

Camp Howard Va,
January 2nd 1862

Dear Col.

I have a favor to ask of you which will not probably cost anything or put you to much trouble. I will state the case. I am one of the commissioned officers appointed from this regiment to go on the recruiting service in the state of Maine. I am somewhat anxious to have my station at Bath. You can easily guess the reason why, and the favor I would like to have you do for me is simply this. To intercede with Major J. W. F. Gardiner who has been appointed General Superintendent of the recruiting service for the State of Maine to station me ~~at~~ Bath. one object I have in asking you to do this, is, I am fearful before I should get ~~to~~ Augusta, to report myself, he may have appointed some one else to that station. and if that should be the case it would not only deprive me of the privilege of being with my family. but put me at least to the expense of a dollar a day more.

Will you then oblige me by attending to

this immediately on the receipt of this.

I shall start for Maine as soon as the proper documents are received from Washington. The delegation from this (the 3^d Maine) regiment for the recruiting service consists of one Captain one Lieut. four non commission officers. and as far as I can judge no better ones could be sent. than has been selected.

I have nothing new to communicate. matters on this side of the Potomac go along very quietly. the prospect now is of our regiment remaining in its present location for the winter.

We have been favored with most Splendid weather so far. no snow as yet. nor very cold. but as mild as September.

Genl. Mr Whittier has favored us with his presence for about a month. but has now returned to Maine. Dr A. J. Fuller was with us about a week. Wm Rogers. Henry Swanton and Geo. M. Patten. were here and spent a few days. Our boys were mighty glad to see them. and were very sorry to have them leave. hoping to see you soon. I remain With sentiments of Respect
Yours Truly

Col. E. R. Harding
Bath

Maine
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Reuben Sawyer

Wrote Eddy yesterday all well your father waiting
for this L H H.

Ruben. S. Surgen
Camp Howard
Jan'y - 2 - 1862