

U. S. A. Gen. Hospital
Brattleboro Vt., Oct. 12th 1863

Dear Mother

Last night I went down Town
and on returning to Hospital found
a letter mailed at W. Rochester. which
proved to be from Mother. and was gladly
recd. News from home is always welcome to a Person
among Strangers. even if there is no news to write
to hear the familiar expression of Friends and a
mention of the little incidents that are transpiring
at home are eagerly read by a Person away from
Home. Laura learns from her letters to be afraid
of getting in useless lumber in her letters and of
making them tedious but Yours are more of that
conversational tone which makes me almost feel
as if I were at home. It does not require learned
words or high sounding terms to make up an
interesting letter but to sit down and write off
just what we would say to a Friend is the essence
of interesting correspondence. Last night we had
the first frost of the season here - quite cool but
Today is warm and pleasant in fact we are having
a fine fall. Chestnuts are quite plenty in these
parts and the frost of last night will start them from
the trees. The Boys in the Hospital are getting
Papers to go out Chestnutting. I am so confined that
I cannot get away, if I could I would pick some
and send Home. I am very pleasantly situated