Montgomery 9th Octr 1863

Dear Simple

I received your very qualifying letter on yesterday. I was very happy on Dick's account as well as your own. I had heard before the receipt of yours from more than one source of the reputation which the Battery and yourself had gained. I have not seen Tom Monks since. but shall be sure and take him up on the credit his namesake is reaping for him.

I heard only this morning, that Nelles boy would start to the battery this afternoon, and of course I could do nothing in the way of procuring the groceries. I dont know that I shall be able to do so. Pretty fair whisky three weeks ago was selling at $100 pr gallon and retails here at $2. pr drink. a Madeira & Sherry wine are among the things we read of. I have one bottle of the last and fine of the first The Yankees have taken every Runner of the Blockade at Mobile and Wilmington is the only port which any thing can be brought in, and I know that the Government now (as they should have done from the beginning) takes up & all the freight. I have three bottles of whisky and a half a gallon in a jug. The Madeira I will decide with you and I may send you two bottles of whisky. ~~if~~

I am sorry to be hear the reports in relation to Gen Woods. If he has resigned he will never recover from it

Yours Truly
Geo Goldthwaite

"You wrote in relation to Semples promotion. He is not in a corps in which promotion is rapid and a sine qua non of promotion is a vacancy. Gen Bragg can have him promoted whenever he will say, I have a command which needs a Major of Artillery & I desire Capt. Semple to have the place. The arrangements of the Artillery are left to the Commanders & the promotions are made under their special recommendation. A general recommendation is unmeaning. This the commanders know and therefore give them

Semple's claims have been submitted on general recommendations, but neither his claims nor those of any other heroes have a fair chance when they are thus submitted

I do not engage in the slightest degree in the business of solicitation for appointments. I have not seen the President even casually during this year & my intercourse with the Secretary is formal and distant

My duties do not require intimacy and I feel no inclination to cultivate one. I am willing to labor so far as I can to promote the conclusion of the war, but I have no desire beyond this"