



City Point, Va., Jan. 10, 1865.
My Dear Mrs. Bacon,
The paper from
the Asso. with the Gov's endorsement
came to me safely night before
last. I suppose by the superscrip-
tion it was sent by you, so I ac-
knowledge it to you. This morning
it was so stormy I could not think
of going out, so I supposed none
of the soldiers would be likely to come
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to myself. I planned a great deal of
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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 96698

Date: Jan. 10, 1865

Description: Nurse Ruth Mayhew to Ellen Bacon

ing Mr. Hayes to bring with him this evening. Then I thought I should have a long time to write. But I was a little hasty in my plans. Before I had begun to work the boys began to call, and I was obliged to watch my chance to look at a box. One would call for a bottle of tea, another for a custard, another for a slice of toast, and the hourly repeated request for a comfort bag. We have had, too, the usual number of calls for shirts, drawers stockings &c. There are a few scattered round the different corps of the hospital that depend on me for their food. They are critical cases, and require special care, and they seem to think the food I send them, better than that they get elsewhere. Tomorrow I intend to make them some nice tapioca pudding.

Evening. The reading room in our establishment has been full all the

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evening till now (8 o'clock), and tho' they wanted nothing I sat in there with them. Several of them are new soldiers, who have just come out, and I want them to know we are interested in them, and wish them to feel at home here. Poor fellows! some of them think they know all about soldier life.

I have been looking every moment for Mr. H. this evening. I suppose your sister arrived in W. to come with him; I sincerely hope so. I almost hope they did not leave W. yesterday it will be so unpleasant for them to get in this evening, and be obliged to ride out in the mud. The boat is late, delayed no doubt by the violence of the storm.

Is it not time for those vegetables sent to Mrs. E. by way of Baltimore to arrive? No tidings of them yet. I am very anxious about them. Those we have

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rec'd from Washington were most acceptable, especially the apples. It is such a luxury to these sick and half sick soldiers to get an apple. And that nice butter which came before Mrs. E. left holds out yet. To be sure, I have to give it out very sparingly, but they make a little go a long way. I wish I had some cough candy or lozenges. A great many of the boys have violent coughs, and every day there are calls for cough candy, or troches. Would it not be well to send this in preference to other candies?

My regards to your daughters and sister whom I met at your house, and to the ladies of the Asso.

Truly yours

R. S. Mayhew

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