

[on Treasury Department stationery]

July 29th 1863

Dear Madam

I visited your Son Oscar last evening and he desired me to answer your letter of the 24th inst which he received and feels very grateful for. he is not able to sit up and write himself or he would be glad to do it. He desires me to say that he is daily growing weaker and feels that his earthly career is drawing to a close, but that his mind is calm and in perfect peace being stayed on the Lord Jesus Christ who he feels is near to support and comfort him as he passes through the dark valley. his wound he desires me to say is running very much and he is unable to keep anything on his stomach. he says Mr Shaw the gentleman he gave the \$25 to send to you has forwarded it and no doubt 'ere this you have received it the reason he has not sent it before was that he had told him to keep it for a while. he sends his kind love and blessing to you whom he calls his dear Christian Mother, and also to all the children Rosina and Wallace and the boys, and to Grandma. He knows altho' about to be taken from you and never more to see you on this side the grave that the good Lord our Heavenly Father will watch over and protect the dear ones at home. he asks you all to seek Christ and endeavor daily to become more like him, that he is ready to go & feels it will be better for him.

Yours truly

A J Pratt

Mrs Wilber

July 30th Saw Oscar last evening he had not eaten any thing during the day & is rapidly fading AJP