

Please excuse this blot . And direct to the Regt again.

Beaufort S. C.  
Aug 16th/64

Dear Cousin

I received your letter to day. I was surprised to get it. as I had requested you to direct to the Regt.. However it is all right. for I shall not be with the Regt. under three weeks yet. Your letter reached the Regt. before my letter to the Captain. requesting him to retain my letters until I came. which accounts for my getting it here. You may wish to know what is keeping me here so long. I answer – “Red Tape” . I have not received a commission and never wrote that I did. So you see. Father was slightly mistaken. I wrote Mother. that my Capt. wrote to me. informing me. that he had recommended to the Genl for promotion. that is all. and I am so far from having a Commission that I do not now expect one. I am going to my Regt.. because I am too proud to remain here in Hospital. when I am well: I know there are a great many who stay as long as they can. and I might stay two or three months yet. but will not. Perhaps I am too hasty. and if I am. I hope God will forgive me. that is all. I see so many “dead beats” here in Hospital that I am perfectly disgusted with the system. that will allow such wholesale swindling. Don't be alarmed if you should happen to see me in a week or two. I hear from Rogers now and then. but it is some time since I received his last letter. I hope Theodore is well by this time. Patients in Hospital do not get the “best of care.” as one would conclude after reading the papers. One poor Soldier died in this Ward about an hour ago. and one died last night in Ward B. Please say to Uncle Charles. that if any letters come to me in his care. to take good care of them until I send or come for them. My love to all. Milton.