

you leave all seemed to click  
that that move of mine was  
suddenly made - Not at all so -  
the whole thing was determined  
upon long before. Now if I can  
procure a position which will give  
full play to all my faculties & give  
me an opportunity to do my part  
in this struggle with effect & force  
I will take it & trust to God for  
a safe return to home & home  
again afterward. If the cause of  
the nation do not succeed, I would  
not give a shilling a century for  
life in this country. If it do succeed  
my whole existence will culminate  
& end happy with the idea that  
I did all in my power in aid of  
such a result. As to my being able  
to go to work at the law again for my  
living - I should think the patient labor  
which I performed at Cambridge for two  
years as Subaltern in a position you all  
considered beneath me, in preference to  
asking Rollin for means of support, while I was  
collecting a practice, might convince you that have  
self control enough to undergo any amount of  
disputing disagreeing considerable with honour rather

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I don't know whether you have  
gone or are going to Boston or not.  
I hope so, as this is the only opportunity  
you may have to see Henry  
in a long while.

I have not heard from Washington  
about that Staff appointment yet.  
I fear I shall not be able to  
promote it. Whether I do or not  
I want you and Father to  
understand why I desire it.  
I will not speak of my plan for  
the position, putting them this, that  
I am not in the habit of over-  
rating myself, & wouldn't under-  
take anything for which I did not  
know I could fit myself in a  
short time. I am quite sure

as to bodily health & strength,  
that I shall grow stronger &  
healthier every day, as I did under  
the greater toil & hardship  
last Spring. The out-of-door life  
and exercise of such a position  
for one year would give me  
unvaluable physical energy for  
any whole life.

But this is no question of either  
of advantage or disadvantage to  
me. We have read history in  
vain, unless we recognise the  
fact that in such times as these  
nothing but a spirit of self-sacrifice  
will save the Nation from utter  
ruin and degradation. It is  
very easy to enumerate reasons in  
each individual case why such  
an one, or other, should not be  
called upon to encounter perils  
and danger. For my part I cannot

draw myself into any kind  
of contention, while I remain  
at home in ease & comfort -  
& others are sacrificing everything.  
There is no callousness or apathy  
in the matter. There never has  
been with me from the beginning  
I determined last Fall, to put  
myself in some position to take  
part in this struggle and made  
arrangements then to that effect.  
I felt sure there would be a  
sudden call to arms when a  
quick & high example would  
be needed - the lower the rank  
the greater the sacrifice - and I  
requested a member of the Senate  
to hand in my name, which  
he had been prepared to do  
as soon as the war broke out -  
for six months prior to that  
time. I tell you this now, because