

Apr. 23^d 162

Camp in the field near Yorktown

Governor Washburne,

Although at this late hour, and just on the eve of battle, I wish to give you my thanks for your kind remembrance of me - And also to ask pardon, as I have no good excuse for not answering your letter before -

I had some idea of the vacancies among commissioned officers also of the applicants for them, so I did not have great expectations to get a commission, but seeing others, that I thought no better fitted than myself, and being a little ambitious, not wishing to be outdone I applied (at the suggestion of others) for a commission you know how I have succeeded - I am not sorry that I did, for already

I have been greatly benefited by it.
Perhaps it is better for me that I did
not get one. I will try to do as Pope
says "act well my part there all the
honour lies. I have been greatly
blessed since I enlisted in the Army
as I have not seen a sick day - and
I enlisted one year ago yesterday -

I try and encourage those that are
always looking on the dark side of
everything, by precept as well as
example - Some officers have showed
set a bad example by showing coward-
ice before their men. I pray no more
such will be commissioned.

The regt are very healthy as a body
some few I believe have been taken
down within two days from by severe
exposure. we are now at work
building fortifications and roads
preparing for an attack. we all
of us, officers & men have the greatest

confidence in General McClellan
we fairly worship him. I hope we
may never have occasion to change
our minds.

Please to excuse all errors and bad
writing, as I have my paper on my knees
and except this with the best wishes
of a soldier friend.

Jonathan Newcomb Jr.
Co. A. Maine 3rd Regt.
To Jovener Israel Washburne

Joa. Newcomer

Apr. 23.

of a communication
between the two persons in question

Answer: f. guess or N

On the turn-out road
July 23, 1863.