at all events I must return to the army and of I pind I cannot stand it I shall not be frolish about it but shall take proper care of nugrely. I shall leave tomorrow. Have not get been out of the house, but decide I can bear the porrney. am orry not & have seen you before leave. hill write as mon as 2 reach the front. you aff im. Laurence.

Musmick 736. 20"1865. Dear Faller I appreciate fully the view you & Mother take of the Collectorship offered we. It is not wal and proper adrice . I such as I certainly expected. But my not as yet, brought we to fair the proposal any more than at I owe the Country dire years. service. It is a time when every man should stand by his gues. and I am not scares or hurt enough get to be willing & face I the rear, when other wen are

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Brunswick Feb. 20th, 1865

Dear Father,

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

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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 1st 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.

At all events I must 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.

Your aff. son Lawrence