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Washington July 8. 1862

Hon J. Washburn Jr.

Dear Sir

I am now sick at Douglass Hospital. I endured very great hardships at the battle of Manassas Court House in May, and ^{was} nearly sick afterwards though continuing at my post until Thursday June 27th the day of the battle near Mechanicsville - My Brigade was near there and I was ordered to see to the removal of all the sick in the Brigade ~~in~~ ^{to} McDowell's Head Quarters about 8 miles distant - Two Anti Surgeons were detailed to assist me, but both becoming sick, I was obliged either to perform the duty alone or leave the sick in the hands of the rebels who were sig-

orously pressing upon us.

I was engaged in this duty almost every moment until Friday night when I became so much prostrated as to be entirely unable to sit up. I remained in an ambulance until next Wednesday morning when I went on board of a steamer at Harrison Landing and came here.

Our regt. suffered severely but exactly to what extent I have not yet ascertained. Lt. Col. Varney, Adjt. Mudgett, Doct. Palmer and Hospital Steward were taken prisoners. Surgeon & a number of other surgeons in Brigade were taken prisoners so that there is a great deficiency of surgeons and in Brigade & none for our regt. except what is remaining from outside.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 78
I am anxious to return soon
as possible but about bealth-
ing but am encumbered now
& don't think I shall be able to
return to my duties in less
than two or three weeks. I
have lost nearly eight 25th
of flesh and am so feeble as to
be scarcely able to walk at
all. Eliza & J. H. Rice have
called upon me. I thought I
should merit more rapidly
to go home for a few weeks
but must abide decision
of the "powers that be."

Kinds regards to your wife
I would gladly give you some
evidence of my six days per-
gurance, but have not
strength. Very truly yrs

S. B. Musson

Dr S. B. Morison
Washington

July 8
