## 1863-11-18 Thomas B. Chalmers requests release from prison

https://digitalmaine.com/cw\_me\_2nd\_regiment\_corr/366/

Transcription:

Port Lafayette

Nov 18th 1863

Genl. Hodsdon

Sir

It is with feelings of sorrow that I write to you from this place to let you know my condition the 3 months that I was in the Army and the 5 months that I laid in jail they counted nothing and I was sentenced here for 2 years and all pay and allowances stopped- Comment is unnecessary I only ask was it just with as clear a code as I had. ever since I have been here I have been on the Doctors hands and my health is miserable and I am confined to the guards hands, It grieves me

exceedingly to lay here in my misery and think that the State of Maine is assisting my family when I could after a little fresh air and recruiting of my health amply provide for them myself. My past conduct I have written before & also my resolution for the future and all I can say now is that I am firmly resolved to lead a different life. I think I have had a very hard time for the last six months, 3 months of the time confined in a narrow cell, if I had been swindling the government getting 3 or 4 bounties I should say my punishment was just. I enlisted at the call of the President & it was the opinion of a majority of the citizens of Bangor that our Regt would

be home in three months. I was very Patriotic doing all I could to help the party into power, carrying voters to the polls and in my feeble manner encouraging the laboring man to do his duty, and when I got to the Battlefield I found it was not the place for me Timid & nervous I had not the nerve to stand it, and if I am Timid & nervous and Cannot Stand the excitement surely I think I am not to blame.

Surely this is not the place for me with my failing health & strength and my confinement in jail with my confinement here unless I am soon released will ruin my health for life. I cannot sleep nightly thinking of my family- my wife

has suffered enough on my account my parents, brothers, & sisters have been disgraced by me and my darling babe I want to be with it. You yourself being husband and Father may probably form some idea what my feelings are and if I can have my liberty I will show the world that I am still a man.

But Genl. I can say no more you have only my word to rely on and should you place confidence in it, I will see that you have no Cause to regret it, hoping soon to be restored to my family through your influence I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant

Thomas B Chalmers

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