

me at home without a question - under the  
circumstances he was wise - Or perhaps he  
thought I should ~~come~~ go withouth any asking  
of the Expedition if I could be of any service  
all of which are erroneous - I made the request  
of the Com. of that particular service because the  
arrival of the petition made it necessary for  
me to say something - and introduce when I  
should be at liberty to ask of such friends as  
I had in the Expedition if I could serve them  
in any way when an ~~hour~~ hour of trial and  
suffering ~~should come~~ <sup>for duty</sup> and disaster, ~~should~~ come  
upon them more terrible than arrived upon -  
And this is what I have to say to you - and my  
honored friend Mr. Jones - That if in the  
course of your ~~life~~ ~~journey~~ journey  
in this treacherous soil and climate, there be a  
time a place when my strength, firm health, and  
willing hand ~~and~~ and somewhat of experience  
can benefit the just and holy cause in which  
it is your glorious privilege to serve - for which to  
~~forego~~ forego comfort and peril life, you  
will tell me, and let me come and do it -  
I know the thousands who are also ready and willing  
sailing, and I often. not because I can do better or  
is ~~well~~ perhaps as others, but I am stronger, better  
acclimated, have firmer health, better able to forego  
comforts than leaders in general. I had almost said  
men, and what is more, my life if I should lose it  
is worth less to others, there are <sup>many</sup> few to mourn; and  
among the most willing, your fellow servant I

Washington D.C. Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 79  
To the Members of the  
Military Com<sup>tee</sup> U.S.

Senators

Nothing less  
than a strong conviction of duty owed to one  
of the brave defenders of our Nation's honor -  
could induce me to intrude for a moment upon  
the already burdened, and limited term of action  
yet remaining to your Honorable Body.

During the late Battle of Fredericksburg  
the 21<sup>st</sup> Massachusetts Regiment of Volunteers  
were ordered to charge upon a Battery across an  
open field: in the terrible fire which assailed  
them, the color was three times in quick suc-  
cession bereft of their Support: the third time  
they were seized by Sergeant Thomas Plunkett  
of Co. B, and borne over some three hundred  
yards of open space, when a shell from the Enemies  
Battery in its murderous course killed three  
men of the Regiment and shattered both arms,