

A. S. Weed, Jan 27, 63

Rec^d Rev Mr Wardwell for Chaplain.

Pangor Jan 27, 1863

Hon Hiram Ruggles.

Dear Sir.

I wish
to present to you a subject, in
which, I have no doubt you will
feel an equal interest with
myself -

Perhaps you may not be
familiar with the facts in the case,
so I will endeavor to state them
briefly -

When the call for the last
300,000 men was made by our gover-
ment, it was thought by many that
the quota could not be raised in
Orington without a draft -

Rev Irving A. Wardwell was
stationed at Orington Centre, and
was

very anxious men should volunteer
and not be drafted - but there
seemed to be a hanging back
till he stepped forward and placed
his own name upon the roll -
this seemed to give a new impulse
to matters and the quota was filled
at once. He came with the Company
to Bangor, and after they had been
here a short time, a move was
made by several officers, including
Capt Bolton of the Orrington Co - to
have Wardwell appointed Chaplain.
They got up a petition for him, &
it was signed by 23 Commissioned
Officers of the Reg^t. - His friends thought
he was sure of it as a large majority
of the officers had signed the petition.
At this stage of affairs, the special
friends of Rev Mr Lincoln (who
graduated quite recently at the Theol
Semin in this City) with some officers of
the Bangor Company, went to Kenduskeag

to see ~~the~~ Col Gerard (who was not well enough at the time to be on the camp ground) and urge the appointment of Lincoln. I heard ^{one} of those who went say "we laid down on the Col - and stuck to him, till he promised to appoint Lincoln". The Lieut Col told me, he thought it was a very unfair thing to appoint Lincoln, and it was a mystery to him why the Col should do so. It is clear to my mind that it was the result of a strong Bangor influence.

Wardwell is still serving in the ranks as a private in the 22^d Regt.. He enlisted for that purpose, with no thought of having any office. He left a wife and two small children; others as well as myself tried to dissuade him from ~~the~~ ^{enlisting} but he said he should obey his own convictions of duty, even if he could not please his friends - If there is a man in our whole army that enlisted from the pure motives of patriotism, I

believe it is Bro Wardwell.

He never has, so far as I can learn uttered a word of complaint, that he was not appointed Chaplain, though at one time, it seemed settled he was to have it. Presume he has never asked anyone to solicit for him any position different from the one he now occupies. No one has suggested this effort to me but I have suggested it to several, and they heartily approved of it.

Now what I want to ask is this, that you use your influence to have him appointed a Chaplain to one of our Regiments the first vacancy that occurs - or if there are regts without Chaplains have him appointed at once.

I know him intimately, and believe him to be as worthy of a Chaplaincy as any man that has been appointed in this State. He is a man of good ability, very circumspect in his deportment and well calculated to exert a good influence upon the Soldiers. perfectly safe in any position you may place. He is extremely modest and would probably never ask for any favors; this is one great reason

why I feel so deeply interested for him.

There are so many with very questionable merit, that get into honorable places, and care more about the "loaves and fishes" than anything else - it is exceedingly gratifying to have true merits recognized.

I wish you would talk with Beale about this matter, for he may have some personal acquaintance with him.

Now, anything you can do for him I shall consider a personal favor, for I know him to be a devoted worthy minister of the Gospel.

I should have gone to Augusta several weeks ago, had I not been unwell, so that I could not leave home, to try and get W- in the line of promotion. But when I saw you was to be a member of the Council thought it would be quite as well for me to write you. You will excuse

the length of this scribble.

There are other circumstances
I might have mentioned, going
to show, that an unjustifiable
pressure was brought to bear upon
the Col of the 22^d or Wardwell would
now be Chaplain of that Regt.

Respectfully Yours
A. S. Weed

Desmond's Rev. A. S.
Wardwell for Chaplain 22^d Regt.

Weed, A. S.

Orange N. H.
Jan. 27. 1863