

Tom is well. Some how his <sup>present</sup> ~~present~~  
didn't come with the rest. It is  
no doubt some mistake & will be  
rectified. They are managing these <sup>present</sup>  
so that they don't amount to any-  
thing. Gen. Parrott is going away  
& I am to have the old 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade  
of 8 old Regts. that will make me  
the senior General officer of the Div.  
Six months ago I was not even the  
Senior Colonel of my Brigade, & was  
assigned to command over the heads of  
three or four others. If I only didn't  
have to go away this winter, I should  
stand a good chance among Brigadiers.  
and as it is, I am well enough off.  
Gen. Griffin won't let anybody come to  
rank me. I trust all your affairs  
are prosperous.  
With much love,  
Lawrence

If you ever stray into the New York Society  
Library near you, see if my old friend  
Butler is Librarian yet.

Head Qrs. 1<sup>st</sup> Brig. 1<sup>st</sup> Div. 5 Corps.

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear John.

I was very glad to find  
out exactly where you are. I think  
it was a good move on your part,  
to go to New York. It is vexatious to  
know that nobody in Waughan took any  
pains to make friends for you in  
New York. However you will find  
them, & I have no doubt can  
afford to dispense with testimonials  
from anybody. I am not at all  
anxious for you to get into the  
traces of a minister's drudgery at  
once. It is better to take time & pre-  
pare a good pile of sermons in  
advance. The "two sermons a week"  
routine would kill you. So I would  
write one a week now, & finish  
them by retouching after preaching

them once or twice, so that you may have confidence in them whenever you have to fall back on them.

I should like it if you could go to Washington, though I suspect that is a pretty difficult post to take charge of, on account of the loose way in which things are done there. I think better of those towns in the vicinity of New York City, for your present circumstances: as a pastoral charge there would not be so trying. However strike as high as you can.

For me, I am managing to go full duty without much injury, & not a great deal of suffering. Still I was not fit to return to field duty, & it is very hard to take such chances as we had on the "Weldon Raid."

By the way, we never intended to go to Weldon. Our task was to destroy the Railroad as far as Hicksford, & we did it pretty thoroughly, & with very little loss. Our stragglers were the chief sufferers. Those who went aside from the column, or fell behind it were murdered without mercy, and that unfortunately roused a spirit of retaliation & the result was the burning of all the houses on our road back. It was a sad sight, & showed war in its most disagreeable aspect, for my part I had rather charge lines of battle.

I ride some, too much, probably & to tell the truth, I don't feel right yet; though the "Herald" proclaims my "perfect recovery", all that. I shall have to take to the knife again, & am making up my mind where to go to have it done. That is, the "knifing".

If you ever stray into the New York Society Library near you, see if my old friend Butler is Librarian yet.

Head Qrs. 1<sup>st</sup> Brig. 1<sup>st</sup> Div. 5 Corps.  
Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear John,

I was very glad to find out exactly where you are. I think it was a good move on your part to go to New York. It is vexatious to know that nobody in Bangor took any pains to make friends for you in New York. However you will find them, & I have no doubt can afford to dispense with testimonials from anybody. I am not at all anxious for you to get into the traces of a minister's drudgery at once. It is better to take time to prepare a good pile of sermons in advance. The "two sermons a week" routine would kill you. So I would write one a week now, & finish them by retouching after preaching them once or twice, so that you may have confidence in them whenever you have to fall back on them.

I should like it if you could go to Washington, though I suspect that is a pretty difficult post to take charge of, on account of the loose way in which things are done there. I think better of those towns in the vicinity of New York City, for your present circumstances : as a pastoral charge there would not be so trying. However strike as high as you can.

For me, I am managing to do full duty without much injury, & not a great deal of suffering. Still I "was not fit" to return to field duty, & it is very hard to take such chances as we had on the "Weldon Raid." By the way, we never intended to go to Weldon. Our task was to destroy the Railroad as far as Hicksford, & we did it pretty thoroughly, & with very little loss. Our stragglers were the chief sufferers. Those who went aside from the column, or fell behind it, were murdered without mercy, and that unfortunately roused a spirit of retaliation & the result was the burning of all the houses on our road back. It was a sad sight, & showed war in its most disagreeable aspect, for my part I had rather charge lines of battle.

I ride some, too much, probably & to tell the truth, I don't feel right yet; though the "Herald" proclaims my "perfect recovery" & all that. I shall have to take to the knife again, & am making up my mind where to go to have it done. That is, the "knifing."

Tom is well. Some how his Brevet didn't come with the rest. It is no doubt some mistake & will be rectified. They are managing these Brevets so that they don't amount to anything. Gen. Bartlett is going away and I am to have the old 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of 8 old Regts. That will make me the senior General officer of the Div. Six months ago I was not even the Senior colonel of my Brigade, & was assigned to command over the heads of three or four others. If I only didn't have to go away this winter, I should stand a good chance among Brigadiers. And as it is, I am well enough off. Gen. Griffin won't let anybody come to rank me. I trust all your affairs are prosperous.

With much love,  
Lawrence