

U. S. Gen. Hospital,  
Annapolis, Md. Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> '63

My dear Miss. Hersey,

You are doubtless,  
By this time, somewhat anxious concerning the fate of the valuable box of clothing forwarded to me by your patriotic Society - I must take my share of blame for the delay -

I have been absent from my post - a deserter for awhile - Our wards had become nearly vacant - only a few wounded men left who were on full diet, and gaining rapidly - so Miss. Dix granted Mrs. Sayres and myself leave of absence - to return when needed - We went to Phila-a - & remained two weeks - hastened back when notified of the arrival of new patients - found the box had been waiting for me several days -

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
MMN # 79497

Date: April 14, 1863

Description: Adeline M. Walker, who was serving as a nurse at the U.S. General Hospital in Annapolis, wrote to Maria T. Hersey about a brief respite she had when the hospital was temporarily fairly empty.

Three Transports brought us last  
week a large number of sick.

A fourth arrived to-day - bringing  
however, but few to the hospital -

Still another boat is expected in  
a day or two - I have found so much  
to do since my return - (Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>)  
that I did not examine the contents  
of your box fully till yesterday -

Many of these new patients have  
died - and, nearly all, of Typhoid Pneu-  
monia - Four out of the nineteen  
received into Miss. Quinby's wards  
have died - six in Mrs. Gray's wards  
none in mine as yet - but some are  
very sick - One has a deep Sabre-cut  
in his head & erysipelas - is very  
low to-day - He belongs to 1<sup>st</sup> Vermont  
Cavalry - was wounded at Drainsville, Va  
There are six bodies in the dead-  
house now - the dead are kept there  
but one night.

I have rec<sup>d</sup> a package of note from Am. U. Ass.

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but one night.

[upside down]

I have rec<sup>d</sup> a package from Am. U. Ass.  
Boston -

Most of the men are suffering  
more or less, with diseases of Throat  
or Lungs so the nice woolen under  
clothing you sent comes just in  
time! I shall distribute many of  
the garments immediately to those  
who need them much —

Wish you could hear all the fine  
things said about your beautiful  
Union Quilt. I called the ladies  
into my room and a Council of War  
was held over the ingeniously - constructed  
work, and it was unanimously voted  
that the Young "R. F's" had shown them-  
selves to be possessed of wonderful  
genius - talent, taste - skill, patience -  
wit - industry - piety - patriotism, original  
ity - and I know not what else - but  
to sum up - it was the best thing of the  
kind ever seen by any of them -

To-day the quilt has been on ex-  
hibition in my ward - and I intend  
- *the reading matter is very acceptable*

Most of the men are suffering  
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kind ever seen by any of them —  
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hibition in my ward - and I intend  
[written upside down]

The reading matter is very acceptable —

sending it through the hospital.  
Our Chief-Steward who is quite ill  
said it was better to burn than a  
dose of medicine - Mr. Madge says  
he thinks the "R. F." must be a right  
funny Society - Many pronounced  
it nice and handsome - and finally  
one, a rather rough specimen of Uncle  
Sam's adherents, after pondering over  
it awhile with evident pleasure -  
declared that he "believed he took  
the greatest notion to the epitaphs  
on it." I asked him what State had  
the honor of sending him to the war  
and he answered that he was a Hoosier  
It is now on the bed of one who came  
here Dec 11<sup>th</sup> so badly wounded that he  
has not yet been able to sit up at all  
and must be confined to his bed  
many weeks longer I fear - What  
shall I do with it at last? I cannot  
bestow it upon any one soldier I think  
shall have to keep it moving for the en-  
tertainment of all - The tent-square  
pleases every one -  
Your Society has labored diligently  
for the soldiers I know you all feel  
well repaid for your efforts - it is a  
privilege to be working on the right side  
in a contest like this - That abundant  
success may ever attend your labors is  
the earnest wish of your friend Adeline M. Walker.

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