

Camp Pitcher near Falmouth  
Va. Feb. 4. 1863.

To his Excellency <sup>Mr</sup> A. Caburn  
Governor of Maine

Sir having been requested by the Medical Director of Genl. Burnside's <sup>partly</sup> army to recommend some efficient man for the office of Surgeon of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regt Maine Vol. (as Sur. Surg. Wiggins resigned), I hereby certify that J. D. Watson Asst. Surgeon of this regiment, has been commended with it the past month, and has given entire satisfaction.

Having had many opportunities to learn of his professional abilities, and finding them of the first order, I therefore cheerfully recommend <sup>him</sup> as being every way well qualified for the office of Surgeon in the 17<sup>th</sup> Me.

Dr. Watson has practiced his profession twenty years, and ranks high at home as a Surgeon and Physician; he is also a whole soul'd patriot; and one of that clap who will strengthen the patriotic morale of a regiment instead of weakening it.

I have the honor to be  
Respectfully Your Obedt Servt  
J. Hildreth Surg. 3<sup>rd</sup> Me. Vol.

Bermy Brigade 1st Div 3 Corps  
Near Falmouth Va Feb. 4, 1863.

I am satisfied, after a short but satisfactory  
interview with Dr Watson, and more  
especially, from my entire confidence  
in the opinion of Dr Hildreth, that Doctor  
Watson would be a most desirable ac-  
quisition to the 17<sup>th</sup> Me Vols, as Surgeon of  
the Regiment

William Mearns  
Surgeon in Charge  
Bermy Brigade

Falmouth Va

Feb 14. 1863

Hildreth Surg. I.

Recommends Surg. Watson  
for 17<sup>th</sup> Me Vols

3 Enclosures