

Washington D.C. Dec. 24. 1862.

My Dear Sir:

Yours dated Dec. 17. was recd. last Sat. on which day I was taken sick & till to-day have not been out. While at the Paymaster's Dept. ^{to-day} I met Mr. True who informed me that he had heard nothing from the Re. Mr. Jerome. but that Col. Belknap. coming convalescent camp, had got his first furlough up 30 days hence. He was then waiting for a Maj. James Paymaster to return from his duty so that he might get his pay. He did not know how long he would have to wait & told him that he could not get you for money. He replied that it would take up too much time - I then told him I would loan him the money to go to New Haven. but he said he wanted to get his pay before he left. So I left him. He looks better but he is afflicted with the chronic rheumatism & I think he will have to ask his discharge. I gave him my no. & told him to call & get some money if he rather than spend too much time waiting for James.

What I have done for him I would do for any good Soldier who has suffered in the service for the last year & half.

You ask in yours "Can I do anything

for you" Well perhaps I am fast help. I don't
know that you can do anything for me at all.
I will allow you, I know what perhaps you al-
ready know, that I very much wish once
more to have part in this war. I have been
crucely & I think in part at least unjustly
condemned for the part I have already taken.
Without reference with a Reg. in which were
5 col. of Irish, the hardest Reg. ever yet sent
from Me. with subalternates on the Staff who
gave me labor rather than aid, with line
officers all at work for themselves. I will not
say all) but the large mass of them useful for
those places, and myself sick with the most ex-
haustive disease. It is not wonderful that I
was not able to silence the ~~the~~ clamors of enemies
or work wounds during the short time I was
in the Service. In the midst of my sickness &
when all were disheartened & resigned &
from that hour to this I have repeated it -
What time might befall me & harm much.
& might give. If out of the Service I want
to return to it. That is all I could say. but
you will excuse this. I know your situation - and
that you have no commitments to be made. The Reg-
iments are all officered. It is not right that
I should have the place of a single one.

When resignations take place promotions are
generally if not always necessary. As that is
placed upon. I need say no more. I am very
thankful for the many acts of kindness which
I have received from you at A. A. G. of Union.
Now while here if I can do any service to you
come or for you in going to this or that
Hospital to see the sick or wounded men
from our State. Please inform me.

Yours very truly
Mark H. Durrell