

344.

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 Hanover Court House in May, and <sup>was</sup> nearly sick afterwards though continuing at my post until Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup> 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 vig-

orally 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 morn-  
ing when I went on board  
of a steamer at Harrison's  
landing and some time  
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  
Sargent & a number of other  
Surgeons in Brigade were taken  
prisoners so that there is a  
great deficiency of surgical  
aid in Brigade & none for  
our regt. except what is re-  
ceived from outside -

18  
March

I am anxious to return soon  
as possible but about becom-  
ing but an encumbrance 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  
memento of my six days per-  
grimage, but have not  
strength. Very truly yrs

S. B. Musson

Dr S. B. Morison  
Washington

July 8

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