

Washington Dec 16th 1861

Dear Jim,

My work here drags painfully and it is with deep regret that I sometimes look back at the time wasted here which we might have spent so profitably in obtaining the allotments of the soldiers.

The weather is everything that could have been desired for that purpose and one half the work would have been accomplished.

I still hope that my visit here will be of service as it has thoroughly drawn the attention of Congress to the subject.

Tomorrow I appear before the military committee of the Senate to give information upon the subject but the future no one can foretell. Our only opponent Preston King seems now most anxious to press our bill.

I mentioned your desire to be actively occupied to General Butterfield when dining with him in his tent today and he suggested that he should think General Van Vliet in the quartermasters department would find you invaluable. If you still have a desire for anything of the kind I will talk with him over the matter. You would probably have a better opportunity of stopping corruption there than anywhere else and business qualities would be available.

Show father the enclosed, I would like to have seen the Judge go over on my horse at a gallop; I expect to see in the *Times* soon that the Judge has been spending weeks here working for the soldiers.

Give much love to father and all the family.

Your Brother            Theo