Tom is well. Inne how his Brevet ridat come with the rest. It is no doubt some mistake & mile be rectified. They are managing there so that they don't amount to any their . hen . Bartlett is young away of an to have the old 3 Bright of 8 sed Rets. That mile make me the Jenior General office of the Div. dix wentles ago Poras not even to Levier colonel of my Brigade, or me assigned to commend our the heads of three or from actions. If I only rishit have to go away this minter, I should Stout a good bleaver among Brigadies. and as it is, I am well anoughtfu. Sen. Sniffin mut let any bos come & rank me. I trust all ymraffair are prosperono with mench live & awrence

If you ever stray into the ber york trains Librar arear you, see Any els breed Bretter is Librarian yet. Dec. 19th 1864 Head Irs. pt /mig. 1st Div. 5 Corps. I me very glad to fines out exactly where you are. I think I was a good more on your part, to go to her york. It is verations to kiem that mobody in Hauger tooksaug hains to make friend for you in Nowlfork. However you mill find them, I I have no doubt can effort to despense with testimonials from anytrony. I am notatale auxions for you to get into the haces of a minesters snedgery at once. It is better to take time o prepare a good file of dermone in advance The two termons a neek" routine wind kill you. to I muld write one a reck now, + princh New by retording after freading

Them once or twice, so distym may have confidence in them whenever you have to fall back on them. I should like it if you comed go to Washington, thingh Impect that is a pretty difficult post to take olivinge of on account of the loose may in which theings are done there. I trink better of these town in the vicinity of hav you city for your present circumstance: as a pastoral change there would not be on Trying. However strike as high as you can. For me I am managing to so pull drug mitteent much injury, & not a great deal of suffering. Hill & was not fit to return to field out, 2 it is very har to take mich chances as we had on the holden Fair!"

My the way we never intended of to Weldon. Our task was to destry the Railroad as far as Hicksford, I've Did it putt dronghly, o mich very little loss. Our stragglers were the obief oufferers. There who went aside from the column or fell behind it here newstered milliont were, and that cufortundely rouses a spirit retaliation of the secret was the burning of all the honder on our road back. It was a sad right, a showed har in its most disagree able asked , for my part that ratter charge lines of battle. I not some too much, probably & to tall the truth, I don't feel right get; though the Herald produces my "horfeet secrey" , all that. I shall have a take to the Knife again, o am making up my mind where to go there it done thatis, the kerifing

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

Head Qrs. 1st Brig. 1st Div. 5 Corps. Dec. 19th 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 3rd 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