

[1904 May 5]

My dear Friend

I heard something a few days ago which may be of interest to you and while it is possibly none of my business I am doing what I would thank any friend of mine to do for me under similar circumstances and conditions. I hear through one who ought to know, that Captain Mercer

of the Eighth Infantry
using his influence to
have you ordered from
Carlisle and himself
established there in
your stead. Think
you have "feathered your
nest sufficiently" and
that it is true someone
else should succeed you.
Buckle on your arms
and collect your political
friends around you

and do your best fighting.
It is very easy for a successor
to take up a course and continue
which you have given years
to perfect. Of course there may
be nothing more than a rumor
and again it may be the
cloud no larger than a
man's hand which will
develop into a tornado and
sweep all before it. A very
mild case of typhoid must
be treated exactly as though
it were a severe ~~one~~ in
order to exterminate the
germs - So in this case,
as not if possible, let the au-
-derhand work of a wise success

Succeed if it can be
 avoided. Do tell me
 if Mrs Hawkins is well
 and if you and Mrs Pratt
 are coming down in this
 direction in the Fall. If
 so you know you are pledged
 to me for a little visit.
 It will give me so much
 pleasure to see you both.
 Let me have a line from
 you to reassure me for I

Feel that I have perhaps
dipped into official business
which is entirely outside
of my province; but I
am sure of forgiveness
as it was in the interest
of my friends -

Most sincerely yours
Laura A. Perry Berry.

357 Grandy Street
Worcester, Mass. May 5th
1904.