

Washington D.C.
October 22 1865

My dear Friend

Your anxiously looked for letter of the 15th has only breached me this moment; even getting it so soon was a mere accident. The letters were directed to me Washington City, there being no other address. It was the P.O's duty to send them at once at the Adj't Gen'l who would have for'd them to me as is done frequently. To show you how carelessly this office here is managed, this morning I gave the sv't an order to the P.O for any letters there might be for me in General Howard's box. The clerk gave him your two letters which were in the general delivery boxes, and said there were no more for me. After that the orderly goes for the General's mail and brings me a letter for your Bro Theodore.

I hope the delay has not been as great as to do away with the necessity now of needing me to go to Vicksburg. I shall go to Secty Stanton and bring him my resignation. But I hope I will get Senator Morgan's letter before it is accepted so that I can get mustered out as Colonel [] which I think can be done with but little pushing as the papers they say are good.

I can readily explain to you when I see you why I do not wish to go into the regular army, and why it is my duty at this present time to give up a salary for which I can give no equivalent in return—owning to circumstances over which I have no control. If you want me to come on any time this week I will do so. I hope to leave here “for good” by Monday week at the latest.

I enclose a couple of horse pictures, one for the “boys.” The person is supposed to be me, which I tell you for fear of your not knowing it. The difficulty with holding a horse still enough for a photograph is sufficient excuse for the artist's not making a likeness of myself.

I will send you the late orders of this Bureau in regard to lands abandoned, confiscated, and otherwise during the coming weeks.

With my best wishes for yourself and family
I remain
Very sincerely
Yours
Oliver Matthews