S. C. Henkins
 Surgeon & M. M. Regt

S. C. Hunkins
 Fort Mc Henry
 Baltimore

July 23rd
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My dear Mr. Hunkins
 I have just received
 your letter of the 21st
 and am glad to hear
 from you.

I am well and hope
 this finds you the same.
 I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours,
 S. C. Hunkins