Head Quarters 20th Maine Volunteers
May 21st 1863

To His Excellency, Gov. Coburn,
Governor,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 20th instant, addressed to Col. Ames, and sent to me as the present commanding officer of this Regt. Col. Ames having been appointed Brigade General, has taken his oath of office and been assigned a Brigade in Gen. Howard's Corps, where he is now on duty.

In reply to your favor I am very happy to say, that Dr. Monroe by the efforts of his friends in the Regt. and elsewhere, has been reinstated in honorably discharged. We were sorry to lose him, but he fell in his duty & go.

It is very important to the welfare
Of the men, that we have a good surgeon, it is a matter about which I feel a great deal of anxiety.

We should all welcome Dr. Herson.

I shall act upon your suggestion, then Col. Roberts of the 17th. I am aware of the difficulty with which transfers between different corps are made, but it is possible the arrangement you suggest can be carried out.

We should all greatly prefer that, to the other course by which Dr. Herson would be exchanging for Dr. Drescott another Regt. barracked so well satisfied.

There is another matter, Governor, about which I wish to have a word with you.

The transfer of the "three years men" of the 2 Maine has been so delicately done, that the men were allowed to grow quite continuous, left uncared for in their old camp after the 2 had gone for several days, & having time & provocation to work themselves up to such a pitch of resentment that Gen. Barnes had to send them to see us at first.
ones, liable to severe penalties for disobedience of his orders. You are aware, Governor, that promises were made to induce these men to enlist, which are not now kept; and I must say that I sympathize with them in their view of the case. Adverse as they may feel they should be mustered out with the 2. They cannot but feel that they are falsely dealt with in being retained & sent to duty in other Regts. They need to be mananged with great care & skill; but I fear that some of them will get into trouble for disobedience of orders or mutiny. My orders are to take them & put them on duty which they have already refused to Gen. Barnes & others. I shall carry out any orders whatever may be the consequence; but I sincerely wish these men were fairly dealt with by those who made them their promises. All their friends say they are enlist. ed for three years; just as the men of this Regt. are, & for us in the field there is no other way but to hold them to it. What you may be able to do for them I do not know. I think with pleasure if your short visit
to us, I am only sorry I cannot do more to make your stay agreeable.

The Regiment was enabled to do good and important service although we were not allowed to mingle with the rest of the Army.
I had a midnight order from Gen. Butterfield to take possession of the signal wire from the Battle Field & Head Qrs. of the Army. This gave us enough & so, as the wire was tautened, I broke many times a night & communicated all the important information. I was in my tent all the nights including every inch of the line. The Regt. is in good health, never suffering from sickness, small but entirely disabled.

I have said nothing about promotions of field officers in this Regt. I have not supposed that you needed any testimonials; if you wish them, they can easily be furnished. But you have seen & known us, we are willing to leave the matter to your own best judgment.

I am Governor
Very Respectfully,
Your faithful Servt.

W. A. Chamberlain
Capt. Col. 23rd Maine Vol.