

Danville Va Jan^y 24th 1865
"Prison No. 3"

My dear Mother + Emmie

Letters from you both were rec'd this AM dated respectively Oct 5 + 12th. Only those situated as I am can tell how happy I felt at sight of familiar handwriting. Your other letters no doubt contain some news I hope to receive them sometime. Did Col. Tilden write to you after my capture? Very many thanks to Winthrop for writing - I am much attached to him. For 2 weeks past the hope of an exchange has been strong with us. Many have given it up + believe they are "in for the war". I shall not believe yet but that Governments like individuals have souls. You do not say whether or not my letters have been rec'd. neither did you give me the name of the family in Va willing to assist me. Are you aware of how great importance this is to me? - you surely would not have omitted it. God forbid that a man should choose or desire to remain a captive - especially when he belongs to his country. I would prefer an engagement once a week to a residence here. I hope to be exchanged ere long. I have written often until we came here - hope you have rec'd my letters + know what I desire - it is unnecessary to repeat it if I have any friends. I am too happy to hear from home to find fault with the letter - only I regret some expressions used - very much. Write your letters on larger sheets. Much love to Julia for me - to Father + Emilus. How about Dwight + my other friends? Has my valise been sent home?

Sincerely + aff.
Abner R. Small
Jan 26 1865

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Sincerely + aff
Abner R. Small
Adj^t 16th Me Vols.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
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Date: January 24, 1865
Description: Abner Small letter to mother and sister