

Boston, Oct. 9th 1861

Dear Robert,

I rec'd. your letter of [?] and should have replied yesterday, but the day was consumed in getting [?] Woods off. I think it would be very well to acknowledge the complaint of the Beverly company, if found fitting more can be devised. I am so much of a utilitarian, that I dislike to spend upon mere show and should rather devise something for its comfort of the [men?] than to present a banner or anything of that sort. I can think of nothing more to my mind than blankets - yet I suppose these are furnished by the state and perhaps the men may be able to carry but one. Besides which they are expensive and I don't know how much money the family may wish to invest. As for me I should feel more satisfaction in paying \$100 for blankets than \$10 for a flag. A first rate blanket - grey - large size and weighing 10 lbs the pair will cost 4.50 cash [?] \$375 for 50 pairs. Now don't understand me as urging you into any extravagance and I only mention blankets because I can think of nothing else. I should much rather spend the money for something substantial, than some [?]. I am willing to respond to any [???]ment you may make upon me. If this war lands myself and family in no worse place than Indiana Place, we shall be conte[nt?], but we keep constantly in view the home provided for us all.

My regards to Harriet, and be[lieve?] me

Truly yours, W. E. R.

P.S. Annie gave me a message yesterday for Harrie[t?], the tenor of which as nearly as I remember is as follows: She wishes to be informed if the price of the bonnets is con[???] before she pays W. Cockroach. I am not sure if the [?] in question be bonnets. It strikes me that it was Shoes. W.