

Newport Sept 10 1861

Very Dear Sir

Your favor of the 9th was duly received. Your kindness and interest for me has won my regards for you as a man and officer and is met by my sense of obligation and hearty thanks which I beg you will accept.

It is not for a living that I wish to go into the Army. The prospect of accomplishing ^{much} by the years effort on my charge under present circumstances is small. And my convictions and feelings are that I can do more for good in the Army than else where. The promptings of my heart are to do something for my Government and my Country in this emergency through

which they are called to pass.

I would hand down my name, humble though it be, with the defenders of Constitutional Liberty and have my life inspire the feelings of Patriotism in the hearts of my children. I have no wife to leave. Near two years since the loved of earth sustaining that relation to me was taken from us. My children (two only) will be well provided and cared for

But to your suggestion. If I could be certain of success I should readily make the decision. But the uncertainty of the enterprise, and the influence of such movements on the charge compell me to decline. I will however obtain some additional testimonials and send them to you. You may personally present them or put them in to the hands of a suitable person for the canvas.

If a successful effort is made I will make liberal returns for the time

and effort expended. My circumstances Compell me to fix the compensation on the condition of success

My good wishes attending —

Sincerely Yours

Luther P. French

Adlyt Gen Hodsdon