

Portland Jan 19 1862

Dear Dr,

I cannot allow the first opportunity for communicating with you to pass without availing myself of it to say a word about Dr Pearl Martin who was on the topic when we left Augusta - Dr Garcelon's remark (before the examination) that he would be willing to take him as an assistant in case he (Garcelon) was going as surgeon, rather predisposed me to form an opinion favorable for the applicant - But I was much disappointed in the examination of him and as I said upon leaving that "if I was to be governed by that I should say no very decidedly" -

Since my return I have looked at my notes of his first examination at Augusta Aug 1-3 - and my opinion then ^{formed} to well coincide with that above expressed that I do not feel easy in the idea that by any chance he should pass, unless you have drilled him enough to find that he has got something in him that he can't express that offsets his apparent ^{& I fear real} stupidity.

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Date: January 19, 1862

Description: Letter of William Wood to Henry Hill regarding the appointment of Pearl Martin as regimental surgeon.

Portland Jan 19 1862

Dear Dr.

I cannot allow the first opportunity for communicating with you to pass without availing myself of it to say a word about Dr Pearl Martin who was on the topic when we left Augusta - Dr Garcelon's remark (before knowing considerable as to the Examination) that he would be willing to take his qualifications him as an assistant in case he (Garcelon) was going as surgeon, rather predisposed me to form an opinion favorable for the applicant. But I was much disappointed in the examination of him and as I said upon leaving that "if I was to be governed by that I would say no very decidedly". Since my return I have looked at my notes of his partial first examination at Augusta Aug 1-3 and my formed opinion then so well coincides with that above expressed that I do not feel easy in the idea that by any chance he should pass, unless you have drilled him enough to find that he has got something in him & I fear real that he can't express that offsets his apparent stupidity.

I will copy it & I should like to know how it compares with yours -

"Hall, Dr Pearl Martin - appl. for surgeon or assist
Leicester - grad. at Bowdoin in /55 - ignorant of his
business"

That is a definite opinion & I should say that
my examination of him and what I heard of Bradbury's

would only lead ^{me} to say Amen! probatum est -

Just think of such a man being examined
before the Medical Board at Washington (as I
am informed Dr Percy of this place is to be) upon
complaint of the Col. of the regiment.

Be kind enough to drop me a line informing
me as to your opinion & the decision ^{of the board} in his case -
for I feel quite troubled lest by a combination
of circumstances we should allow one to pass
who so far as I can see does not possess a tithe
of the ^{necessary} qualifications -

Dr H H Hill

Augusta

Yours Very Truly
Wm Wood

I will copy it & I should like to know how it compares with yours -

"no. 11. Dr Pearl Martin - appl. for surgeon or assist
Lewiston - grad. at Bowdoin in /55. ignorant of his
business" -

That is a definite opinion & I should say that
my examination of him and what I heard of
Bradbury's

me

would only lead ^ to say Amen! probatum est --

Just think of such a man being examined
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of circumstances we should allow one to pass
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Yours Very Truly

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Dr H H Hill

Augusta