

My dear Doctor:

I am applying for  
renewal of pension granted in 1861  
for a <sup>resulting from</sup> ~~injury~~ <sup>injury</sup> in the region of the 5th lumbar vertebra at the  
First Bull Run which was surrendered  
on my re-entering the service in 1862.

I am required to furnish medical  
evidence of the continuance of that  
disability. Of course you know nothing  
about the <sup>original cause of the</sup> disability, but you may  
know more than I imagine about its  
continuance.

I think you first knew me in 1866. I do  
not remember whether anything was said  
about the matter at that time or not but  
I think it more than probable as I remember  
your surprise at the fact that I could not  
walk any distance. I remember I had to  
sit down on a log and rest some-  
thing to your annoyance, as I thought.

You may also have noticed the  
fact that I have habitually carried a cane  
and was then and afterwards peculiarly  
careful to avoid just as any block from  
inequalities in the path before me.

~~quicker~~ ~~differs~~ almost constant change of position. Though I do not think of it I have no doubt this is the reason I so frequently change my position in ~~fact~~ speaking.

Indeed, I find I have unconsciously "favored" my back = bone ever since it was injured. For instance, you may have observed that I never sit squarely in a chair but always incline to one side or the other, frequently changing, and if there were no arms, we necessary until I have managed to get myself partly hung over the back of it.

There is one thing I have not spoken of to my own mind I do not know that it has any bearing on the case. Of course, I have a slender <sup>young</sup> fellow at 25 when I was hurt. Now, as you know,

You may have noticed ~~the~~ a fact which I was unaware of but which the physician who attended me in 1861 refers to in his affidavit, of a dragging tendency in my walk as if the limbs were heavily weighted and perhaps an unevenness as if one side were more impaired than the other.

Since 1842 you have seen me frequently, both professionally and otherwise and know both what ~~has~~ representations I have made to you and what you have observed.

You know, of course, better than I, the effect it has had on my nervous power — my ~~intellectual capacity~~ nervous power and ~~total~~ capacity for intellectual labor and whether the same has been continuous.

You have, of course, a distinct impression as to whether I have been able to gain a livelihood by manual labor during that time. As a matter of fact, it is with the utmost difficulty that I have been able to stand on my feet for an hour whether walking and that only with ~~the~~

I have heavy shoulders, strong arms  
~~while from the life I have lived~~ ~~while my limbs are not~~  
a 43 inch chest. <sup>2</sup> Whether this ~~is the~~ ~~cause~~  
caused of the back injury or of the sedentary  
life it compelled, I do not know.  
I only call your attention to the fact.

Of course, you remember the  
one or more times when you  
have been called to see me suffer-  
ing from these effects of jags or mis-  
steps and what their character  
was. Also whether I have ever since  
you know me complained of  
pain at the back of the head.

So far as the grade of disability  
is concerned, the statute now  
makes "inability to earn a livelihood  
by <sup>ordinary</sup> manual labor" the test of phys-  
ical disability. It seems to me absurd  
to speak of a man being able to earn  
any part of a livelihood by "ordinary man-  
ual labor" who in twenty years, though  
of unusual vigor, has been unable to

walk 4 miles on street on his feet on horse without suffering the least torture afterwards.

Having been my family physician for a long time you know of course seen more than what you would at mere incidental professional calls.

Now if you will just write out your views upon the subject and send them to me I will put them in the form of an affidavit and return you ~~for~~ to be signed and sworn to and I will let the crucifying department pass on it with other affidavits of condition.

I know this is asking a good deal of a busy man but it is your own fault - You have no business to ~~know~~ so much.

I send my own statement "which may be of service in refreshing your memory. Please return it with your conclusions. 425-57