

Elk Bret

Oldtown May 22. 1861.

Mr. Washburn,

Dear Sir;

I see today a notice of a circular to the governors of the States concerning the appointment of military officers -

I write to get some information upon the construction of those circulars and to learn whether it is in your power under the provisions of that circular to appoint to any military office my friend Samuel W. Hoskins. of this place. Mr. Hoskins unfortunately was up river on a drive when the ten regiment bill was passed else he would have probably been today in the 2^d Regiment -

He is desirous of taking some position, holding some place however humble in which he can be of service

to his country in this great contest. You know him as well as I do and there is no doubt that he possesses in an eminent degree the moral & physical qualifications suggested in the circular.

Mr. Doorkins has ~~ever~~ been a whole souled patriot of the old style, ever since I have known him, and his motto has ever been, "do right tho' the heavens fall".

Today he is fired up with the strongest zeal for our success in this cause — He wants to do something to help it along —

When, some six or eight years ago, in a conversation with you, you informed me that the design was "to form a great Northern party out of all the elements of opposition to the domineering spirit of the Southern leaders, I informed Mr. Doorkins of what you said, he

fully endorsed the plan as the only
hope of the final salvation of our
country - And altho' neither he, nor
I, nor you perhaps, ever dreamed that
it would ~~ever~~ come to this - that if
their policy should not rule the
country, they would do their best
to ruin it, he ^{Mr. S.} has pursued the
line of policy marked out by you
& your colleagues with a steady
zeal from that day to this - and
now that the great victory at the
polls is won, he is as anxious as
the most earnest of us that this
victory of peace shall be gloriously
& triumphantly sustained if it must
be so, on the battle field -

Our brave democratic brothers of the
north have sprung to arms at the
cry of danger to the Union and are
ready to do battle for the Union
pure and simple - but to the
!

Republican patriot I apprehend the
incentive to fight is the double one
of the Union & freedom - freedom
to the North from a terrible political
thralldom - and, may we not hope,
freedom to the South in some as yet
unknown way, in Gods good prov-
idence, from that terrible incubus
which she heaves & groans & groans & heaves
until she has become completely mad -
I wish to heaven I could go and fight
in this cause - but disabled as I am
I cannot; yet I have sent a couple of
representatives, nephews, of whom I am
guardian, 18 & 20, athletic, promising young
men, of good morals - and know what
they are fighting for - they are in the
2^d Regiment -

In this double fight, my friend
Mr. Hoskins would be glad to enlist -
and if it is in your power to give him
a place in the army I have no doubt
he would fill it with faithfulness &
honor.

Very respectfully yours

E. C. Brett