

Pardon me for sending an unpaid letter.

Head Quarters 5th Vt Vols,

Smiths Division May 1862.

My own Darling Wife,

Here I am in a new capacity again & one that suits me.

The Field Officers of the 5th Vt. are all sick and I am detailed to command the Regt. until one of them is able to resume it.

The Col. Smalley, & Lt. Col. Grant, have fevers, and the Major, Proctor has the consumption.

I felt a little delicate about being put over any other than my own regt as the feeling is always so strong in every regt that it has material enough for officers, but I have met with a most cordial reception.

This regt has some of the best Captains in the service, & every way competent to command a regt, with a little experience,

but the Generals, Brooks & Smith, were both unwilling to trust the regt in an action with a captain; & an action is expected very soon.

It has been my continued disappointment or sorrow rather, that I could not have a command in an action, but now I have one & feel happy.

All I wait for now is an opportunity.