

Head Quarters 1st Reg Maine Heavy Artillery
Fort Alexander M.D. April 5th 1863

Adjut Genl John S Hodsdon
Genl.

Yours of March ^{28th} came to hand last night. And to Explain I will say that your Note of March 20th did not arrive here until about March 28th at that time my Adjut was very busy in making out the proper returns for the different Departments in Washington. And therefore could not immediately on the receipt of your Request make to the State Authorities the return therein required. but as soon as possible they were made out and were mailed for Augusta April 4th. And Genl. While I am willing to be censured in all cases where I am in fault - I am constrained to say in behalf of my Officers that I can hardly see the Justice of the threat contained in your last letter. say March 28th. and which seems to have been carried into Effect in the case of Lieut Howes of Co. G. of this Reg. Capt Colby of Co. G. was discharged near the same time that

Capt Clark of Co A was Capt Chas W Nute has
been Commissioned and Mustin as Capt to take
Rank for 28th Feb 1863. And no Commissions have
come for the Officers of Co G. the reason for their
not coming is supposed to be very briefly stated in
your note March 28th If the Coms of Howes,
Wardwell & Godfrey were withheld on account of
Returns not being made as required by State Authority.
Then appears to be an injustice done those Officers when
they are Entirely Clear and Innocent in fact. And the
delay will cause them considerable trouble in getting
Mustin as they should be. and would be provided
their Coms had come the first of the month when Capt
Nute received his. The Coms of Howes, Wardwell
& Godfrey should date from Feb 28th 1863

I Am Very Glad to inform you
that the Third Maine Battery has been attached
to this Reg. and to assure you I am very
Thankful for the action taken by the Gov in
the matter. I shall write you in a few days
in regard to the security business

I Am Yours

Very Respectfully your Obedt Servt
James Chapin
Col 1st Maine Heavy Artillery