Chimborazo Hospital
Richmond the 30th July 1863

His Excellency Gov. Brown

Sir: As is customary for the citizens of a state to petition their Governor for a redress of grievances, we, as soldiers of the State of Va., do most humbly memorialize you as our acknowledged Executive, asking that you, in your kindliness, will give us some relief from grievances of the most extreme and serious kind, which we believe to be improper relations with us, as they are, by men pretending to be our friends, and the very men to whose care the preservation of our lives and limbs is entrusted. We have no one to whom we can turn for aid, for no one is more anxious to aid us than we are.

We apprise you of the treatment of our sick and wounded soldiers, by that which we believe ourselves. Now we feel it to be a painful duty to have to address you on the subject of the sick and wounded soldiers. We are well aware of the trouble it will give our dear relatives to be informed of the treatment we receive. We are here some of us, wounded and others sick — many have been here for months, entirely unfit for duty — yet that is only our lot. We have no one to whom we can turn for aid, for no one is more anxious to aid us than we are.

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prohibit sick and wounded men from making application for furloughs by not permitting them to go before a board for that purpose. A quantity of wounded are here and have been since their arrival from Gettysburg. Some who were able to have gone directly home should have been sent without delay. But it yet seems as though they have but the slightest chance of getting off at all. Some have been here since the battle of Chancellorsville. And many more, though neatly, have to remain here for months unless something be resorted to to get them further home. But we would have your Excellency to know that this hard as it is, is not the only cause of complaint. After the continuing all the war, the sick in the city, they are treating the sick and wounded dully here and from what we can learn elsewhere, in a manner entirely unbecoming even civilized men much less as men should to whose care the soldiers lives are entrusted. Our fare is very bad. They furnish all who are able to walk to the table with a limited quantity of half-cooked beef or mutton or old fat bacon (such as would make a very hungry soldier laugh) and wonder if the Confederacy had come to that, with a cup of tea made of something we know not what, but something very weak. This constitutes the entire breakfast. For dinner we have a repetition of the same thing, except we generally have a cup of soup with tea, with about once a week a small quantity of vegetable. At supper a cup of that abominable tea comes round accompanied by a small piece of bread, some flour you see, done a la nigger eat. The bread we have to eat here is of the roughest and most unpalatable kind. It is made of old corn
meal, damaged and without lifting. It invariably comes to the
table cold and solided as though it had been thrown into a pool of water.
It never would allow a sick man to get well. On the contrary it will
make a sick man sick. Very little drying would make it almost a
substitute for bread. Everything we eat is poorly prepared to very carelessly
and with very little decency. Those on diet in their wards fare a little
better and still little. The attention paid to the sick is so little that it had
just as well be none at all, with some exception. We are happy to state
that part of the Surgeons' history that attention to which the sick are entitled.
The Surgeons shun eating with mums and murr, usually fare dumpling
strudel; generally eat all the delicacies to eat that they wish,
may change as these things appear. They are stubborn facts and facts
that dare not be contradicted. You are perfectly at liberty to
have their entire petition published with the names attached.

Very respectfully yours, C. T. Hunt

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