

Head Quarters 1st Army Corps
Washington D.C.
February 10th 1865

My dear Friend

I arrived here yesterday and was assigned to duty as actg asst Insp General of the Corps. My assignment to this Corps is even a "better thing" than I had anticipated, as I think if I can only get my app't as Maj I shall be assigned as AAG of the Corps. Capt Henderson's AAG who is now occupying that position is a new app't. You recollect he was a Herald correspondent and was complimented with a big supper at the Astor House about two months or more since. He has consequently but little experience and if [] speaks correctly he [is] far from being an effective officer. I can see that he will make every effort to get increased rank and unless I am more successful in regard to my Majority, he will get assigned as A.A.G. of the Corps. I shall use every honorable officer to be assigned to the Corps, as I feel that I am entitled to it as he has only been in service about as many months as I have years and has had little or no experience in the duties of the Dept. If I could only get hold of the duties of A.A.G. for a few days I feel satisfied that I should get assigned to it permanently, as it would require only ordinary experience to show that the office is now behind the times in some respects.

I like the appearance of Genl Hancock very much. He has a frank open countenance, and is a good officer. I feel it quite an honor to serve with him, and only hope that by doing so I shall not be kept long from my legitimate duties.

Cannot you or your Brother Theodore find, or make, time to come to Washington. I am certain from the manner of Genl Hancock's speaking of you that he would be greatly pleased to see you both.

There is some talk of sending [me] on an inspecting tour through Ohio, Ind and Illinois, which would take me until after the adjournment of Congress. I hope that they will not carry it out, as I find staff duty expensive enough without travelling and my only hope has been that we could soon be ordered away from these cities or else if they would give me major's pay I could then get along without much difficulty. I think the Secretary for the Corps must be quite slow from all appearances, but notwithstanding that, I think we will get to the filed by the time that active operations in the spring commence.

I have not been to the War Office, nor do I intend to go, as I think that it would effectively prevent my getting the apt. I cannot imagine why it is they do not give it me, for they are constantly making appts of Majors. The officer who relieved me at Bal[timore] was a new appt and had not the slightest knowledge of his duties, yet they made him Major, Capt not being good enough for him. General Banks is in town as also Gen'l Emory and Dwight. General Emory whom I met yesterday told me that he would get me ordered to him [] but I told him I just rec'd orders to report to Genl H and he said I am glad of it, as that is a better place than I can give you at present.

Please present my regards to Mrs Roosevelt and the Young Ladies, as also remember to the Boys. I suppose they have got [].

Very sincerely
Yours
Oliver Matthews
A.A.G.