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return to the army, and  
if I find I cannot stand  
it I shall not be foolish  
about it but shall take  
proper care of myself.

I shall leave tomorrow.  
Have not yet been out  
of the house, but think  
I can bear the journey.

Am sorry not to have  
seen you before leaving.

Will write as soon as I  
reach the front.

Yours aff. son.

Lawrence.

Pennsick Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Dear Father,

I appreciate fully  
the view you & Mother take of the  
Collectorship offered me. It is nat-  
ural and proper advice, & such  
as I certainly expected. But my  
own consideration of the subject has  
not, as yet, brought me to favor  
the proposal any more than at  
first.

I owe the Country three years  
service. It is a time when every  
man should stand by his guns.  
And I am not scared or hurt  
enough yet to be willing to face  
to the rear, when other men are

marching to the front.

It is true my incomplete recovery from my wounds would make a more quiet life desirable, & when I think of my young & dependent family the whole strength of that motive to make the most of my life comes over me.

But there is no promise of life in peace, & no decree of death in war. and I am so confident of the sincerity of my motives that I can trust my own life & the welfare of my family in the hands of Providence.

and then as far as mere human probabilities go, my position & prospects in the Army were never

better. I am now among the Senior officers of my rank, and after all I have gone through, I am not willing to back out just at the decisive moment, & leave the rewards & honors of my toil & sufferings to others. I had a great deal rather see another man in that Custom House, than see another next commander of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Division. Nor will my claims be any less for an honorable post in civil life after still longer & better service in the Field, nor for having declined advantageous offers for myself personally, rather than to abandon our cause in the hour of its need.

Brunswick Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1865

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