Washington D.C. Jan 27th 1863

Tuesday Morning

Senator Wilson,

It has been always my misfortune not to be able to say what I desired at the proper moment. I remember once when a child to have been regarded as very rude and ungrateful, when, upon the unexpected presentation at a Christmas party, of a new dress and a box containing a child's library, I returned neither word nor courtesy, but after a moment's apparent hesitation took them and ran away as fast as possible. My little companions, who shared a fortune equal to mine, received their gifts gracefully, returned suitable thanks, and were permitted by all the little ladies. No one followed me, or knew that I had not dared to breathe until out of hearing, nor to stop running until I found a corner in an old garret dark and dusty enough to 'con' in.

I needed the dress its possession would enable me to do many things which I could not accomplish without it, for I was too provinces to represent my wants even to my mother, kind
and generous as he was.

You, My dear sir, have been uniformly kind to me, but these last acts of generous solicitude for my welfare and happiness, have well nigh sealed my lips against all reply.

I know how my brother's name came before the Senate, and the arrangement was so completely what I needed, would so facilitate my movements, even my usefulness, and relieve me at once of all that I have ever found unpleasant in my field labors. And the necessary contact with strangers upon business matters, that I found myself instantly shorn of any words suitable for a reply, and with an instinctive pride (perhaps) shone to conceal even from you the grateful joy which was streaming through every vein. I was nearly bewildered and only knew that the Avenue was long, and the air close until I found me inside my own door.

Had I been offered a Colonnery for my brother highly as I should have esteemed the compliment, I must have declined it, well knowing that he has too much good sense to accept for a moment a position for which he is unequaled either by natural taste, or acquired skill, but this arrangement has in it more of fitness, and wisdom, and will do more if consumed ated, than any appointment of equal rank which I have known in this army.

I am confident that he will accept the position of offered him, for my sake as upon no other consideration, and the "bonds" are all one to him if $7000 or $120,000, the city of Worcester contains a score of men who would individually pledge the latter sum. Col. De Witt would, also, assume twice his bonds. I have become so situated that I must, for force, return to the field soon, and perhaps remain long, and nothing could so entirely conduce to my comfort, welfare, safety and efficiency, as that my brother (if so it is to be) be as speedily assigned as possible, and thrown there with me; the sooner this was accomplished the sooner I could go to work, in earnest.

It had been my intention to return to Fallmouth this morning, but by advice of my never failing friend Col. Ruckers decide to wait a day. I have of course, given no intimation to my brother of what is pending, and shall not until so formally as With the highest respect for your wisdom, and gratitude for your goodness of heart, I beg to remain as ever your truly

Clara Barton