



Harrison's Landing Aug 3<sup>th</sup> '62

Hon Lot M. Merrill — Sir

Pamplise urges me to write you and if I am wrong in so doing you will surely excuse and forgive for I intend no wrong; a short time since I wrote my father asking him to express my wishes to you in regard to a promotion. I likewise addressed my friend Mr. Gilton upon the same subject. I will make a few statements as briefly as I can.

When I first wrote my father upon the subject it was with the wish that I might obtain a commission in one of our new regiments — there was then no vacancy in our company; but within a few days from that time our late Captain, F. E. Heath was appointed Lieut Colonel of the 19<sup>th</sup> regiment and when he left he said to me "George the vacancy belongs to you and I shall do all I can for you". But I will tell you of all the circumstances and then you will see how it is; we have now a first Lieut J. R. Day and a second Mr. Plaisted; of course the Captaincy belongs to Mr. Day and the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenantcy to Mr. Plaisted; but I think there are persons trying to get some one commissioned as Captain over Mr. Day — whether they will succeed I cannot tell, but Mr. Plaisted has already handed



in his papers of resignation and will leave for home as soon as he can get off: But if they will not let him go and should commission a man as captain out of the company over Mr. Day it might be some time yet before there would be a vacancy. And now your Hon. I have freely and ~~the~~ truthfully told you all as I would my own father and mother and if you would use your influence for me in this thing, I should certainly feel grateful as long as life may last: not that I have always done right; no there are many things of the past of which the memory of which haunts me still; but I have been trying to do right to atone for the past and while I live in the world to do right by myself, my fellow men and my God shall be my aim; Since I enlisted in my country's service I have endeavored to do my duty as a soldier and serve her truly; I would refer your Hon. to Lieut Colonel G. E. Hecath of the Me. 19<sup>th</sup>!

I know it seems almost absurd that one holding so high a position as does your Hon. in our national affairs should condescend to notice one like me; but my father wrote me in his last "You can freely communicate with Lot M. Morrill for he has ever been a kind and good



To your father";

And now I have written what I have and  
if in any word or expression I have given offence  
I pray for your forgiveness

Very Respectfully Your Obed Servant

Y<sup>rs</sup> & Blake  
Co. "86"

Me 3<sup>d</sup> Regt Vols

Wm L M Merrill

E. S. Blake  
Harrison's Landing  
Aug 8, 1862

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Dear Genl. allow me  
to ask you to read the  
within - I know your  
Blake & think him worthy

He asks promotion,  
in rank, in far as he  
may be entitled to it. I  
do not question it will  
be your pleasure to  
accept it.

Yours Truly

Genl. Rodden