

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 petitions 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~~ ^{for my} and disease, ~~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 ^{many} few to mourn; and
among the most willing, your fellow servant I

Washington D.C. Feb 22nd 79
To the Members of the
Military Com^{tee} 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 21st 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. E, 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,