Head Qrs 21st Army Corps
Murfreesboro Tenn
May 31st 1863.

My dear Barrett.

I learned on Friday from Lt. Col Cummins of the 9th Ohio Fr. Vols that you were at Louisville and intended if you could to visit Murfreesboro' I do hope you may come. You will find an Army in splendid condition, an army that has the prestige of past successes and the hope of future. You will see too a fine specimen of field fortifications of a permanent nature. And I think I can assure you you'll meet many of your old friends here. Few Vermonters perhaps though some but many from Ohio and former dwellers in Washington.

I'll show you around somewhat myself. for I have some hours each day at my disposal.

Do you know Lt Commissary of Musters for this Army Corps and do in some wise connected with the Bounty Bureau? Could it you make an official visit here. if you haven't time for a pleasure trip?

It is said that Adj Genl Thomas is in Louisville or thereabouts and purposes to visit this place

and ~~make~~ commence organizing Negro Regiments.
The sentiment of many in this Army is averse to this
measure. At least they don't want the negroes to
fight beside the Whites. But they're willing the Blacks
should guard railroads and do fatigue duty.
Personally I'm quite anxious to try the negro
experiment. I don't think it an experiment at all.
but I want to see the plan of using Negro Regi-
ments put into execution and fairly tried.
And I'm willing to risk my reputation upon
my success or fate by a Negro Regiment. I shall apply
to Genl S. to be put into a position to try my
pet ~~my~~ ideas. When he comes.
I direct this to the care of Mr Gallagher.
I think it doubtful whether it reaches you — but
I trust it will.
If you can't come please write
Believe me
Yours Truly
R DeLaware Mussey

Lieu J. H. Barrett
Com. Perkins.

R. D. Musser
May 31, 1863