



U. S. A. Gen. Hospital,  
Chester . Penn.  
Friday Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Dear Ellen,

I have not time  
this morning to answer your letter  
but will only give you a few com-  
missions for Mat's barrel. We need  
flannel shirts more than anything.  
Tobacco is very much needed & Louise  
thinks you might beg a box of Mr  
Charles Rogers. I do not know but a  
box is too much to ask from one  
person. We do not want to beg on too  
large a scale. but it is pitiful to  
see men who left independent homes,  
humiliated to the necessity of begging  
a pipe full of tobacco. Every day they  
came down by dozens to Mrs Tyler kitch-  
en asking for a little tobacco, until her  
small store was entirely exhausted, &  
I do not know what the poor fellows do  
now. There are many among them who

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Date: December 05, 1862

Description: Rebecca Usher of Hollis wrote to her sister Ellen Usher Bacon of Portland about the urgent needs of the U.S. General hospital in Chester Pennsylvania and its patients.

have received no pay from Government for eleven months, & nearly all of them are four or five months without pay. Smoking tobacco seems to be most in demand. We want too some old novels, histories or biographies for the men. Louise thinks perhaps you might get some of Alice Deetle & I did not know but Bob Bradley might have some that he did not value himself which would serve to amuse the soldiers. has delighted to get yours & Ellie's letter & will answer them as soon as possible. Have not yet had my ward assigned so have not given out your presents yet.

Love to all,

Bep

Louise & Miss Newhall are perfectly well & send love to you.

have received no pay from Government for eleven months, & nearly all of them are four or five months without pay. Smoking tobacco seems to be most in demand. We want too some old novels, histories or biographies for the men. Louise thinks perhaps you might get some of Alice Prebble & I did not know but Bob Bradley might have some that he did not value himself which would serve to amuse the Soldiers. Was delighted to get yours & Ellie's Letter & will answer them as soon as possible. Have not yet had any ward assigned so have not given out your presents yet.

Love to all,

Bep.

Louise & Miss Newhall are perfectly well & send love to you.