

Head Quarters, Middle Department, 8th Army Corps
Baltimore, December 15th 1864

My dear Friends

I have just arrived from Washington where I have been only for eight hours. I however am expecting an order to go there to appear before the "House Committee" some time within the next four office days—as witness in the Red River Campaign investigation.

To speak about my apt—which I only do this time—at your request, that if I did not hear from it within a week to write about it etc. I saw Gov Morgan—and it is my firm belief that he has never said anything about it to the Secty of War, since his first visit with him. The fact is he is so terribly bored by so many aspirants—that he loses interest etc. It is very hard for me to know that—or rather feel that my case is hopeless, while at the same [time] I know of promotions being made in our Dept (A.G). I met a Maj Merriman—(of whom I spoke of with you) who was totally incompetent to fill the position of Adjt of Regt—yet he is made AAG right over those who have been serving so long as Capts. Still this is no time to find fault with our Govmt. If they will send me to active operations with Hancock's Corps [] I will bear the humiliation—for such it is—without any complaints. Yet I think that if some man—like Morgan—would only take an interest in the matter—it would be all right.

I have not succeeded in getting with Sheridan's army. They however have gone into winter quarters. Besides the 6th Corps has left so that active operations will necessarily be abandoned and all offensive operations will [] be "done for."

My great hope is now for Hancock's Corps, but still I have not given up entirely the hope that I will see a little more active service, even if I don't get to Charleston.

I spoke with Lawrence about getting the General's permission to leave, but he wouldn't [hear] of it, not less I was [to] improve my position, he said that the A.G. sent me because I had had the experience etc.

Do you think I will have success in the way of getting to the new Corps. Even on the staff of Genl H[ancock].

With best wishes
For yourself and family
I remain as ever
Oliver Matthews