Head Quarters 20th Maine Vols.
Feb. 9th 1863

To His Excellency Hon. Caleb
Governor of Maine,

Dear Governor,

According to the understanding I had with you when I left Augusta to take the earliest opportunity after my return to inform you of the state of affairs in regard to the officers of this Regiment.

We have now four Captains in command of their companies, four first lieutenants, two second lieutenants acting as captains, five second lieutenants and four sergeants acting second lieutenants. Most of these are actually acting as first lieutenants, leaving eleven vacancies in the line.

The colonel is not prepared, I believe, to recommend candidates for all these vacancies at present. The cases with which he appears to be satisfied, and in which I entirely concur, are the recommendation of Lieut. Tich, of Co. "E" for captain of Co. "D," Lieut. Land of "F" as captain of Co. "H" or "I," and second Lieut. Collins as first lieut. of "D," and second Lieut. Merrill of Co. "B" as first Lieut. James Company.

The sergeants appointed to act as lieutenants are the following:

2. Sergeant Lincoln co "A" acting 2d Lieut co. "F"  
Nov. 20th 1862  
3. Sergeant Major Keene acting 1st Lieut co. "G"  
Dec. 10th 1862  
4. Sergeant Plumer co "H" acting 2d Lieut co. "E"  
Dec. 10th 1862

These officers, I have all been constantly on duty in the above capacity since their appointment, and I have given entire satisfaction, have been, I believe, recommended by the Col. for your consideration for promotion.

When the appointment of Lieut. David Smith as 1st Lieut and captain of Co "H" Sergeant Lawrence was transferred by order of the Col. to act as first Lieutenant of Co "G" as requested by the request of Capt. Spear, and he has since been acting in that capacity.

The good conduct of all the above named officers on the battle field as well as upon other occasions has led to their appointment to the positions in which they now act, and the granting of their commissions for these places must be in more justice to their merits, than a benefit to the Regiment.

I hope the recommendations already made will meet your entire approval, and receive early attention for the sake of the well-being of the Regiment.

My letter is, I fear, too long, but I wish to give you a clear idea of what we need.
Other vacancies can be filled whenever you shall judge it necessary or proper.

Hoping that by our continued good conduct your Excellency may have a better opinion of us than you were pleased to express to me, and believing that the good name we hold in the army will before long reach our home in the State wherein.

I am with the highest respect,

Your friend and servant,

[Signature]

S. H. Hanoklaie.

Lieut. Col. of the State Vol.
Col. Chamberlain 20th
Feb 25, 63

About what in Reg't?