

Company I.
First Maine Cavalry -
Augusta, Maine
Feb. 17th 1862.

To His Excellency
Israel Washburne Governor
of the State of Maine.

My Dear Sir,

In
addressing a note to you, personally a stranger to me,
I seem to myself to take a liberty which you could
hardly excuse in any one else except a soldier -

But I know your kindness of heart would
not allow you to refuse so simple a request as I
am about to make -

In my younger and boyhood days I have
read with much interest the words of the three brothers,
of national fame, who have honored the American
Congress by their statesmanship and eloquence -

In my native State of New Hampshire, where
I have lived most of my life, not unfrequently
have I felt a patriotic pride that New England
should have found, "in Israel," so earnest and
so vigorous a representative of American Freedom.

as she has found in the representative of the
eastern district of the Virgo State. Believe me
when I say that these are the reflections
which your national career has suggested in many
a heart whose pulsations are all for freedom and
the pristine integrity of our common country.

By a turn of the wheel of fortune, not
uncommon in this native land of ours, I have
found myself on this seventeenth day of Feb-
ruary, 1862, a soldier about four months to
standing in the Federal Army, and the
man whom I have read after while in
filling a seat in Congress, the Commander in
Chief - or rather did occupy that position before
we were mustered into the U. S. service.

My Dear Sir,

Accompanying this note I
send my autograph book. On one page I have
placed the photograph of the Governor of Maine.

Can I have his autograph to accompany it?
If the leisure is yours I should be much pleased
to have you place there such words as you would
like for a volunteer soldier to remember when far
away from the hospitalities and pleasant associa-
tions of Maine Homes - Yours very truly
J. M. Perkins

Augusta

Feb. 17, 1862

Perkins J. W. E.

1st Me. Cavalry

Co I Washburn

W E Perkins
Co. 1st Me. Cavalry
Feb. 17.