

General Hospital Camp Under 2^d Division
Richmond Va. Dec 29th 1862

Dear Ma-

It has been some two weeks since the arrival of a letter from home for me & I fear that sickness in the family is the cause - If anything of that Character is the matter do not delay on such an account because the suspense is almost as bad as the certainty of evil tidings - I wrote several letters home immediately subsequent to the Fredericksburg fight, & hope they duly arrived & allayed yr anxiety - On yesterday I rec^d a letter from Willie Drunkie (4th Texas) stating that a telegraphic despatch had reached him from his father & that one had also been sent me from the same source making inquiry as to his safety - I have not received it & had heard nothing of Willie until his letter came to hand yesterday - he is safe & unharmed -

On yesterday I rec^d a letter from Dr. Watkins stating that Dr. Blewies the Assistant Surgeon of the 44th Ala. Reg. had resigned his position, & he wished me to take his place - on my returning a favorable answer he would for-

want my name to the Surgeon General
for the appointment. On some accounts I
would like to be with the Regt but I am
satisfied if I can remain here three months
longer, I can attain the position of full
Surgeon. The facilities for study are much
better here than in the field; besides the expo-
sure is far less. I have not yet decided
what course to adopt - I am very sure
if the War lasts six months, & I retain
my health a Surgeons position is acceptable
to my prospects - at all events such is my
aim - A number of my Medical Congress
here, have advised that I go before the Med-
ical Board now, for a Surgeons Commission,
believing that I would be successful in such
application, but I think best to aim lower
first, & at a future time attempt the other.
An Apt Surgeon ranks as Captain, & gets one
hundred & ten dollars per month - Surgeon
ranks as Major at \$150 - per month -
Howard Strong has been quite sick with Pneumo-
nia, but is better & has been transferred to Dawville
to the Hospital there. We have had some small
pox in our Hospital, but it has almost disap-
peared. I have seen a number of cases of it
& had some fed in my wards, several weeks
ago. There is no War news of interest - I hope

General Hospital Camp Winder 2^d Division
Richmond Va. Dec 29th 1862

Dear Ma -

It has been some two weeks since the arrival of a letter from home for me & I fear that sickness in the family is the cause - If anything of that character is the matter do not delay on such an account because the suspense is almost as bad as the certainty of evil tidings - I wrote several letters home immediately subsequent to the Fredricksburg fight, & hope they duly arrived & allayed yr anxiety - On yesterday I rec^d a letter from Willie Dunklin (4th Texas) stating that a telegraphic dispatch had reached him from his father & that one had also been sent me from the same source making inquiry as to his safety - I have not received it & heard nothing of Willie until his letter came to hand yesterday - he is safe & unhurt -

On yesterday I rec^d a letter from D^r Watkins stating that D^r Blevins the Assistant Surgeon of the 44th Ala. Reg - had resigned his position, & he wished me to take his place - on my returning a favorable answer he would for-

[Page 2]

ward my name to the Surgeon General for the appointment - On some accounts I would like to be with the Reg^t, but I am satisfied if I can remain here three months longer, I can attain the position of full surgeon The facilities for study are much better here than in the field; besides the exposure is far less - I have not yet decided what course to adopt - I am very sure if the War last six months, & I retain my health a surgeons position is accessible to my reach - at all events such is my aim - A number of my Medical confreres here, have advised that I go before the Medical Board now, for a Surgeons Commission, believing that I would be successful in such application, but I think best to aim lower 1st, & at a future time attempt the other. An Asst Surgeon ranks as Captain, & gets one hundred & ten dollars per month - Surgeon ranks as Major at \$160 - per month - Howard Sturgis has been quick sick with Pneumonia but is better & has been transferred to Danville

to the Hospital there - We have had some Small
pox in our Hospital, but it has almost disap-
peared - I have seen a number of cases of it
& had some few in my Wards, several weeks
ago There is no War news of interest - I hope

[written vertically on Page 2]

you receive the Dispatch regularly - I wrote
to Uncle James several weeks since - he has not
answered my letter - Did he receive it?

Love to Grand Ma & all the family kiss the
children for me - howdy to all the Negroes.

Write soon

Yr son

W^m